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CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE CAMPAIGN GETS MIXED REVIEWS FROM ARABS

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Jan. 7 (JTA) -- A four-stage civil disobedience campaign in the administered territories was announced here Thursday by East Jerusalem journalist Hanna Seniora.

He said it would begin Friday with the ultimate aim of ending the Israeli occupation by making it "unprofitable." But judged by the lack of response in the Palestinian community, the project may be stillborn.

Seniora, the editor of the Arabic daily Al Fajr, met with foreign correspondents. He had intended to hold a full-scale news conference. It was deferred until Friday and then canceled, because, according to Seniora, "the authorities prevented a number of people from taking part."

But it may well have been Arab skepticism about the campaign that forced its cancellation. Several leading Palestinians played down the importance of the move. Hikmat al-Masri, the Israeli-appointed mayor of Nablus who is deputy speaker of the Jordanian Parliament, said Seniora's announcement was "symbolic" and had no practical significance.

Seniora said the campaign would take the form initially of a boycott of Israeli-made cigarettes. He observed in that connection that the late Indian independence leader Mohandas Ghandi "started off with salt, and the Palestinians will start with cigarettes."

The second stage of the campaign is to begin two weeks later, when Palestinians in the territories stop buying Israeli soft drinks. Then they will stop paying taxes. The final stage, according to Seniora, will be an Arab boycott of their jobs in Israel.

Claiming that Israel earns \$200 million in annual revenue from the administered territories, Seniora said, "In order for the occupation to end, it should become unprofitable."

Seniora initiated the campaign earlier this week, along with Mubarak Awad, founder and head of the Center for the Study of Non-Violence in East Jerusalem.

Awad Doesn't Show Up

Awad, who was not present at the meeting with reporters, is a Jerusalem-born naturalized American citizen. Last month he was ordered deported, but strong pressure from Washington prevailed on the Israeli authorities not to implement the order.

Seniora declined to name other Palestinians he said were behind him. But he insisted that a majority of the population in the territories would support the boycott. He stressed it was voluntary.

"This is something that is not being forced on anyone. It is up to the free will of every person. I believe that at the moment, with the present situation, the people are ready for such a move," he said.

Israeli authorities do not seem disturbed by Seniora's campaign, but are watching it closely because of his stature in the Palestinian community. Jerusalem police were reportedly trying to determine whether the call for civil disobedience

was illegal. Police Minister Haim Barlev met with a group of Palestinians earlier in the week to warn them against inflammatory statements.

The boycott call seems to represent a change of attitude on the part of Seniora, who has argued in the past that the best way to advance the Palestinian cause is to work within the Israeli system.

Last year he announced he might stand for election to the Jerusalem City Council. He dropped the idea after getting negative feedback from the Palestinian community. His name came up last year as a possible Palestinian representative on a joint Palestinian-Jordanian delegation to negotiate peace with Israel. The delegation never materialized and the peace move remains stalemated.

U.S. SENATOR PELTED IN WEST BANK

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Jan. 7 (JTA) -- U.S. Sen. John Chafee (R-R.I.) was pelted with stones Thursday while visiting the Kalandiya refugee camp, north of Jerusalem. He was accompanied by the U.S. consul from East Jerusalem and United Nations officials.

Israel Defense Force troops broke up the disturbance with tear gas.

Unrest continued elsewhere, though on a smaller scale than in recent days. Police use tear gas to disperse Arabs who erected roadblocks on Saladin Street, East Jerusalem's main thoroughfare, from where they threw rocks at Israeli vehicles.

Five Arab youths were arrested in Beit Hanina, north of Jerusalem, after they pelted an Egged bus with stones. A 17-year-old girl was injured and hospitalized.

The IDF announced, meanwhile, that 15 more residents of the administered territories have been placed in administrative detention. They can be held for up to six months without formal charges.

U.S.-ISRAEL RELATIONSHIP

'UNSHAKABLE,' SHULTZ DECLARES

By Howard Rosenberg

WASHINGTON, Jan. 7 (JTA) -- Secretary of State George Shultz said Thursday in his 1988 "State of the State Department" speech that the U.S.-Israel relationship is solid.

"Israel is a democratic country seeking stability and peace and the ability to pursue its destiny, and we support that country and we support those objectives and we work closely with Israel," Shultz said.

"Problems come up from time to time; we resolve those problems. Occasionally we disagree, but through all of that this relationship, as I said, is unshakable."

The secretary said the U.S. vote Tuesday in favor of the United Nations Security Council resolution criticizing Israeli deportation of Palestinians form the administered territories should not be interpreted "as meaning anything else. In fact, I suppose the ability to differ occasionally with a friend shows the depths of that friendship."

Shultz did, however, reiterate his opposition to Israel's use of "lethal means" to maintain law

and order.

He also repeated his call for direct peace negotiations between Israel and Arab countries and support of an international peace conference that would lead to direct negotiations. "The whole history of the Middle East shows that violence -- terrorism, war -- just has not worked," Shultz said. "... It is negotiations that work."

Shultz met for an hour Wednesday with Morris Abram, chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, and other Jewish leaders to discuss developments regarding Soviet Jewry that occurred at the summit meetings here last month between President Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev.

The National Conference of Soviet Jewry (NCSJ), which Abram also chairs, presented Shultz with its 1987 year-end analysis of the situation. It notes that 8,155 Jews left the Soviet Union in 1987 compared to 914 in 1986, but far less than the 51,320 exiting in 1979.

It also points out the de-emphasis of the Soviet requirement of a request by first-degree family abroad in order to receive an exit visa.

But it declares that the "Soviet Union is alone among major developed nations" in routinely denying emigration requests because of knowledge of state secrets.

Other developments the report cites include the opening of the first kosher take-out restaurant in Moscow in decades and the sanctioning of Hebrew courses in Baku, a city in the Republic of Azerbaijan.

It also mentions the first symposium ever held in the Soviet Union -- in Moscow -- on the emigration process for Soviet Jews.

But it also criticizes the KGB's crackdown on a Soviet Jewry rally in Moscow preceding the Washington summit meetings.

Overall, the report expresses the NCSJ's uncertainty whether "these limited developments" signal a real Soviet policy modification. "At best, despite some positive and welcome changes, the measures taken in 1987 serve to highlight the fundamental problems which Soviet Jews continue to face."

Abram said afterward that Shultz expressed disappointment in "the failure to have advanced the emigration figures substantially and in the failure of the Soviets to give relief to the large number of secrecy cases."

But, he continued, "the secretary of state and the president are making an ultimate effort in this field." Shultz, according to Abram, told them that Soviet Jewry "will be at the top of the agenda in Vienna in the (upcoming) review process under the Helsinki Accords and also in the summit in Moscow."

Abram said they also discussed Israel's deportation policy. He told reporters that "it is questionable and murky" whether deportation of a handful of Palestinians would violate the Fourth Geneva Convention, signed in 1949.

State Department spokesman Charles Redman said as recently as Tuesday that Israel's procedure violated international law.

Abram said the convention "was designed to deal with the issue of mass deportations such as for slave labor or extermination."

Abram also stated that "those who face expulsion are getting fairly minor punishment as compared for example to capital punishment, which is permitted under the Geneva Convention."

ISRAEL OPPOSED TO GOULDING MISSION, BUT PERES WILL MEET HIM ANYWAY By Yitzhak Rabi

UNITED NATIONS, Jan. 7 (JTA) -- Foreign Minister Shimon Peres has decided to meet with U.N. Undersecretary General Marrack Goulding, who left for Israel Thursday to review the situation in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, an Israeli spokesman said here Thursday.

But in Jerusalem, Israel Television reported Thursday night the Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's office said that it would try to prevent Goulding from touring the territories.

A U.N. spokesman said that Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar has decided to send Goulding "to Israel and the occupied territories in order to discuss the situation there," as requested by Security Council Resolution 605, adopted Dec. 22.

The Israel Mission to the United Nations issued a statement on Goulding's departure Thursday saying it rejects Resolution 605 and particularly the section stipulating the envoy's mission. The statement said Israel considers the visit "an intervention in internal security matters under the sole jurisdiction of the Israel government."

Israel's ambassador to the United Nations, Benjamin Netanyahu, conveyed a similar message to Perez de Cuellar in a meeting Wednesday on Goulding's mission.

Israeli diplomats said Thursday that Foreign Minister Peres will explain, during his meeting with Goulding, why Israel rejects Resolution 605.

AS IT CRITICIZES ISRAEL, EUROPE SEEN AS READY TO ADVANCE PEACE JTA Staff Report

Jan. 7 (JTA) -- Western European nations, having criticized Israeli handling of Palestinian riots in the administered territories and Israeli deportation orders against nine Palestinians, seem to be considering renewed involvement in settling the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher of West Germany will visit Syria this month and possibly Israel as well. West German diplomats say Genscher will explore whether and how the European Community could advance peace prospects. The EC has urged the convening of an international Mideast peace conference.

The heads of the 12 EC nations are expected to issue a statement on the Middle East at their special February meeting in Brussels. West Germany this month assumed the rotating chairmanship of the EC's political institutions.

Delegations of Arab ambassadors have met with virtually every European government over the past weeks to demand strong condemnation of the deportations and the handling of the unrest.

And European criticism of Israel mounted this week. In The Hague, Israeli Ambassador Zeev Suftho was summoned by Dutch Foreign Minister Hans van den Broek on Wednesday.

Van den Broek expressed his government's "extreme concern" about the deportation orders issued against nine Palestinians Sunday and about Israel's action in the territories in general. He also urged Israel to enter into an international Mideast conference.

The U.N. Security Council voted Tuesday to demand Israel to refrain from the deportations.

On Thursday, the French Socialist Party

appealed to Israel to drop the deportations and "condemned the brutal oppression against demonstrators." The party, led by President Francois Mitterrand, is France's friendliest toward Israel.

The party's executive committee noted that the deportations are "contrary to international law" and warned that transgression of the Geneva Conventions may adversely affect Israel's image in France and Western Europe.

A fellow traveller, German Social Democrat Party leader and parliamentarian Hans-Juergen Wischnewski, also recently protested to Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres over the use of live ammunition by Israeli security forces during demonstrations by Palestinians.

Twenty-four Palestinians have been shot dead.

The highly publicized protest by Wischnewski, who heads the Middle East Committee of the Socialist International, was seen as a direct affront to a "brother party" in Israel.

A French investigatory commission also criticized Israel's riot control in a report issued Wednesday night. Three French attorneys, headed by Jean-Louis Weil, a Jew, said that during their recent tour of the territories they saw dead and wounded hit by large-caliber bullets.

The commission, which is linked to various left-wing movements, claimed that many of those arrested "were severely beaten" before they were taken to court.

British Criticism

A British Foreign Office official, David Mellor, had said Monday during a tour of the Gaza Strip that conditions were "appalling" and "an affront to civilized values."

Israel's ambassador to Belgium and the EC, Avi Primor, reacted on Belgian radio Thursday with a message of understanding.

He said it was "normal" that Mellor was "shocked by what he saw in the refugee camps of the Gaza Strip" during his first trip to Israel.

But he added that Israel has "built new cities and new housing" in Gaza, "... but this move has been opposed for political reasons, by the Arab countries."

He noted that the British supported the PLO-backed U.N. Security Council resolution Tuesday. "The British should make a decision: Do they want us to do something to improve the life conditions of these refugees, or do they condemn us for doing this?"

In Rome, the Vatican's newly invested Latin rite patriarch of Jerusalem, Monsignor Michel Sabbah, a Palestinian, said last Friday that he could not foresee a speedy end to the tension in the Middle East.

(Contributing to this story were correspondents David Kantor in Bonn, Edwin Eytan in Paris, Yossi Lempkowitz in Brussels and Ruth E. Gruber in Rome.)

GRAFFITI AROUSE WARNINGS OF ANTI-SEMITISM IN ITALY

By Ruth E. Gruber

ROME, Jan. 7 (JTA) -- The appearance of swastikas and anti-Semitic graffiti in Rome, Milan, and Bologna this past week has prompted warnings of an upsurge of anti-Semitism among Italians, especially the far right.

Leading Italian newspapers and commentators attributed the graffiti to neo-fascist groups. So, say they were roused by the daily media coverage

of tough measures the Israeli security forces have taken to quell Palestinian rioting in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Alfonso di Nola, a prominent historian, told the newspaper *Corriere della Sera* that "intolerance against Jews is increasing in Italy." He observed that "every time Israel enters into conflict with the Palestinians, there is an upsurge of racism."

According to Di Nola, "In Rome, the graffiti appear mainly in areas where there is a strong fascist presence." Slogans such as "Burn Jews" and "Jews to the ovens" have been spray-painted or scrawled on walls along Rome's Via Ottaviano and in Milan and Bologna. They often are accompanied by swastikas or the symbols of right-wing and neo-fascist groups.

These slogans have appeared on the walls of a Jewish school in Milan and on shops. *Voce Repubblicana*, the official newspaper of the Republican Party, attributed them to the neo-fascist Italian Social Movement (MS). The paper spoke of a "lynching" mentality and "anti-Jewish reflexes" almost everywhere.

Tullia Zevi, president of the Union of Italian Jewish Communities, said that "with the end of the (Christmas/New Year) vacations it will be necessary to reinforce vigilance in the schools." The Italian Federation of Jewish Youth condemned the "manifestations of intolerance and discrimination" and called "on all responsible powers" not to underestimate the seriousness of "the reappearance of anti-Semitic phenomena."

Luciano Tas, editor of the Jewish community newspaper *Shalom*, told *Corriere della Sera*, "The mass media contribute to heighten the climate with false and provocative reports."

Letter Of Warning

Israel's ambassador to Italy, Mordechai Drory, apparently anticipated the situation. Ten days ago he sent letters to leading Italian newspapers expressing concern over their coverage of events in the Israel-administered territories. He warned this could lead to dangerous anti-Semitic manifestations.

"There is great hysteria in the way in which disorders in the occupied territories are presented," Drory complained. "When Israel and its people are dealt with, many passions are unleashed which are translated into uncontrolled violence." His letter was published in several newspapers.

When President Francesco Cossiga of Italy visited Israel last month, his trip became controversial because it took place while disturbances were occurring in the territories. Cossiga met with Palestinian representatives as well as Israeli officials.

Foreign Minister Giulio Andreotti, who supports the Palestinian cause but also affirms Israel's right to exist in security, has expressed disapproval of Israel's treatment of the recent disorders.

In an unrelated development, an Israeli diplomat was invited, for the first time, to attend a Vatican ceremony in St. Peter's Basilica.

Myron Gordon, who is accredited to the Italian government (the Vatican has no diplomatic relations with Israel), joined representatives from 15 Arab organizations including the Palestine Liberation Organization and the Arab League at the ordination by Pope John Paul II of Michel Sabbah, the first Palestinian to be appointed patriarch of the Latin Rite in Jerusalem.

LEBANON LODGES COMPLAINT AT U.N. AGAINST RECENT ISRAELI AIR RAID

By Yitzhak Rabi

UNITED NATIONS, Jan. 7 (JTA) -- Lebanon complained to the United Nations on Thursday that Israel, in its Jan. 2 attack on terrorist bases in Lebanon, "bombed some blocks of flats near Sidon" killing at least seven members of one Palestinian family.

Lebanon stopped short of calling for an official meeting of the Security Council to condemn Israel, but said nonetheless that it reserves the right to call for such a meeting.

Diplomatic sources told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that a decision on whether to convene a Security Council meeting would be reached Thursday night.

The complaint was made by Rachid Fakhoury, Lebanon's ambassador to the United Nations, in a letter to Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar. The letter was dated Jan. 5 and circulated here Thursday.

According to the Lebanese envoy, the Israeli attack last Saturday "has resulted in a total of 26 deaths, dozens of wounded and substantial material damage."

Fakhoury charged that Israel's actions and policy "violate all legal principles and all humanitarian values and has already brought innumerable disasters and untold suffering upon the Mideast as a whole and on Lebanon in particular."

If Lebanon decides to request a meeting of the Security Council, it would be the third Security Council session aimed at criticizing Israel in the last three weeks.

On Dec. 22 the Security Council strongly deplored Israel for its handling of the riots in the administered territories. On Jan. 5, the council requested that Israel refrain from deporting Palestinians.

JEWISH GROUP URGES VATICAN TO AVOID 'ANOTHER EPISODE OF CONTROVERSY'

By Andrew Silow Carroll

NEW YORK, Jan. 7 (JTA) -- An international Jewish organization has sent a letter to the Vatican urging Catholic officials to "seek to avoid another episode of controversy" during the pope's announced visit to Austria in June.

The letter, approved Wednesday by member agencies of the International Jewish Committee on Interreligious Consultations (IJCIC), makes no specific reference to a possible second meeting between the pope and Austrian president Kurt Waldheim.

However, it reiterates an agreement reached during a meeting between Jewish representatives and senior Catholic officials at the Vatican last summer, at which the Jews voiced their dismay over the audience the pope gave Waldheim at the Vatican last June.

That agreement laid the groundwork for exchanges between Jewish officials and Cardinal Agostino Casaroli, the Vatican secretary of state, in order to "avoid future misunderstandings."

The letter is addressed to Cardinal Johannes Willebrands, president of the Vatican's Commission for Religious Relations With the Jews.

The letter did not request a meeting with Casaroli about the pope's visit to Austria, because of uncertainty about Waldheim's future as Austria's president, according to Rabbi Marc Tanenbaum, chairman of IJCIC and director of interna-

tional relations for the American Jewish Committee.

Waldheim is under investigation by an international commission concerning his activities as an officer in the German army in World War II, and is facing increasing pressure within Austria to step down as president.

"It would be inappropriate to engage in any discussion that will be speculative about what will happen in June," said Tanenbaum.

STUDENT CONFERENCE CRITICIZES INACTION ON ETHIOPIAN JEWRY ISSUE

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Jan. 7 (JTA) -- The International Jewish Students Conference on Ethiopian Jewry closed here Thursday with an urgent appeal to Jewish organizations all over the world to mount an intensive campaign for the right of Jews to leave Ethiopia.

The appeal was contained in "The Ashkelon Platform on Ethiopian Jewry," which the participants signed after hearing some of the most scathing criticism ever voiced publicly of the Israeli government and the Jewish Agency for their handling of the twin problems of Jewish emigration from Ethiopia and the absorption of the immigrants after they arrive in Israel.

The conference, held in Ashkelon, moved to President Chaim Herzog's residence in Jerusalem for its final session.

It was attended by more than 250 students from 20 countries, other leading figures from abroad, Israeli officials and representatives of the Ethiopian emigre community in Israel.

Ashkelon, a coastal city south of Tel Aviv, hosted the conference. Its mayor, Eli Dayan, pointed out that Ashkelon had been "the gateway for the aliyah of Ethiopian Jews during Operation Moses."

"Operation Moses" was the code name given the clandestine movement of Jews from Ethiopia to Israel two years ago. Between November 1984 and March 1985, some 8,000 Jews trekked by foot from Ethiopia into neighboring Sudan from where they were flown, via Europe, to Israel under a secret agreement reached with the Sudanese authorities.

The operation was halted abruptly after leaks to the news media embarrassed the Sudanese government, which ended the flights.

Somewhere between 10,000 and 20,000 Jews were left behind in Ethiopia. The figures were not exact because the last census taken in Ethiopia in 1976 is considered unreliable.

Many of the Ethiopian Jews who reached Israel have family members still in Ethiopia suffering from famine and harassment by the local authorities.

Mayor Dayan of Ashkelon, speaking at the conference, blasted government and Jewish Agency leaders for what he called their silence and inactivity on the issue.

Calling the absorption of Ethiopian Jewry in Israel a "disaster" and a "Zionist failure," he said it was a "disgrace" that no members of the Cabinet or the Jewish Agency bothered to attend the gathering, which dealt with these problems.

But President Herzog told the conferees that "the government is in fact doing a great deal."

Yosef Abramowitz, chairman of the World Union of Jewish Students, said "It is the responsibility of the Jewish student world to make Ethiopian Jewry an issue."