



KLAU LIBRARY
CINCINNATI
H.U.C. - J...
JAN 29 1985

DAILY NEWS BULLETIN

Contents copyright: Republication only by previous arrangement.

PUBLISHED BY JEWISH TELEGRAPHIC AGENCY • 165 WEST 46TH STREET • NEW YORK, NY 10036-2574 • (212) 575-9370

VOL. 66 - 71st YEAR

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 27, 1988

NO. 17

AJCONGRESS DEPLORES BEATINGS; OTHER GROUPS MORE RETICENT

By Andrew Silow Carroll

NEW YORK, Jan. 26 (JTA) -- The American Jewish Congress sharply criticized Israel's stated policy of beating Palestinian Arabs in the administered territories, saying Tuesday that the "brutalization of innocents" must "not only be stopped immediately, but repudiated, if Israel is to preserve its good name."

Henry Siegman, the group's executive director, condemned the Israeli policy Tuesday evening as he and other members of an AJCongress delegation returned here from a 10-day trip to the Middle East that included meetings with Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin, who announced the beatings policy last week, as well as Egyptian, Jordanian and other Israeli leaders.

In taking the tough stance, the group joined a small chorus of prominent American Jews who have spoken out against the beatings policy.

But even as it did so, the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations prepared to release a statement Wednesday, which sources close to the umbrella group say will indicate the American Jewish community's support for Israeli efforts to contain the violence that has spread throughout the West Bank and Gaza Strip since early December.

The conference, which represents 40 American Jewish groups, convened in an emergency session Monday to discuss the beatings policy. The group planned to release an official statement on the matter Wednesday morning and refused to divulge its position before then.

Others To Take Softer Line

But sources say the Presidents Conference will take a much softer line than that expressed Tuesday by AJCongress and earlier in the week by such leaders as Rabbi Alexander Schindler, president of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations.

On Sunday, Schindler cabled Israeli President Chaim Herzog, calling the beatings policy "an offense to the Jewish spirit" that "violates every principle of human decency" and "betrays the Zionist dream."

The AJCongress delegation appeared to go even further Tuesday in a statement Siegman read upon the group's arrival at Kennedy International Airport.

"There are certain lines that no civilized society can allow itself to cross, even in the face of extreme provocations," said Siegman. "These ugly beatings are such a line. They must not only be stopped immediately, but repudiated, if Israel is to preserve its good name."

Siegman said the AJCongress group met with Rabin for an hour Monday and told him that his "explanation of the so-called policy of beatings is simply unacceptable."

The group conveyed its view that certain forms of deterrents and punishments are "inherently illegitimate and evil. It is in the nature of these brutal and bloody beatings that they cannot be contained," said Siegman.

"As we have seen, they inevitably spread beyond the riots and the rioters, and victimize

innocent people. Such brutalization of innocents cannot simply be dismissed by characterizing them as exceptions."

The group's position appeared to be sharply at odds with the consensus reached at Monday's Presidents Conference meeting. According to a participant in the session, who asked not to be identified, the overriding sentiment was that the organized Jewish community should not come out with a statement criticizing Israeli policy.

'Disastrous Public Relations'

The participant said that while there was concern expressed about "the disastrous public relations effect" of the policy, there was nevertheless "a strong feeling that we have to stand behind Israel."

According to Abraham Foxman, who attended the meeting on behalf of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, "a consensus was reached that there has to be an understanding of Israeli policy -- not a carte blanche, but we're not in a position to tell the world that it is immoral."

Foxman, who is ADL's national director, said in a telephone interview that "while (the beatings) are painful to watch, we have at least an understanding that Israel has a responsibility to survive."

Also attending the meeting was Paul Flacks, executive vice president of the Zionist Organization of America. Flacks said that "outside of one or two people who felt the need to caution Israel," the meeting was "quiet" with "really no debate. There was really a very strong feeling of unity."

"American Jews should not be embarrassed by what is taking place," said Flacks. "Even if Israel acted 'correctly,' how would that affect the Arabs toward making peace?"

A similar range of feelings was expressed by leaders who did not attend the Presidents Conference meeting.

Seymour Reich, president of B'nai B'rith International, said that his organization would "deplore" beatings that appear indiscriminate in nature and would urge Israeli authorities to refrain from such conduct "if in fact it's happening that way."

Rabin 'Goofed It Up'

Reached in Washington, where the 170-member B'nai B'rith Board of Governors is meeting, Reich said Rabin had "goofed it up" in his candid announcement of the Israeli strong-arm tactics. But he also pointed out that Israel has been rebuffed in its efforts to seek peace in the Middle East.

Perhaps the strongest statement of support for Israeli policies came from Joseph Puder, executive director of Americans for a Safe Israel.

"We believe that Israel should use whatever methods regardless of what might be construed as 'uncivil' on the part of other countries," said Puder, adding that it is "hypocritical for American Jews and others to tell Israel how to deal with a basically defensive matter."

"The government changed its policy to allow soldiers to charge ahead; and, as the Bible says, to defend yourself from those who would kill you," he said.

By contrast, members of New Jewish Agenda, a left-wing group that claims to have 4,500 members, held a vigil Monday, across from the Israeli Consulate in New York, to protest the violent tactics used to contain the unrest.

According to David Coyne, the group's executive director, protesters delivered a letter to the consulate calling on Israel to stop the beatings and "move toward a negotiated compromise that will end the bloodshed."

Coyne said 15 members of Agenda have begun a five-day fast to protest what he called "an inevitable outcome of occupation and conditions under occupation."

But despite spoken and unspoken concern over the tough Israeli policies, fund-raising efforts on behalf of Israel do not yet seem to have been affected.

According to Raphael Rothstein, vice president of programming for the United Jewish Appeal, the annual campaign is "doing quite well" and people are generously supporting humanitarian and social programs.

"Super Sunday was very successful. The response was excellent," said Rothstein, describing a series of one-day fund-raising events held in a number of Jewish communities on Jan. 24.

RABIN DEFENDS BEATINGS POLICY; SHAMIR SEEMS BEHIND LETHAL FORCE By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Jan. 26 (JTA) -- Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin defended on Tuesday his policy of beating Palestinian demonstrators in the administered territories, but promised full investigations into reported excesses by soldiers.

"There shouldn't be blows for the sake of blows," Rabin stressed at a briefing for military correspondents.

But Premier Yitzhak Shamir, addressing a Herut Party meeting Monday night, took a much tougher line, declaring "Our task now is to . . . put the fear of death into the Arabs of the territories." He seemed to favor the use of lethal force as a deterrent.

Rabin has been the prime target of criticism since he announced a week ago that the Israel Defense Force has been ordered to pursue and vigorously beat rioters and stone-throwers. Meanwhile, the use of live ammunition has been severely restricted.

Rabin disclosed that the policy was introduced as early as Jan. 4 or 5, but that he refrained from announcing it until reporters specifically asked about it last week. He said he disclosed it because the public still believed that Arabs were being killed by live bullets.

The use of clubs has helped instill Palestinian fear of the IDF, which has thus regained its deterrent power in the territories, Rabin said.

Explains Policy

Clarifying the policy, he said it calls for "force, including beatings, only while violent action is going on." These measures are used in "hot pursuit," but should stop once the perpetrator has been subdued, he said.

Force should not be used when entering homes to make arrests unless the soldiers meet with resistance, Rabin said, adding that soldiers also must not use force to make striking Arab merchants reopen their shops.

He referred to media accounts of detainees and innocent people being beaten as "exceptions."

He admitted that some soldiers were too zealous when given license to beat Arabs, but said others suffered deep "distress."

But Rabin said he was concerned by the "exceptions" and has ordered Gen. Amram Mitzna, commander of the troops in the West Bank, to investigate media accounts such as that in the Jerusalem Post Monday of "pools of blood" seen in a vacant lot in Ramallah where soldiers reportedly had bludgeoned Palestinians.

Nevertheless, Rabin rejected the widespread criticism of his policy abroad. He said that the world first insisted that Israel must use non-lethal means to disperse rioters and is now protesting those very methods.

"They will always complain unless Israel speaks to the demonstrators nicely, over a cup of coffee perhaps," Rabin observed.

TROOPS TO REMAIN IN TERRITORIES By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Jan. 26 (JTA) -- A large detachment of the Israel Defense Force is prepared for a prolonged stay in the administered territories in order to quell violence despite the relative calm that has prevailed this week.

Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin acknowledged Tuesday that the massive presence of security forces in the West Bank and Gaza Strip has affected the IDF's normal training program. That situation, he argued, was preferable to being caught short of troops should large-scale disturbances erupt anew.

But all was not quiet Tuesday. Two Molotov cocktails were thrown at an IDF patrol in the Jabalya refugee camp in Gaza. A violent demonstration broke out at the Jalazon refugee camp near Ramallah in the West Bank during which two women reportedly were injured, one by rubber bullets and the other by beatings. Curfews were re-imposed at both camps.

An Arab journalist in Gaza wrote Tuesday, "The IDF has put all its weight on the lid, but underneath the pot is boiling." He summed up what seemed to be the concern of military officers at the scene.

Two factors were seen to have touched off the latest violence: the widespread accounts of beatings of Palestinian civilians by IDF soldiers; and the imminent deportation of four Palestinian activists in the Gaza Strip who were reported Monday to have waived their right of appeal to the Supreme Court.

The four Palestinians are among nine ordered expelled by the military on Jan. 3 as alleged agitators with long records of security offenses.

Four from the West Bank were deported Jan. 13 after they waived their right of appeal and a fifth from that territory also faces deportation. The four from Gaza originally intended to fight deportation in the courts.

Their attorney, Felicia Langer, said Monday that they withdrew their appeals because they "did not want to legitimize the court's authority to decide their fate after secret evidence was submitted which they know they will not be allowed to see."

The authorities seem determined to carry out the deportation orders despite heavy international pressure.

The defense establishment argues that this is still the most effective measure against Palestinian nationalist elements and the best deterrent against renewed violence.

REAGAN REITERATES CALL FOR SCHOOL PRAYER, ABORTION BAN

By Howard Rosenberg

WASHINGTON, Jan. 26 (JTA) -- In his seventh and final State of the Union address, President Reagan reiterated Monday night his desires for Congress to approve constitutional amendments allowing organized prayer in public schools and prohibiting abortion.

Reagan said the anti-abortion legislation should make an exception "where the unborn child is threatens the life of the mother. Our Judeo-Christian tradition recognizes the right of taking a life in self-defense."

On prayer in public schools, Reagan argued that Congress and the Supreme Court open each day's proceedings with a prayer, "yet we are denied the right to set aside in our schools a moment each day for those who wish to pray."

The speech did not touch on U.S. policy in the Middle East.

One of the most animated moments during the speech was when he displayed the 14-pound, \$600 billion catch-all appropriations bill approved by Congress in December. Congress lumped all government appropriations into the bill in order to save time as it approached its Christmas 1987 adjournment.

Money For French Yeshivas

Included in that bill was \$8 million for Ozar Hatorah, a New York-based Orthodox Jewish organization, to build yeshivas in Paris and its suburbs for North African Jewish emigres to France.

The allocation has been controversial, and its sponsor, Sen. Daniel Inouye (D-Hawaii), has come under harsh criticism.

John Powell, national legal director of the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), said Tuesday that his group intends to file suit the week of Feb. 1 challenging the constitutionality of that legislation.

Powell contended that it violates the constitutional separation of church and state, noting the allocation would be clearly illegal if done in the United States.

Major Jewish organizations had differing reactions. Samuel Rabinove, the American Jewish Committee's legal director, said Tuesday that AJCommittee has not taken a position on the issue, but that he "was prepared to recommend that we support what the ACLU is planning to do."

In contrast, Steven Freeman, assistant director of legal affairs for the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, said his group has no plans to consider the controversy.

Marc Stern, co-director of legal affairs for the American Jewish Congress, said his organization had no public position on the matter, but declined to say whether it is considering getting involved.

Rabinove emphasized that for 15 years the U.S. government has provided money to religious schools abroad through a previously little known program of the Agency for International Development -- American Schools and Hospitals Abroad.

The New York Times reported Jan. 24 that Israeli schools receiving U.S. aid since 1983 include Ohr Samayach, a girls' affiliate of a Jerusalem yeshiva, which received \$2 million; the Beth Rivka Comprehensive Schools, a Hasidic girls' schools that received \$750,000; American

College of Belz, a Hasidic college in Jerusalem that received \$500,000; and Shaalvim Teacher's College, which trains teachers for Hebrew and day schools and yeshivas, which received \$400,000.

PARITSKYS, LONGTIME REFUSENIKS, TOLD TO EXPECT EXIT VISAS

NEW YORK, Jan. 26 (JTA) -- Former prisoner of conscience Dr. Alexander Paritsky of Kharkov, the Ukraine, his wife Polina and their daughter Anna were Tuesday promised an exit visa to Israel by local authorities, the Cincinnati Council for Soviet Jews and the Student Struggle for Soviet Jewry reported Tuesday.

The Cincinnati council spoke with Alexander Paritsky, 49, Tuesday. He had sought to emigrate for 11 years, but had been refused because he allegedly possessed state secrets due to his work on the development of ultrasonic instruments for the measurement of distances between atomic particles.

He was sent to a Siberian labor camp from 1981-84, and was threatened by officials last June that he would be denied emigration until 1995. The Paritskys' second daughter, Dorina, campaigned in the United States for their release during the U.S.-Soviet summit meeting in December 1987.

Dorina, 21, emigrated from the Soviet Union last October.

KNESSET EXPECTED TO ADOPT BUDGET, DESPITE BIG CUTS

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Jan. 26 (JTA) -- Finance Minister Moshe Nissim's \$33.5 billion state budget for fiscal 1988, submitted Tuesday to the Knesset, seems assured of swift passage despite some \$494.5 million of cuts in government expenditures that could cause hardships this election year.

Both the Labor Party and the Likud have pledged not to support any amendments that could disfigure Nissim's fiscal package. Nissim said he was confident there would be no "election economics," warning that the electorate would have to "pay dearly" for any deviations.

Nissim indicated, in fact, that still more pruning of government spending is envisaged for 1989. He said this year's cuts might have been deeper, but his ministry considered that "impractical" given the present "non-crisis atmosphere" in the economy.

The finance minister hailed the achievement of relative stability in the nation's economy. "But we are still at the very beginning of the road to economic health and recovery," he cautioned. He expressed concern that almost half the budget is earmarked to service and repay debts at home and abroad.

The projected cuts will be felt later this year, mainly in the form of sharp increases in the prices of government-subsidized items, such as flour and public transportation.

There will be an extension of cutbacks, in force since 1985, on national insurance payments for children in middle-income families. Plans to introduce free kindergarten for children aged 3 and 4 have been postponed.

The only area where the budget has been increased somewhat is road construction. Improvement of Israel's highways is considered urgent because of the high rate of traffic fatalities, perhaps the highest per capita in the world.

ANTI-SEMITIC INCIDENTS INCREASE AFTER YEARS OF DECLINE, ADL SAYS

NEW YORK, Jan. 26 (JTA) -- Anti-Semitic vandalism in the United States increased by 17 percent in 1987 to 694 incidents, ending an essentially downward trend, according to the annual Audit of Anti-Semitic Incidents conducted by the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith.

The audit includes vandalism and desecration of Jewish institutions and property, ranging from swastika daubings to arson. It found anti-Semitic episodes in 34 states and the District of Columbia. Ten incidents involved arson or bombings.

The rise from 594 episodes in 1986 largely reflects a 121 percent increase in such acts in California -- from 62 reported acts of vandalism in 1986 to 137 last year.

New York state reported the highest number of anti-Semitic incidents, with 207, 21 more than those reported in 1986. California was second, followed by Florida, where the 64 reported anti-Semitic acts is 15 less than last year.

Other leading states were New Jersey, with 43 incidents, down five from 1986; Illinois, 36, an increase of 22; Massachusetts, 27, up three; and Pennsylvania, 22, down seven.

Higher Figures From West

Anti-Semitic incidents in the West were up 104 percent from 1986, with the California episodes contributing largely to this increase. Figures for the West comprised 22.6 percent of the national total, up from 13 percent of the total in 1986.

Among the 157 such incidents in the West were nine in Colorado, four in Washington, three in Arizona and one each in Oregon, Nevada, New Mexico and Montana.

The audit was based on reports gathered by ADL's 31 regional offices, individuals and law enforcement authorities. The 1981 audit reported 974 anti-Semitic incidents, followed by 829 in 1982, 670 in 1983, 715 in 1984 and 638 in 1985.

ADL national director Abraham Foxman called the 1987 audit "disturbing." He singled out the following findings:

- * Some of the more serious vandalism incidents in Chicago, Los Angeles, Miami and San Diego, and about 20 incidents all told were perpetrated by Skinheads -- neo-Nazi youth who shave their heads and demonstrate violent anti-Semitic and anti-black behavior. They "accounted for no more than two episodes in several previous audits," the report said.

- * The increase in anti-Semitic incidents came, paradoxically, during a period of vigorous local law enforcement and statutory efforts against bias crimes, as well as the recent federal crackdown against hate groups. There were 78 arrests connected with 58 of the anti-Semitic incidents, a sharp increase over the 1986 total of 57 arrests in connection with 33 incidents.

- * Although a majority of perpetrators were teenagers, 17 of those arrested -- one-fifth of the 78 persons arrested -- were 21 years old or older, the highest proportion in that age group ever recorded.

Also Cited

Other troubling manifestations of anti-Semitism, said Foxman, include the activities and campaigns of a range of organized hate groups; the denunciations of Israel by anti-Zionist groups; and vestiges of discrimination and stereotyping

still found in the corporate world and other areas of American life.

The audit singles out Nov. 9 in Chicago-- the anniversary of Kristallnacht -- when 11 separate Jewish targets were vandalized in the Chicago area. A Skinhead gang member was arrested in connection with one of the attacks.

In addition, arson was blamed for major damage to a synagogue each in Massachusetts and California. There were unsuccessful arson attempts at Jewish institutions in New York, Pennsylvania and Georgia. Arsonists also attacked a home in Maryland, and Jewish homes in Georgia and Ohio were hit by pipe bombs.

Cemetery desecrations were down in 1987 to two, the lowest reported total ever for such acts.

Separate figures were kept for threats and harassment incidents directed against Jews or Jewish institutions, usually by mail or telephone. Of 324 such incidents reported in 1987, 16 involved physical assault on Jews "which were clearly motivated by bigotry."

In addition, 244 Jews were harassed by mail, telephone or in verbal confrontations. The 1986 figure for threats and harassments was 312, including 11 physical attacks.

Eighty of the incidents in 1987 were directed against Jewish institutions in the form of hate mail and telephone threats. Such incidents totaled 71 the previous year.

Decline On Campuses

Anti-Semitic incidents on college campuses declined in 1987, down to 14 from 19 in 1986, according to the ADL's Civil Rights Division. Most incidents involved verbal slurs or hate mail.

Four campus incidents involved the targeting of Jewish property or institutions such as Jewish fraternity houses or Hillel student organization buildings. Schools in Florida, Pennsylvania, Colorado and California reported anti-Semitic graffiti.

Foxman said the 1987 findings reinforce the need for stricter law enforcement to apprehend perpetrators of bias crimes, strengthened security measures for Jewish institutions, and educational efforts in the community and in schools to sensitize public concern to racially or religiously motivated crimes.

Foxman pointed out that in the past several years, 31 state legislatures have adopted stricter laws aimed at curbing religious or ethnic vandalism, 12 of which were enacted statutes based on an ADL model bill drafted in 1981. Foxman emphasized the need for prompt reporting of anti-Semitic incidents.

The report includes a note on the Howard Beach racial incident of late 1986, which resulted in the death of a black man. The survey quotes the ADL's Chicago office director, Michael Kotzin, who said, "Bias crimes inflict a special hurt... a sense of vulnerability, of suspicion, of isolation."

The survey outlines programs to counteract bias, including stricter legislation, bias-crime reporting, lawsuits against perpetrators for civil damages, security conferences, coordination of police and local institutional leadership and the use of instruction manuals to counteract prejudice, including the ADL handbook "Security for Community Institutions."

The need to confront prejudice must start in the classroom, the report says. The ADL has published and distributed a manual for prejudice-reduction instruction in schools, as well as an anti-bigotry program to stress the pluralistic nature of American society.