

**MURPHY PLAN WINS SUPPORT  
FROM LABOR, BUT NOT LIKUD**

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Feb. 10 (JTA) -- U.S. Middle East envoy Richard Murphy found broad support among Israel's Labor Party leaders Wednesday for new American ideas on how to come to grips with unrest in the administered territories and accelerate the peace process in the region.

But he ran into stiff resistance from Premier Yitzhak Shamir, leader of the Likud bloc, according to informed sources here.

Murphy, who is assistant secretary of state for Near Eastern and South Asian affairs, arrived in Israel Tuesday night from Egypt, where he conferred with President Hosni Mubarak. Earlier he visited Saudi Arabia and Syria.

The diplomatic troubleshooter had little to say to reporters, save that he was encouraged during his brief and intensive talks here by the "enthusiasm" with which all parties in the region welcomed the renewed American involvement in the Middle East. He gave no details.

Murphy met Tuesday night with Shamir and his aides. On Wednesday, he met with Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, leader of the Labor Party, Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Abba Eban, chairman of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee.

Murphy is to report to Secretary of State George Shultz when he returns to Washington. Shultz is expected to decide whether Murphy's mission achieved the momentum that would justify a high-profile visit to the region. According to some Israeli sources, Shultz is considering a trip to the Middle East before going to Moscow later this month.

The nub of the American proposals conveyed by Murphy is the determination to launch negotiations on the permanent status of the West Bank and Gaza Strip before the end of this year.

**Opposition From Shamir**

It is precisely that which is adamantly opposed by Shamir and the Likud, sources here said. Under the American plan, the negotiations would begin regardless of whether the parties reach agreement beforehand on interim arrangements, shorthand for Palestinian autonomy.

Aides to Shamir point out that the 1978 Camp David accords make discussion of permanent status conditional on prior agreement between the parties on a transitional arrangement. The United States, a signatory of the Camp David accords, apparently has dropped the condition.

It is a major shift. In on-and-off negotiations between 1979 and 1982, Israel and Egypt failed to reach agreement on autonomy, which each country interpreted differently. Talks on the permanent status of the territories therefore never began.

The United States seems to be trying to break the deadlock by unlinking the two stages. The transitional stage, the Americans propose now, should be concluded and take effect within a few months. It would last three years, instead of the five years envisioned in the Camp David agreement. But Washington wants talks on the final status of the territories to start in Decem-

ber, right after the national elections in the United States and Israel.

The parties, moreover, are being asked to agree in advance to this timetable.

**U.S. WON'T CUT AID TO ISRAEL;  
HUMAN RIGHTS REPORT RELEASED**

By David Friedman and Howard Rosenberg

WASHINGTON, Feb. 10 (JTA) -- A State Department official ruled out Wednesday any possibility that the United States would cut aid to Israel because of its handling of the unrest on the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Although about 50 Palestinians have died in the territories since December, this was not a "gross" violation of human rights, said Richard Schifter, assistant secretary of state for human rights and humanitarian affairs, at a State Department briefing.

The "regrettable" number of deaths is not "unusual" when compared to "similar situations" in other countries, he explained.

Legislation requires the United States to cut off aid to any country that is guilty of "gross" human rights abuses.

"I don't believe that we are dealing here with the kind of pattern set forth in various statutory injunctions," Schifter stressed. For aid to be cut off, there would have to be "a gross pattern of human rights abuses," he noted.

His remarks were in response to questions as he briefed reporters on the State Department's "Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 1987," which was released Wednesday.

**160-Plus Countries Covered**

The 1,358-page report, which covers human rights practices in more than 160 countries, is submitted annually to the Senate Foreign Relations and the House Foreign Affairs committees.

As in previous reports, the section on Israel notes that Israel is in law and practice a parliamentary democracy.

"As in the past, the most significant human rights problems for Israel in 1987 derived from the strained relations between the Israeli authorities and some Israelis on the one hand and the Arab inhabitants of the occupied territories on the other hand," the report states.

"These problems were again exacerbated in 1987 by attacks against Israelis in these areas and by acts of provocation or violence by Jewish settlers. The number of attacks by Israelis and acts of violence by settlers increased somewhat in 1987."

The report deals with the current situation in the territories in one short paragraph.

Schifter explained that since the report covers only the period through the end of December, the situation in the territories since then will be dealt with in next year's report.

The 20-page section on Israel is one of the longest in the report. It is divided in two parts, one on Israel proper and the other on the territories. Officials in the past have pointed out that the length has more to do with information available than with the extent of human rights abuses.

Scattered through the report are descriptions

of the situation of Jews in various countries, including some Arab countries.

In Syria, the status of Jews "continues to be influenced by the ongoing state of war with Israel," according to the report. "The 2,000 to 3,000 Jews in Syria are free to practice their religion and the situation of the Jewish community has improved in recent years, despite the uncertainty dictated by regional developments."

The report adds that only Jews and Palestinians are required to post bonds by Syria if they travel abroad, which are forfeited if they do not return. But while Palestinians can post less than \$20, Jews must provide the full \$300 to \$800.

Iraq, the report notes, is home to about 400 Jews, and while the community was once "severely persecuted" there "is no evidence of recent persecution. One synagogue in Baghdad still functions."

About a 1,000 Jews reside in the Yemen Arab Republic, according to the report. "There are no synagogues, but Jews are permitted to practice their religion in private homes," the report adds. "The government makes a point of ensuring that no impediment to this right exists."

#### Best In Morocco

Probably the best situation for Jews in Arab countries is in Morocco, where some 10,000 still live, according to the report. Synagogues and Jewish communal activities, including publications in Hebrew, are permitted. Jews hold high positions in the business community and some government posts. Morocco encourages Jews who have emigrated to return.

In Ethiopia, the report notes, 25 persons were arrested in 1987 for helping Jews to leave the country, but have not yet been brought to trial. Some reportedly have been tortured.

At the same time, the report finds that "stories of 'genocidal' actions by Ethiopian authorities or of highly brutal behavior toward Ethiopian Jews have not been substantiated by American visitors" to the areas where the Jews live.

In Iran, according to the report, Jews are permitted to practice their religion and there is more tolerance than before.

At the same time, "Jews are seen as pro-Israeli and therefore a possible fifth column against Islam and Iran. In this connection, Jews are subject to travel restrictions which are not applied to members of other recognized religious groups."

#### **RIOTING RESURGES AS CURFEWS ARE LIFTED IN TERRITORIES**

By Gil Sedan

**JERUSALEM, Feb. 10 (JTA) --** Curfews were lifted Wednesday and rioting broke out immediately afterward in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

In East Jerusalem, senior police officials said their tough measures -- mass arrest and extensive use of tear gas -- had subdued rioters and kept the area relatively quiet for the past two days.

But this seemed to be a matter of degree. Stones were thrown Wednesday at the offices of the Barclay Discount Bank on Saladin Street, East Jerusalem's main thoroughfare. The attack occurred during business hours. Plate glass windows were smashed, but none of the customers in the bank was hurt.

Stones also were thrown at buses in East Jerusalem and roadblocks were erected at several places. Police called these events "local disturb-

ances," meaning apparently that unlike earlier riots, they were spontaneous, not organized.

Police raided a printing plant in Isawiya village at the foot of Mt. Scopus and seized leaflets, distributed by the hundreds of thousands throughout the West Bank and Gaza Strip, exhorting Palestinians to continue the "national uprising." Tens of thousands of dollars worth of equipment was confiscated and the plant was ordered closed.

Rioting was reported in Tarkumiya village in the Hebron hills. The army imposed a curfew and arrested several suspects.

#### Two Wounded In Nablus

But Israelis are learning that curfews are effective only as long as they are in force. In Nablus, the curfew in force for the last 10 days was lifted Wednesday morning. By early afternoon, rioters were in the streets again burning tires and staging violent demonstrations in the narrow alleys of the marketplace.

An Israel Defense Force patrol, trapped in one of the alleys, opened fire. Two Palestinians were slightly wounded and hospitalized.

Curfews remained in effect Wednesday in the West Bank towns of Tulkarm, Kalkilya, Beit Ur A-Tahta and Anabta.

The West Bank pattern repeated itself in the Gaza Strip. The IDF lifted the curfew at the El-Bureij and Shati refugee camps. Within hours, local youths rioted in Shati, hurling stones at soldiers and trying to snatch their weapons.

Loudspeakers at mosques urged the residents to take to the streets and attack the IDF patrols. The soldiers responded with live ammunition, wounding two residents of the Shati camp.

A firebomb was thrown at an IDF patrol in the nearby Jabalya refugee camp, but no one was injured.

Military sources confirmed Wednesday that life is far from normal in the Gaza Strip. Most schools are closed and a commercial strike is in effect throughout the territory. Shops are opened for two hours daily to allow local residents to buy food.

#### Arabs Reporting To Jobs

But increasing numbers of Arabs are reporting to their jobs in Israel. Military sources said the rate was 60 percent in Rafah and Khan Yunis, and up to 90 percent in Gaza.

An Arab resident of the El-Mughazi refugee camp in the Gaza Strip died in a Beersheba hospital Wednesday of wounds he received when shot by an IDF patrol Jan. 7.

Security sources said Wednesday that an Arab youth whose body was found Tuesday in Attil village near Tulkarm, died of a bullet wound. He was identified as Nabil Abu Khalil, 16. Police investigated the case, because the circumstances of his death were unclear.

Meanwhile, two Jewish settlers from the West Bank were freed on bail by a Netanyahu magistrates court Wednesday. The settlers, Shimon Lev, 41, and Yosef Farber, 48, both from Kedumim, are suspected of the fatal shooting Monday of Abdul Basit Abdullah, 27, in the Arab village of Kaddum.

According to the charge sheet, they were stopped by a roadblock and pelted with stones while driving through Kaddum. Farber fired an Uzi submachine gun to frighten off the attackers. Police believe Abdullah was hit by one of the bullets.

## WORLD PRESS IS STILL WAITING FOR PLO REFUGEE SHIP TO SAIL

By Jean Cohen

ATHENS, Feb. 10 (JTA) -- The Palestine Liberation Organization, seeking a major propaganda coup by sailing a ship with several hundred Palestinian deportees and their sympathizers to Israel, may have a stocky public relations problem on their hands here: holding the interest and attention of the scores of foreign press and television reporters waiting for the ship to sail.

The press corps is becoming increasingly restless and dubious about the project. The vessel, still not identified, was scheduled to depart Wednesday from Piraeus, the port of Athens.

So far, the journalists have been fed plenty of anti-Israel propaganda and inflated rhetoric, but few details about the vessel or its prospective voyage. A news conference, at which all was to be revealed, was postponed four times in less than 24 hours.

When it was finally held Wednesday morning in the packed press room of the Intercontinental Hotel, virtually nothing was revealed, neither the date nor hour of sailing, the ship's name or the flag it will fly.

Bassam Abu Sharif, director of PLO chief Yasir Arafat's press office, who flew here from Tunis Monday to act as media spokesperson, insisted that secrecy was necessary to avoid pressure by Israel. Asked what sort of pressure he meant, Sharif claimed the Israelis were threatening the well-being of crew members and their families.

### Claims Boat Will Sail

Asked if the ship will sail, he replied, "Yes, the boat will sail," but refused to elaborate. He did inform the press that a reception was to be given at 7 p.m. local time Wednesday, by Greek intellectuals sympathetic to the Palestinian cause, to honor the deportees.

He also said the vessel would stop over at Larnaca, Cyprus, for eight hours to allow members of the press making the voyage to file their stories and pictures. The Larnaca stopover was announced by the PLO several days ago, after which, they said, the ship would sail for Haifa.

Meanwhile, the PLO is providing photo opportunities. The news conference was interrupted when three little Palestinian girls walked up to the speakers table carrying olive branches.

Another well-staged happening was the appearance of Msgr. Hilarion Capucci, the former Catholic archbishop of Jerusalem, who was convicted years ago by Israeli courts of smuggling weapons to terrorists. He was sentenced to 12 years in prison, but released after the Vatican intervened.

### Israel Will Bar Ship

Israel has already made clear it will bar the ship from entering its territorial waters, as is its right under international law.

But Israelis fear that if an attempt is made, the PLO will achieve an immense propaganda victory and gain worldwide sympathy for the Palestinian cause.

President Chaim Herzog referred to the project Wednesday as a PLO "publicity stunt." Addressing Israeli Druze at Horfeish village, he warned, "We should not be influenced by false publicity stunts of terrorist organizations whose covenant rejects the very existence of Israel."

## U.N. MAY MEET OVER AMERICAN DECISION TO CLOSE PLO OFFICES

By Yitzhak Rabi

UNITED NATIONS, Feb. 10 (JTA) -- The Arabs nations and the Palestine Liberation Organization will ask for a special meeting of the General Assembly in Geneva next month if the United States persists in its decision to close the PLO's observer mission to the United Nations, according to diplomats here.

But unconfirmed news reports Wednesday quote diplomats as saying the meeting could be called here as early as next week. However, a U.N. spokesman said Wednesday that no date has been set for the meeting.

The General Assembly would consider a resolution to request that the United States appear before the International Court of Justice in The Hague to explain the decision for closure, diplomats say.

According to some reports, PLO chairman Yasir Arafat would attend the meeting in Geneva -- which never has hosted a General Assembly session -- in an attempt to attract international media attention.

President Reagan signed legislation last Dec. 22 to close both the PLO information office in Washington and the observer mission in New York. The information office was closed at the beginning of December by order of Secretary of State George Shultz. The PLO is appealing the decision, with a court hearing set for Feb. 23.

The Arab countries and the PLO are supported by Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar in their claim that the closing of the observer mission violates the 1947 Headquarters Agreement governing the United Nations' relation with its host country, the United States.

Perez de Cuellar sent a letter to U.S. Ambassador to the U.N. Vernon Walters several weeks ago challenging the legality of the decision to close the PLO observer mission.

### World Seek Other Quarters

Arab diplomats at the United Nations have made it known in the last few weeks that if the mission is closed, they intend to ask Perez de Cuellar to provide the PLO delegation with offices and living quarters in the U.N. headquarters itself. The headquarters is an international territory not governed by U.S. law.

But observers and diplomats said this week that they doubt the request would be granted, because there is no precedent and the building does not contain living quarters.

The New York Times reported last Friday that the State Department's legal adviser, Abraham Sofaer, is pressing Attorney General Edwin Meese to delay the closing of the PLO mission.

Sofaer reportedly said in a letter to Meese that closing the mission would be viewed by the international community as a violation of international law and could harm new U.S. efforts to reach a peaceful settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Sofaer suggested that Meese agree to binding arbitration in the dispute by a three-member tribunal with the participation of the United States, the PLO and a third party agreed to by the two principals. However, State Department spokeswoman Phyllis Oakley later denied the report and said there was no dispute within the department over a request to delay the closing of the PLO mission.

## HUSSEIN ARRIVES IN VIENNA AS AUSTRIA DEBATES REPORT By Reinhard Engel

VIENNA, Feb. 10 (JTA) — Two days after an international panel of historians issued a report severely critical of Kurt Waldheim's wartime activities, the Austrian president received the first head of state to visit him since he took office nearly two years ago.

King Hussein of Jordan, accompanied by his wife, Queen Noor, arrived Wednesday on a four-day state visit. It ended the diplomatic isolation that has marked Waldheim's presidency because of his alleged link to deportations and atrocities while serving as a German army officer in the Balkans during World War II.

The Austrian news media clashed, meanwhile, along party lines, over whether the panel of distinguished scholars condemned Waldheim in its report or exonerated him. The report sharply criticized Waldheim for failing to disobey clearly inhumane and illegal orders, as some other officers did without suffering personal reprisals.

It found that he lied to conceal his Nazi past and while there was "no proof" that he committed war crimes, he knew they were being committed.

Neither of the governing coalition partners, the Socialist Party and the conservative People's Party, has taken an official stand on Waldheim's future. Heinrich Keller, secretary general of the Socialist Party, rejected suggestions that the report on Waldheim endangered the coalition.

### 'No Crisis Of Government'

"There is no crisis of the government, there is a crisis of the federal president," Keller said.

But former Socialist Chancellor Bruno Kreisky demanded that Waldheim resign because he had lied to the Austrian people and to the world. In a speech to party functionaries, Kreisky said he was gravely concerned about Austria's international standing.

Chancellor Franz Vranitzky, Kreisky's successor, said he shared that concern.

Keller said the historians' report did not incriminate Waldheim, but Waldheim has incriminated himself by failing to retract his statement that he was only doing his duty during the war.

Opposition politicians were more critical of the president. Joerg Haider of the center-right Freedom Party said his party had all along distanced itself from Waldheim and that position was proved correct. He did not call for resignation, but stressed that Waldheim had been careless with the truth.

The sharpest criticism came from Walther Geyer, parliamentary spokesman of the Green Party. He said the report did not clear Waldheim and that he should resign.

## SOVIET JEWISH OFFICIAL HAS CHANGED HIS TUNE By Tamar Levy

GENEVA, Feb. 10 (JTA) — Is it glasnost or perestroika? Can a leopard change its spots? Whatever, Samuil Zivs, for years the most vociferous anti-Zionist Jew in Soviet officialdom, is ardently courting Jews and has visibly softened, if not gone soft, on Israel.

Until it was dissolved recently, Zivs headed the Anti-Zionist Committee of the Soviet Public, an official organization that relentlessly attacked

Israel, Soviet Jews seeking exit visas and those active in their behalf.

Now Zivs is talking about bringing prayer books and kosher food to the USSR, organizing an exhibit of Judaica there and cultural exchanges with Jewish communities in the West.

Zivs has been more or less a permanent fixture in the Soviet delegation to the annual six-week conference of the United Nations Human Rights Commission here. He also participated in the U.S.-Soviet summit meetings in Geneva, Reykjavik and Washington.

This year, attending the human rights conference, Zivs spoke at length to the Jewish Telegraphic Agency, which he had all but ignored in past years. He even asked the JTA correspondent for introductions to prominent members of the Swiss Jewish community.

And he assured the JTA that regardless of "false rumors," the number of Jews allowed to leave the Soviet Union in 1988 will not be less than in 1987.

According to Zivs, 9,971 Soviet Jews emigrated last year. He said exit visas were issued to 10,305, but that 334 changed their minds after getting visas and preferred to remain in the USSR.

His count was higher than that of the National Conference on Soviet Jewry, which reported last month that 8,155 Soviet Jews emigrated last year.

Zivs also reported a "great change" in official Soviet policy toward Jews. He noted that when the Soviet Academy of Science voted for new members last December, 11 of those elected were Jews.

On the diplomatic front, Zivs repeated that Moscow will restore diplomatic relations with Israel when an international conference for Middle East peace convenes.

He said he has received a request from the Beth Hatefutotz (Jewish Diaspora Museum) in Israel to organize an exhibit there of Judaica from the Soviet Union. Zivs visited Israel in 1982 at the invitation of the Communist Party there.

## DEMJEANJUK WITNESSES' MEMORIES 'UNRELIABLE,' SAYS ATTORNEY SAYS By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Feb. 10 (JTA) — Defense attorney Yoram Sheftel challenged Wednesday the testimony of Treblinka survivors who identified suspected war criminal John Demjanjuk as the brutal death camp guard known as "Ivan the Terrible."

In the second day of his summation for the defense in Jerusalem district court, Sheftel called the memory of the witnesses "unreliable" and affected by seeing the accused in the prisoner's dock.

He noted that all of the survivors described "Ivan" as fat and round-faced, which is how the 67-year-old Ukrainian-born Demjanjuk appears now. But photographs of the defendant taken during World War II, when he was in his early 20s, show a thin-faced man. Demjanjuk said he was emaciated during the war, Sheftel noted.

The defense lawyer also challenged the validity of the photo identification conducted by police investigators. Sheftel accused octogenarian Miriam Radiwker, a retired investigator, of "nodding" when witnesses' eyes paused at the picture of Demjanjuk among photographs from the war years.