

U.N. ADOPTS TWO RESOLUTIONS AGAINST MOVE TO CLOSE PLO OFFICE

By Yitzhak Rabi

UNITED NATIONS, March 2 (JTA) -- The General Assembly voted overwhelmingly Wednesday for two resolutions aimed against a U.S. order to close the Palestine Liberation Organization's United Nations observer mission in New York, effective March 21.

Both resolutions were supported by 143 countries.

Israel was the only country to vote against the first of them, which calls on the United States "to abide by its treaty obligations and to provide assurances that no action will be taken that would infringe" on the functions of the PLO observer mission.

Israel did not participate in the second vote, which was for a resolution asking the General Assembly to seek an opinion from the World Court in The Hague as to whether the United States, as a party to the 1947 Headquarters Agreement with the United Nations, is obliged under international law to enter into arbitration of the dispute.

An Israeli diplomat explained to the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that Israel decided not to participate in the vote on that resolution, because it dealt with juridical matters to which Israel is not a party.

The United States did not participate in either vote. The U.S. ambassador, Herbert Okun, said after the voting that the United States regards the special session of the General Assembly convened to debate the issue as "premature and inappropriate."

"The U.S. has not yet taken action affecting the functioning of any mission or invitee," Okun explained. He said that as U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar stated in his report to the General Assembly of Feb. 25, "the U.S. government has made no final decision concerning the application and enforcement of recently passed U.S. legislation, the Anti-Terrorist Act of 1987, with respect to the Permanent Observer Mission to the U.N. in New York."

'Unnecessary And Premature'

Okun added, "For this reason, we can only view as unnecessary and premature the holding at this time of the resumed session of the 42nd General Assembly." The 42nd General Assembly opened last September and continues until next September, though not in regular session.

The dispute with the United States stems from legislation passed by Congress and signed by President Reagan on Dec. 22. The United Nations maintains the law violates the Headquarters Agreement, and it has been seeking to take the matter to arbitration.

Israel's ambassador to the United Nations, Benjamin Netanyahu, was the last speaker in more than two days of debate on the issue, which started Monday, when the special General Assembly session opened.

Mounting the podium only minutes before the voting began Wednesday, the Israeli envoy said the question before the General Assembly is not the closure of the PLO observer mission, but

rather "whether the PLO should be in the U.N. in the first place."

Netanyahu charged that the PLO is dedicated to the eradication of the State of Israel through "armed struggle and violence." He said this principal idea of the PLO is in sharp contradiction to the basic principles of the U.N. Charter, which calls for non-violent solutions to all conflicts and disputes.

"The PLO is constitutionally incapable of non-violence and reconciliation," because the only solution to the conflict with Israel that it advocates is a violent one, Netanyahu said. He said the PLO is responsible for international terrorism in the last 20 years "more than any other group or state in the world."

SHAMIR TO PUSH FOR EARLY ELECTIONS IF SHULTZ PLAN GAINS ACCEPTANCE

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, March 2 (JTA) -- Premier Yitzhak Shamir appears determined to stall U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz's peace proposals if they show any sign of winning acceptance by Jordan, Haaretz reported Wednesday.

Should King Hussein give the Americans "the green light" to press their initiative in the region, Shamir will call for early elections, which could put the entire process on hold until elections are held and a new government is formed, Haaretz said.

The newspaper quoted high-ranking Likud sources as saying Tuesday night that "Shamir has no mandate to conduct negotiations with King Hussein over peace in exchange for giving up territory, and in order to get a decision on this matter, it will be necessary to go to the voters."

The sources confirmed that a bill submitted to the Knesset Monday by Likud Knesset member David Magen was fully coordinated with and had the consent of the prime minister.

Magen's bill calls for elections to be held July 26, although the Labor-Likud unity coalition government's term does not expire until November, when elections are mandated by law.

Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, leader of the Labor Party, said Tuesday night, "In principle I don't oppose advancing the election date, but efforts must be made to ensure that such a change is the result of an agreement between the two parties."

Labor prefers elections in May or June. Likud selected late July, because it expects many Labor voters will be on vacation abroad at that time. The Labor Party has authorized Knesset member Haim Ramon to prepare an early election bill, but it is not to be introduced without permission from the party leadership.

Shamir Said To Reject U.S. Plan

Labor ministers met late Tuesday night at Peres' residence to discuss the prospects for Shultz's plan, following the secretary of state's meeting with King Hussein in London Tuesday. The ministers were told Shamir in effect has already rejected Shultz's proposals.

Labor accepts them in principle. They call for early interim autonomy arrangements for Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, to

be followed by an international "opening" that would launch negotiations on the permanent status of the territories. They also embody the principle of exchanging territory for peace.

Shamir and his Likud faction adamantly oppose this. Labor is prepared for territorial compromise.

Likud ministers were scheduled to meet Wednesday afternoon to discuss the prospects for early elections. The newspaper Hadashot reported Wednesday that Shultz recently expressed genuine concern that advancing the Israeli elections would end, for all practical purposes, the American diplomatic initiative in the region.

Even if elections are held this summer, it could take months of wrangling to put a new government together. According to most public opinion polls, Labor and Likud would split the vote almost evenly if elections were held now, meaning that the next government would have to be a narrowly based coalition, led by either of the two major parties. Continuation of the Labor-Likud coalition has been ruled out by most political observers.

Yediot Achronot said Wednesday that contrary to other reports, the likelihood of early elections has diminished. According to the newspaper, Likud will decide only after Shamir returns from his scheduled trip to Washington at the end of this month.

SHULTZ TO RETURN TO MIDEAST THURSDAY FOR TALKS IN ISRAEL, JORDAN, EGYPT

By Edwin Eytan

BRUSSELS, March 2 (JTA) -- Secretary of State George Shultz, with a strong boost from President Reagan, will resume his Middle East shuttle diplomacy at the end of this week, it was announced here Wednesday evening.

"I have directed Secretary Shultz to return to the Middle East tomorrow (Thursday) to continue his discussions," Reagan said Wednesday night. He is attending the NATO summit conference. The president said that "during my meetings in Brussels I have kept a close watch on the situation in the Middle East. Secretary Shultz briefed me fully on his negotiating efforts and it is clear that all countries in the region believe it is useful for the United States to remain engaged in this process. We'll spare no effort in our search for a comprehensive peace settlement."

Shultz will fly to Israel Thursday evening and is scheduled to meet Friday with Premier Yitzhak Shamir and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres. He will fly to Amman, Jordan and to Cairo on Saturday or Sunday for another meeting with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak. He is scheduled to return to Washington Sunday evening.

But before leaving for the Middle East, the top American diplomat is expected to return to London for another meeting with King Hussein of Jordan. The two conferred there for three hours on Tuesday.

Asked after the president's statement whether he will meet with a group of Palestinians who had refused to meet with him in Israel last weekend, Shultz refused to comment. Observers interpreted his silence as meaning that such a meeting, which Egyptian sources said Tuesday would take place in Cairo, is not altogether ruled out, but is highly improbable.

White House press spokesman Marlin Fitzwater told a news conference here that the president "feels we should give it another try."

An American source said the secretary's return to the Middle East is "the continuation of his previous trip, which was only briefly interrupted for his two-day stay in Brussels to attend the NATO summit meeting."

Shultz was in the Middle East from Feb. 26 to 29. Using Jerusalem as his base, he flew to Damascus and Cairo and twice to Amman in an effort to gain support for his peace proposals.

He left Israel Tuesday morning for London, where he conferred with Hussein, who was absent from Jordan during Shultz's stay in the region. Shultz arrived in Brussels Tuesday night.

American officials here said Shultz's session with Hussein "did not open any doors, but neither did it lock any," and an additional effort is needed.

But the officials seemed to feel that the outcome of Shultz's mission will be evident only after Israeli Premier Yitzhak Shamir's official visit to Washington, which will begin March 14. Shamir will meet with Reagan at the White House on March 16.

(JTA London correspondent Maurice Samuelson contributed to this report.)

IDF TO ROTATE UNITS IN TERRITORIES TO AVOID OUTCOME OF FRUSTRATION

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, March 2 (JTA) -- The Israel Defense Force has decided on a rotation policy so that no single unit will spend more than six consecutive weeks on duty in the administered territories, Haaretz reported Wednesday.

According to Haaretz, the new policy is the outcome of an incident filmed by a CBS television crew at a military prison near Nablus last week, in which four soldiers were shown beating and kicking two handcuffed Palestinians detained for questioning.

Haaretz, quoting ranking IDF sources, said the lesson learned from the film, which was shown in Israel and abroad, was that the accumulation of frustration and anger was partly responsible for the behavior of the soldiers, who had spent two consecutive months in the territories, during the worst of Arab rioting.

This anger and frustration was released by beating the two Palestinians who were arrested for throwing stones at soldiers, the IDF sources said.

Gen. Amram Mitzna, whose command covers the West Bank, ordered his field commanders to view the film. It will eventually be shown to all soldiers in order to make clear the limits of proper and improper conduct.

But a backlash of criticism against Mitzna has developed within the IDF for his decision to arrest the four soldiers involved and free the two Palestinians, Haaretz reported. The soldiers were released from custody Monday, and the decision whether to press charges was left to the military prosecutor.

The timing of the arrests was criticized in IDF circles. The soldiers were taken into custody while on leave. One was arrested at home, in the dining hall of Kibbutz Geshar, in the presence of many kibbutz members. Critics say the arrests should have been made when they returned to their units Sunday, if at all.

But other IDF sources are defending Mitzna against criticism by politicians. The general was attacked by several members of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee Tuesday.

MOUNTING ARAB ATTACKS IN ISRAEL ARE CAUSE OF CONCERN FOR POLICE

By Gil Sedan

BAKA AL-GHARBIYA, Israel, March 2 (JTA) -- Israeli police are concerned by a growing number of attacks on traffic in Wadi Ara, the area between Hadera and Afula in central Israel, mostly populated with Arab villages.

Police said Wednesday they have increased their patrols in the area, and that serious measures would be required to prevent further attacks.

Two Molotov cocktails were thrown Tuesday evening at an Egged bus at the northern entrance of the Israeli Arab village of Baka al-Gharbiya. The bus was loaded with Arab residents of the village. No one was hurt, and no damage was caused. Earlier this week, stones were thrown at an Egged bus passing the nearby village of Jatt.

Police on Wednesday detained three residents of Baka al-Gharbiya suspected of the Molotov cocktail attack. Two of them are minors. A 35-year-old teacher from Jatt was arrested on suspicion of stoning the bus.

Police officers said the attacks were yet another indication of the growing radicalization of Israeli Arabs, and of attempts to "import" the uprising in the territories to the Arab villages in Israel proper.

But Samir Darwish, the mayor of Baka al-Gharbiya, told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency Wednesday he believed the Molotov cocktail attack was a single incident that did not reflect a general mood in the village.

Atmosphere Of Confusion

The atmosphere in the village is indeed one of confusion. Local residents said that although they totally identified with the uprising in the territories, they were far from engaging in terrorist activities.

Baka al-Gharbiya was once a symbol of the integration of Israel's Arabs in the Jewish state. The village lies on a crossroads between West Bank villages and the Arab villages in Israel proper. It is on the main road from Hadera to Petach Tikva.

As such it has served as center of Jewish-Arab economic and social activities. Jewish students often have visited the village to get better acquainted with the Arab population.

"I would not advise to hold such visits now," said Idris Muwassi, secretary of the youth division of the Mapam party.

"For 40 years I have felt at home in the Jewish streets," said Mahmoud Mansour, the Arab owner of a cement plant. "Now, for the first time, Jewish friends have stopped contacting me, even by phone. They are afraid."

"My 7-year-old son has told me, after seeing clashes between soldiers and Palestinians, that he does not want to see any of our Jewish friends. This is really shocking," he said.

But another resident of Baka al-Gharbiya had a different opinion. "Now, more than ever in the past, is the time to welcome Jewish visitors. We must prove that Jews and Arabs can live together in peace," he said.

PERES AGAIN DENIES PIPELINE BRIBE

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, March 2 (JTA) -- Foreign Minister Shimon Peres angrily dismissed as "a mess of imagination and nonsense" allegations that he

and the Labor Party he heads were offered bribes by an American middleman for guarantees that Israel would not attack a proposed Iraqi oil pipeline.

The project, which was to run through Jordan to the Red Sea, never materialized.

Peres was exasperated when Likud Knesset member Yehoshua Matza questioned him in the Knesset Wednesday about the allegations, which he has vigorously denied on several previous occasions. "You'd have to be very impertinent to ask me to deny such a thing," Peres told Matza.

AUSTRIAN GROUP OF 300 FILES MURDER, COMPLICITY CHARGES AGAINST WALDHEIM

By Reinhard Engel

VIENNA, March 2 (JTA) -- A group of 300 Austrians, including several public figures, filed formal charges against President Kurt Waldheim with the district attorney of Vienna Tuesday.

They accuse the former United Nations secretary general of murder or complicity in murder when he was an officer in the German army in the Balkans during World War II.

The charges are based on documents from the Yugoslavian military archives relating to mass deportations from the Kozara region in 1942 and documents involving Waldheim in the deportation of Greek Jews from Rhodes and other Greek islands.

They are further based on the report submitted to Chancellor Franz Vranitsky Feb. 8 by an international commission of historians that investigated Waldheim's wartime activities, and on subsequent statements by a West German member of the panel, Manfred Messerschmidt.

The signatories include well-known artists and intellectuals, among them poet Erich Fried and writer Robert Jungk. They asked the district attorney to search for surviving victims and their children who might join in legal proceedings against Waldheim.

The Yugoslavian documents refer to Waldheim's service in a supply unit serving in Yugoslavia in 1942, tying him to the deportations.

The deportation of Greek Jews had been recommended by Waldheim's unit. Although his signature is on none of the deportation orders, Waldheim's accusers cite a book by the Swiss journalist Hans-Peter Born who maintained that Waldheim regularly sat in on daily headquarters staff meetings during which important decisions were planned and prepared.

The charges also quote extensively from the report of the historians' commission about the involvement of Waldheim's unit in the deportation of prisoners and refugees from Yugoslavia and in the "special treatment" leading to the execution of captured Allied commandos.

In that connection, Messerschmidt was quoted in the Munich newspaper, Sueddeutsche Zeitung as saying Waldheim may have assisted in the commission of murder in the case of captured British commandos.

One section of the historians' report, cited in the charges, says that Waldheim cooperated in unlawful actions and made their executions easier. The group filing the charges said this raises suspicion that Waldheim assisted in the commission of murder.

The report as a whole found no proof that Waldheim committed war crimes, but it charged he was well aware of atrocities committed by his unit but did not intervene or protest.

WITNESSES DEPICT HATE GROUPS' PLOT TO REPLACE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

By Susan Birnbaum

NEW YORK, March 2 (JTA) -- A coalition of anti-Semitic, racist paramilitary groups planned a series of crimes in 1983 intended to lead to the overthrow of the federal government, according to recent testimony of two prosecution witnesses during the Fort Smith, Ark., trial of 14 hate group leaders.

The witnesses, James Ellison and Kerry Noble, are former leaders of the survivalist group The Covenant, the Sword and the Arm of the Lord.

They told the jury in federal district court of a 1983 plan to initiate murders and robberies intended to cause disruption and chaos in large cities, race riots and a "chain reaction" that would end in the ultimate overthrow of the federal government and its replacement with an all-white "Aryan nation."

Their testimony is central to the government's case against the 14 defendants, 10 of whom are charged with "seditious conspiracy." All 14 have pleaded not guilty. Ellison and Noble are unindicted co-conspirators testifying under the federal witness-protection program.

Among those charged are Richard Butler, so-called pastor of the Church of Jesus Christ-Christian of the Aryan Nations; Robert Miles, former Ku Klux Klansman and so-called pastor of the Mountain Church of Jesus Christ the Saviour in Cohoctah, Mich., site of several white supremacist meetings; and Louis Beam, former grand dragon of the Ku Klux Klan and so-called ambassador-at-large of the Aryan Nations who set up a computer network bulletin board between different extremist groups.

Said Group Leaders Gathered

Ellison, 47, and Noble, 35, an elder in the Church of Zarephath-Horeb, the name given to the Covenant settlement in Mountain Home, Ark., testified that leaders of white supremacist groups gathered at the Aryan Nations compound near Hayden Lake, Idaho, in 1983 and agreed to use the Covenant compound for guerrilla warfare training.

They also agreed to stage a "plundering" that would raise money to further their attempted overthrow of the government. More than 100 men, women and children were estimated to have lived at the settlement.

The two men said that various groups stepped up violent and illegal activities following the meeting. They also said that The Order, an offshoot of the Aryan Nations, was founded after the meeting in September 1983. The Order robbed more than \$4 million from armored cars in California and Washington state in order to raise money to be shared by the various groups to finance their activities.

They testified that the Covenant supervised paramilitary training and planned strikes against Jewish businesses and assassinations of federal officials. Noble said that the killings "would give the push to begin the total insurrection across the United States. . . . We desired to see the government collapse in order to bring the kingdom of God."

Noble testified that he, Ellison and the five defendants who are separately charged with conspiracy to kill federal officials went from the Covenant compound on Dec. 26, 1983 to kill U.S.

District Court Judge H. Franklin Waters, special FBI agent Jack Knox and any family members who were with them at home in Arkansas. They were also set to blow up the men's homes.

Noble said the plan to kill Waters and Knox was called off when their van was involved in a traffic accident, which they interpreted as "God's sign that the time wasn't right."

Ellison testified last week that Miles gave the Covenant 30 gallons of cyanide, which he said "could kill a lot of people." Miles visited the Covenant camp in 1984 and discussed using the cyanide to poison the water supplies of New York and Washington, because killing the people there "would be a good cleansing," Ellison said.

Ellison also testified that Richard Snell, another defendant who is charged both with seditious conspiracy and conspiracy to kill federal officials, attempted to blow up a natural-gas pipeline in Fulton, Ark., that the group believed was the major source of gas for Chicago. In that attempt, a load of dynamite was detonated along the pipeline, but did not produce a hole in it.

Snell is serving a life prison sentence with no chance for parole for the murder of an Arkansas state trooper in 1984. He also was sentenced to death for killing the owner of an Arkansas pawn shop during a robbery.

Other criminal activities attributed to the supremacist groups following the 1983 meeting was the firebombing of an Indiana synagogue and arson of a Missouri church. Another Covenant member pleaded guilty at a previous trial in Arkansas federal court to charges he dynamited the natural gas pipeline.

Federal Raid

The Covenant was reportedly disbanded in 1985 following a raid on its Arkansas compound by more than 300 state and federal law enforcement agents. The raid uncovered a weapons arsenal which included submachine guns, grenades, anti-tank rockets, plastic and other explosives, remains of a mine field, an armored tank under construction and large amounts of cyanide intended to poison the water supply of what was at the time an unnamed city.

Also found were reams of neo-Nazi hate literature. In a nearby area that the group dubbed Silhouette City, police found a shooting range whose wooden targets were cutouts of state troopers with Stars of David over their hearts.

As a result of that raid, during which fugitive members of The Order were found hiding out, Ellison and Noble and four other men were charged with racketeering and manufacture of illegal weapons. Ellison is serving a 20-year sentence in federal prison.

The discovery of members of The Order on the 224-acre compound near the Missouri border corroborated the theory of an interrelationship between the groups' members and ideologies that was based on the "Christian Identity" belief that Jews are "the seed of Satan, not the seed of God."

MINOR EARTHQUAKE SHAKES HAIFA

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, March 2 (JTA) -- A minor earthquake shook Haifa Wednesday, but caused no casualties or damage.

The quake registered just over 3.0 on the Richter scale. The epicenter was said to be in the Mediterranean, less than 25 miles from Netanya.