THE [illegible] U.R. CINCINNATI
MAR 22 1988

jta 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, MARCH 16, 1988 NO. 51

SHULTZ SAYS HE'S UNABLE TO SATISFY SHAMIR'S CONCERNS ON PEACE PLAN

By Howard Rosenberg

WASHINGTON, March 15 (JTA) -- Secretary of State George Shultz said Tuesday that he has so far been unable to alleviate Israeli Premier Yitzhak Shamir's concerns about the Reagan administration's peace initiative.

"We have discussed all of the various elements and we have not found a way to bridge all of the differences," Shultz said as he and Shamir spoke to reporters after their 90-minute meeting at the State Department.

But, he added, "I see quite clearly what the nature of the differences are" between the U.S. plan and Shamir's analysis of it.

The discussions will resume Wednesday when Shamir meets with Reagan at the White House. Shamir and Shultz will meet at least one more time before the premier leaves Washington on Thursday.

The new U.S. plan, which was submitted by Shultz to Israel and the Arab states, calls for negotiations to begin as early as May 1 between Israel and a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation on autonomy arrangements for the Palestinians in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

The negotiations, which would last no longer than six months, would be followed in the seventh month by negotiations on the final status of the territories. Final-status talks would last no longer than an additional 12 months.

An international peace conference would be held two weeks before the start of the initial negotiations, presumably next month, but would not be able to impose solutions.

Opposed To Peace Conference

One of Shamir's aims during his talks in the United States is to raise his objections to certain aspects of the plan, including the convening of an international peace conference.

Shamir said again Tuesday he does not "see any positive role for an international peace conference."

It is unclear whether the plan could be modified at the request of Shamir or any Arab country that objects to certain components of the proposal.

Shultz told Shamir in a March 4 letter that the plan "is an integral whole" and "acceptance is dependent on the implementation of each element in good faith."

However, a senior administration official refused Monday to call it a "take-it-or-leave-it" plan, though he hoped the parties would be persuaded to accept it as a whole.

In addition to discussing the peace process, Shamir and Shultz talked about economic aid, strategic cooperation and Soviet Jewry, Shultz said.

Shultz described the meeting as "very constructive and worthwhile," and enthusiastically said the two have "important things to work on."

Shamir said he encouraged Shultz to advance the peace process. "Israel is always interested, always ready to make moves" toward peace," he said. He complained, though, that Israel has yet to find "appropriate parties" to negotiate with.

At breakfast Tuesday at Shultz's home, Shultz's wife, Helena, cooked blueberry pancakes for Shamir, as she did for Foreign Minister Shimon Peres when he last visited the United States. The secretary appeared to be symbolically keeping his pledge to give Labor and Likud equal treatment.

RIOTING IS AIMED AT DESTROYING ISRAEL, SHAMIR TELLS UJA CROWD

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, March 15 (JTA) -- Israeli Premier Yitzhak Shamir, in a message aimed directly at American Jews, declared Monday night that the rioting on the West Bank and Gaza Strip is not a struggle for Palestinian rights, but a new stage in the Arab war to destroy the State of Israel.

"I know you are disturbed by what you see on television," Shamir said in a speech to the sixth National Young Leadership Conference of the United Jewish Appeal.

"Make no mistake about it, what you see is not demonstrations. . . it is not civil disobedience, it is war," he said. "It's not a war for Judea, Samaria and Gaza. . . . It is a war against Israel, against the existence of the State of Israel."

Shamir said that during Israel's 40 years of existence, the Arabs have tried and failed to defeat Israel through five wars, economic boycotts and terrorism. He said they now have resorted to violence in the streets by teen-agers and "I promise you they will fail again."

Shamir is in Washington for intensive talks with President Reagan, whom he will meet with Wednesday, and Secretary of State George Shultz on the latest American proposals for a Middle East peace settlement. He called both leaders "great friends of Israel" who have "demonstrated this friendship in words and deeds."

"We are coming with an open mind to listen to what our American friends have to say," Shamir said. But he indicated that he still does not accept the basic Shultz formula of "territory for peace" and instead will try to convince the Reagan administration of his own proposals.

"We are told that the only thing needed to achieve a true and lasting peace is for us to proclaim our willingness to give up territories in Judea, Samaria and Gaza," Shamir said.

"I am astounded by some people's short memories. Did we have peace when we did not have these territories?" he asked. "We are always open to new constructive ideas. We have made many sacrifices for peace and we shall always remain committed to peace with security."

Those Who 'Shed Blood' Must Decide

But Shamir stressed that Israel cannot be pressed to act against its interests. "To us these matters are questions of life and death, of our very existence," he said. "We believe that only those who must bear the consequences of agreements on their flesh, those who must shed their blood to defend our country, can decide what risks to take in the pursuit of peace."

At the same time, Shamir expressed his belief that the Arabs will eventually realize that "violence will not defeat us and they will make

peace with us. I hope that our visit here will bring the day of peace closer."

If Shamir's tough stance is unpopular with American Jewry, it was not evident at the UJA dinner. His entrance into the ballroom of the Washington Hilton Hotel was greeted with loud and sustained applause and cheers from the 3,000 delegates to the conference. He received lengthy applause again when he was introduced and throughout his speech.

Earlier in the day, UJA President Stanley Horowitz called for increased support and understanding for Israel during these "difficult and troubled times."

Horowitz said UJA is determined to rally American Jews behind Israel, not only "during a Six-Day War or an heroic Entebbe action, but also during tough times like now." He stressed that "now is the time to recognize Israel's yearning for peace."

The situation in the territories has not hurt UJA's fund raising, according to Horowitz. "Our 1988 campaign, over half completed, is $40 million ahead of 1987," he said. "Our Super Sunday campaign, which took place in many communities throughout the country right in the midst of the Palestinian uprisings, is already up 22 percent from last year's total."

The dinner Monday night was also UJA's major celebration of Israel's 40th anniversary. Shamir and the audience viewed a short musical play, called "An Israel Tapestry," which described the history of Israel from the early settlers to the present.

Shamir called for a renewed commitment to aliyah as part of the 40th anniversary celebration. "It is the main purpose of the state," he noted.

But he also urged "Jews from all over the world, especially those who have never been in Israel, to join us in the festivities" by visiting the Jewish state during the anniversary celebration.

PALESTINIANS, ISRAELIS TESTING LIMITS OF CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, March 15 (JTA) -- Palestinian nationalist circles were apparently caught this week in an internal debate on just how far their civil disobedience campaign should go.

The mass resignation of some 300 police officers seemed to have struck some parts of the Palestinian political community as going too far, leaving the streets to the rule of the underworld.

An influential Palestinian, Dr. Haidar Abdul Shafi, the head of the Red Crescent in the Gaza Strip, went as far as to say that the resignation act should be the prerogative of each and every individual. Some 40 police officers in the Hebron region reversed their earlier decision to resign and showed up for duty.

But at the same time, seven Arab officers in the Jerusalem Temple Mount police force announced their resignation Tuesday, saying others would follow suit.

Local inhabitants questioned on the Voice of Israel Radio said they could do without the Arab police and could take care of themselves -- further affirmation of rumors that nationalist circles are trying to establish in the territories alternative services to those provided by the government.

Shmuel Goren, coordinator of government affairs in the administered territories, warned Monday that the defense establishment would not allow any alternative frameworks to operate.

The question remained whether the Palestinians would force a showdown, which would probably entail further sanctions by the authorities against the local population.

Some of the measures taken by the authorities in the past few days include reducing the fuel supply to the territories, preventing exports to Jordan, preventing trips to Jordan and visits from the Arab countries to West Bank trouble spots, forcing merchants to open up businesses during strike hours and close them during business hours.

Overnight Curfew In Gaza

In addition, for the first time since 1967, the army on Monday announced a general overnight curfew over the entire Gaza Strip, between 10 p.m. and 3 a.m., "until further notice."

The army said the move was aimed at preventing the infiltration of agitators into the area and overnight crime, in the wake of the mass police resignations.

The army enforced the curfew fully. Arab workers who returned from work after 10 p.m. Monday were forced to sleep in their cars in front of military roadblocks.

This measure was seen as yet another attempt by the authorities to regain control over the areas, the scene of Arab unrest since Dec. 9.

Though the order came at a period of relative calm in the Gaza Strip, it coincided with the mass resignation of almost the entire Arab police force in the territory and the call by Moslem religious circles for a general strike in the territories on Tuesday and Wednesday.

The strike was to mark the holiday of Isra Wal Miiraj, when the prophet Mohammad, according to tradition, ascended to heaven from Jerusalem. The strike was also seen as an act of protest during Premier Yitzhak Shamir's visit to Washington.

It was fully observed Tuesday. Stores were closed, public transportation ceased and children did not go to school.

Ramallah was a ghost town Tuesday morning. The streets were virtually empty of traffic or pedestrians. But by noon, youths began burning tires in the streets, a Palestinian flag was raised, and stones were thrown at Israel Defense Force soldiers.

Two More Palestinians Killed

The rioting spread to the nearby Al-Amari refugee camp and to other major West Bank towns, particularly Kalkilya and Jenin. Two Palestinian Arabs were killed in the violence. One was shot in the head in Deir Jarir village, near Ramallah.

The other was killed in Jarba village, near Jenin, where no disturbances were reported. The army was unable to determine the cause of death.

The IDF imposed a curfew on the town of Kalkilya, following heavy rioting there. Initial reports said a number of people were injured in the clashes with security forces. The rioting triggered angry reprisals from Jewish settlers, who stoned Arab cars on the Kalkilya-Nablus road.

The tires of nine Arab-owned cars, parked in the Mishkenot Sha'ananim area, in north Jerusalem, were found slashed Tuesday morning. A group calling itself "The Committee For Security On The Roads" claimed responsibility.

IDF TO PUNISH JOURNALISTS WHO FALSELY REPORT ON UNREST
By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, March 15 (JTA) -- The Israel Defense Force plans to take punitive action against journalists who file what it contends are false reports of events in the administered territories.

This was confirmed Tuesday by the IDF's chief spokesman, Brig. Gen. Ephraim Lapid, who said the measures would be applied against both Israeli reporters and foreign correspondents.

But the National Federation of Israeli Journalists has vowed to fight any government attempt to punish reporters whose copy it dislikes.

The federation noted Monday that the IDF has recourse to the Press Council or the federation's own ethics committee if it feels there has been a misrepresentation of facts. But the journalists professional association said it would not allow the government to be "both the accuser and the judge."

According to Lapid, the IDF's purpose is to combat what it claims is an increasing number of false news reports from the West Bank and Gaza Strip that do damage to its image.

An example cited was a report that Palestinians have been thrown out of helicopters. The IDF spokesman said there is "absolutely no truth" to such reports. He said there have been exhaustive investigations of every rumor.

The question of local press coverage may become moot if the Press Workers Union carries out its announced plans to strike Israeli newspapers "for an indefinite period" beginning Friday.

The issue is a threat by the Publishers Association to insist on separate wage negotiations at each newspaper, instead of the collective bargaining in force until now.

UNREST LINKED TO CANCELLATION OF OPERA PERFORMANCE IN ISRAEL
By Ruth E. Gruber

ROME, March 15 (JTA) -- Opera director Vittorio Rossi expressed dismay over the cancellation of his production of Verdi's "Nabucco," which was to have been a centerpiece of Israel's 40th anniversary celebrations in Jerusalem from May 15 to 29.

"But many feel that 'Nabucco,' in this situation, might have played a disruptive role, because of its message of liberty, and some fear that what they call unpleasant incidents could have happened," Rossi said in an interview published Tuesday in the Milan newspaper Corriere della Sera.

The situation he referred to was the ongoing strife in the Israeli-administered West Bank and Gaza Strip. The Israeli government canceled the performances, citing financial, organizational and artistic difficulties. But speculation is rife that the unrest in the territories and mounting tension were the decisive factors.

Box office sales have dropped and reservations have been canceled. Opera On Original Site Inc., a Geneva-based company that stages operas on the sites where their stories take place, blamed abandonment of the $11.5 million production on the cancellation by the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra of a concert tour in Israel in honor of its 40th anniversary.

The London-based orchestra was to have performed "Nabucco" and provided the choral climax, the immortal "March of the Hebrew Slaves," sung in Hebrew by a British choir of several hundred. But it announced March 10 that it was pulling out, ostensibly because of contractual differences with its musicians.

Michael Ecker, president of Opera On Original Site, is suing the Royal Philharmonic for breach of contract. "The last minute cancellation leaves no choice in the matter of replacing them with another world class orchestra." he said.

"Nabucco" tells the story of Jews being carried off to slavery in Babylon by King Nebuchadnezzar 2,500 years ago.

PLO REFUSES TO CLOSE U.N. MISSION; ORDER MAY TAKE MONTHS TO ENFORCE
By Yitzhak Rabi

UNITED NATIONS, March 15 (JTA) -- Israeli and other diplomats here conceded Tuesday that it may be a long time before the Palestine Liberation Organization's observer mission to the United Nations is shut down, despite an order by the U.S. Justice Department last Friday that it be closed by March 21.

Attorney General Edwin Meese III, acting in compliance with legislation passed by Congress and signed by President Reagan last Dec. 22, had the order hand-delivered Friday to Zehdi Terzi, the PLO representative at the United Nations.

But Terzi is defiant. He told a news conference here Monday that the PLO does not intend to leave. "We have the right to stay here and we will stay here," Terzi said, adding, "The only way they (the U.S.) can make me leave is just to put me behind steel bars somewhere and take me away."

The Justice Department stated in its announcement that if the PLO did not comply with its order, it would seek an injunction in federal court to force compliance. Diplomats here said they believe the Justice Department will follow the scenario, but it will take "a long time" to unfold.

The Arab states, meanwhile, are pressing for a special session of the General Assembly later this week to condemn the United States for its move against the PLO.

That would be redundant inasmuch as the General Assembly voted 143-1 on March 2 for a resolution calling on the United States to "abide by its treaty obligations" under the Headquarters Agreement. Israel cast the only negative vote. The United States did not participate in the voting.

Envoy Confident Of Closure

Israel's ambassador to the United Nations, Benjamin Netanyahu, told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency Tuesday that although the court proceedings against the PLO may take "many months," he is certain that in the end, the PLO mission will be closed.

Netanyahu noted that U.S. law takes precedence over international law. That same point was made by Charles Cooper, assistant attorney general in the Justice Department's Office of Legal Counsel, when he announced the decision Friday to enforce the closure order.

According to observers here, it is not clear whether the United States will have to sue the Unit Nations to settle the dispute. The litigation could take even longer than the "many months" diplomats say it would take to enforce an injunction against the PLO.

PANAMA'S JEWS FEAR ANTI-SEMITIC REPRISALS IN FACE OF CRISIS

By Susan Birnbaum

NEW YORK, March 15 (JTA) -- The Jewish community of Panama is wary of the potential of an anti-Semitic backlash to the political and financial crisis boiling in the Central American country, according to Jewish officials who have been in touch recently with some of the 1,800 Jews there.

Rabbi Morton Rosenthal, Latin American affairs director for the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, said a dozen congregational leaders told him last week during his fact-finding mission there that they feared a recurrence of the events of last June and July.

The National Civil Crusade, the Panamanian opposition movement, called a general strike in June, which many Jewish store owners in Panama City declined to honor, Rosenthal said.

Although non-Jewish shopkeepers also failed to comply, a campaign of anti-Semitic leaflets and death threats followed in July. The rabbi said Crusade leaders tacitly conceded to him last week that members of their group mounted the drive.

Rosenthal said the Crusade has since instituted controls to identify fliers that were authorized by their members. The Crusade leaders "assured us that they opposed anti-Semitism and would take steps to stop its recurrence from within their ranks," he added.

Rabbi Marc Tanenbaum, international affairs director for the American Jewish Committee, agreed in a separate interview that "Given the history of anti-Semitism there, and the ease with which people move to single Jews out, now it can be much more serious."

The AJCommittee assessed the situation based on information obtained from Sergio Nudelstejer of Mexico City, a staffer in charge of Central American Jewish affairs for the organization who has made several recent visits to Panama and has continual telephone contact with Jews there.

Tanenbaum said that in addition to Jews' "disproportionate percentage" among the merchant and professional ranks, Jews are involved in various ways in running the Panama Canal. The United States has placed in escrow $7 million earmarked to Panama from canal revenues.

Cooperating With Crusade

Rosenthal said he learned that Jews are cooperating with the Crusade, which supports deposed Panamanian President Eric Arturo Delvalle and calls for the ouster of military leader Manuel Noriega.

He said that the ADL representatives met with Jewish business people who are "taking a very active role in the Crusade. The Jews are supportive of a return to democratic government."

The ADL official added that the Jewish community would donate to a food relief program recently established by the Catholic Church.

Rosenthal and Tanenbaum differed in their emphasis on Delvalle's Jewishness. The ADL official said that Delvalle attends a Reform synagogue in Panama City, but that "You hear virtually no mention of the fact that Delvalle is Jewish."

But Tanenbaum said, "In the face of a crisis, there is no telling if Delvalle's Jewishness might become a focus of anti-Semitism." Rosenthal agreed, however, that there could be no overall discounting of future references to Delvalle's Jewishness.

Tanenbaum said that based on the potential for conflict, and the fact, for example, that "Jewish landlords were attacked after the Mexican earthquake," the AJCommittee had alerted the (U.S.) State Department to "the possibility that Delvalle might be scapegoated."

Panama has been politically tense for more than a year, but the situation was exacerbated in the last two weeks with the deposal of Delvalle by Noriega. It followed Delvalle's attempt to depose Noriega, who was indicted in the United States for drug trafficking.

COURT WILL RECONVENE TO HEAR NEW EVIDENCE ABOUT DEMJANJUK

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, March 15 (JTA) -- The Jerusalem district court will reconvene in special session Monday to hear new evidence by the defense in the case of accused war criminal John Demjanjuk, whose year-long trial ended officially last month.

The three-judge panel, which is now deliberating its verdict, agreed to a request by chief defense counsel Yoram Sheftel to be allowed to introduce new written evidence obtained from the United States under the Freedom of Information Act. The prosecution assented.

The evidence is a series of reports prepared by the U.S. Department of Justice. They relate to evidence presented in American courts at hearings over a period of years that led to the stripping of Demjanjuk's U.S. citizenship and his extradition to Israel in 1986 to stand trial for war crimes.

Demjanjuk, 67, a Ukrainian-born, retired automobile worker, is accused of being the Treblinka death camp guard known as "Ivan the terrible," who brutalized Jewish inmates and operated the gas chambers. The defense claims he is a victim of mistaken identity.

The new evidence is said to include the testimony of 15 former inmates of Treblinka and six from other camps, who either failed to identify Demjanjuk as "Ivan" at the American hearings or testified they knew him at other camps during the time he was alleged to be at Treblinka.

MAPAM LEADER RETURNS FROM CHINA; PARTY KNESSET MEMBER RETIRES

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, March 15 (JTA) -- The Mapam party's secretary general, Elazar Granot, returned from a 10-day visit to China claiming, "We have opened the door and taken the first step."

Granot was the first member of a Zionist party ever invited to the People's Republic of China. He was accompanied by Marek Gefen, editor of the Mapam newspaper Al Hamishmar. They were the guests of the Association for Improving International Relations, an organization formed by the Chinese Communist Party in 1981. China has no diplomatic relations with Israel.

Granot said they had been "treated like kings" and with exceptional warmth.

Meanwhile, Mapam Knesset member Victor Shemtov announced his retirement from the Knesset Monday, ending a 26-year career as a parliamentarian and government minister. His Knesset seat will be taken by Gad Yatziv, a Jerusalem sociologist and former Mapam political secretary.