

NETANYAHU RESIGNS POST AT U.N. TO PURSUE LIKUD KNESSET SEAT By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, March 30 (JTA) -- Benjamin Netanyahu, Israel's ambassador to the United Nations since 1984, announced his resignation in Jerusalem Wednesday night to run for election to the Knesset.

The 38-year-old envoy told a television interviewer he wanted to enter political life and was leaving his post earlier than expected because of the mandatory 100-day waiting period between resignation from government service and filing for election to the Knesset.

Netanyahu's resignation was expected, but not until this summer. He said he would be returning to New York "merely to pack my bags and then return home."

The Israeli envoy said he hoped he would be considered by Likud for a place on its election list. Knesset elections are scheduled for next November.

In New York, the Israel Mission to the United Nations confirmed Netanyahu's resignation Wednesday. A spokesperson for the mission said Ambassador Johanan Bein would serve as acting permanent representative of Israel to the world organization.

News of Netanyahu's resignation came as a surprise to diplomats, observers and the news media at the United Nations.

(United Nations correspondent Yitzhak Rabi contributed to this report.)

LAND DAY OBSERVED QUIETLY IN ISRAEL, BUT NEW DEATHS REPORTED IN WEST BANK By David Landau

JERUSALEM, March 30 (JTA) -- Land Day was observed peacefully Wednesday in Arab sections of Israel proper. Protest demonstrations were held in the larger Arab towns and villages, but by late afternoon, no incidents had been reported requiring police intervention.

A general strike was observed fully in all Arab towns, such as Nazareth. But Arab businesses remained open in cities of mixed Arab-Jewish population, notably Jaffa, Haifa, Lod and Ramla.

Violence erupted in the West Bank, however. By early evening, Israel Radio had reported a number of Palestinian deaths and large numbers wounded in clashes with the Israel Defense Force.

The West Bank and Gaza Strip were declared closed military zones earlier this week and have been sealed off since midnight Monday, with tight restrictions on press coverage.

Israel Radio reported at least two Arabs killed and "many injured" in West Bank rioting. In Tulkarm, 12 were injured in riots during the afternoon. Arab hospitals reported two more persons killed in Nablus and Hebron.

Other, unconfirmed reports spoke of 40 persons injured. Hospitals in East Jerusalem and the West Bank said they were receiving many people for treatment of wounds.

The IDF confirmed one incident Wednesday morning. It said soldiers attacked by Palestinians in a village near Ramallah fatally shot a woman

and wounded three others.

The Gaza Strip, under total curfew, was reported quiet.

Land Day marks the 12th anniversary of Palestinian protests against the expropriation of Arab-owned lands in Galilee by the IDF. Six Palestinians were killed on the original Land Day, March 30, 1976.

This year, Israeli authorities took unprecedented security measures because of the continued unrest in the administered territories, which they feared might spill over into Israel proper.

This apparently did not occur. Israeli officials credited the local Arab leadership and their appointed monitors with preserving order. By tacit agreement, Israeli police kept out of Arab population centers during Land Day observances.

But the police acted to prevent Rabbi Meir Kahane, leader of the racist Kach party, from entering Nazareth. They also barred a planned demonstration there by young Herut activists, who proposed unfurling an Israeli flag in Nazareth and singing patriotic songs. The local police chief suggested they go to Upper Nazareth, a neighboring Jewish town.

Israelis were relieved by the calm that prevailed in Arab sections of the country, because the day had dawned ominously. Three gasoline bomb attacks were reported in Israel in the hours leading up to Land Day.

The first occurred Tuesday afternoon, when a Molotov cocktail was thrown at a busload of children at Kfar Tavor. Late Tuesday night, two more gasoline bombs were hurled at a bus near Kiryat Tivon and another was thrown at a car early Wednesday near Kibbutz Sha'ar Ha'amakim.

None hit their targets. The Sha'ar Ha'amakim incident resulted in speedy arrests in a neighboring Arab village.

ISRAELI ARABS SEND MESSAGES OF SOLIDARITY AND RESTRAINT By Gil Sedan

TAIBA, Israel, March 30 (JTA) -- Israeli Arabs sent dual messages to their Jewish fellow citizens Wednesday.

One was that they stand in complete solidarity with their Palestinian brethren in the administered territories, as demonstrated by their nearly total general strike on the occasion of Land Day.

At the same time, they stressed they consider themselves "part and parcel" of Israeli society, which they proved by keeping disorder at a minimum in their towns and villages.

Even Amos Gilboa, Premier Yitzhak Shamir's adviser on Arab affairs, tipped his hat to the local Arab leadership for their success in keeping the events of Land Day under control.

Contrary to gloomy forecasts earlier in the week, the roads in the villages of the so-called "Arab triangle" between Kafr Kasim and Umm el-Fahm, in the heart of Israel, were free of barriers. There were no incidents of stone-throwing and no Molotov cocktails.

Few Jewish-owned cars were to be seen on the roads. Those that ventured into the Arab populated areas moved freely. Most were rental cars driven by foreign journalists barred from

entering the administered territories.

Israeli police kept a low profile. They sat in cars parked outside Arab villages and avoided contact with the local population. Israeli officials had warned that the police would intervene if disorders erupted. In any event, there was little for them to do.

Only here in Taiba, an Arab town of some 20,000 near Kfar Sava, did the situation threaten to get out of hand, but in a way not anticipated by the authorities.

Moslem fundamentalists and secular nationalists marched together here chanting slogans in favor of a Palestinian state and for Jewish-Arab coexistence. But when the procession arrived in the center of town, the fundamentalists refused to allow Knesset member Meir Wilner of the Rakah Communist party to speak.

Fistfights broke out between supporters of the Communist party and the religious Moslems. Attempts to break up the melee failed, and the rally ended sooner than planned.

Several attempts were made to raise the Palestinian flag here. This is illegal under Israeli law, but organizers of the march got around the law by raising separate white, black, red and green banners, the Palestinian nationalist colors.

Throughout the rally, a police helicopter hovered over the town, a visible and noisy warning to the crowd not to let their emotions overcome their better judgment. As things turned out, the demonstration ended without the need for police intervention.

IDF CLOSES PALESTINE PRESS SERVICE; HIGH COURT REFUSES TO LIFT PRESS BAN By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, March 30 (JTA) — The Israel Defense Force ordered the East Jerusalem-based Palestine Press Service closed for six months Wednesday, claiming that the news agency was disseminating hostile reports to the foreign press corps in Israel.

The move came less than a week after the IDF shut down the Rakah Communist Party daily Al-Ittihad, the only Arabic newspaper published in Israel outside East Jerusalem.

Israel's Supreme Court, meanwhile, rejected a petition by the Foreign Press Association here to lift the IDF's virtual ban on media coverage of the West Bank and Gaza Strip. On Monday, the army closed the territories to journalists, except under tightly controlled conditions.

Although the three-judge panel refused the association's request for a temporary injunction to lift the IDF ban, it did not reject the appeal in principle and gave the military authorities 30 days to show cause why such a measure was necessary.

The administrative order closing the Palestine Press Service was issued by Maj. Gen. Amram Mitzna, commander of the central sector, who claimed that the agency was a propaganda organ of the Palestine Liberation Organization.

The order was handed to Ibrahim Karim, a press service official, who was summoned to Jerusalem police headquarters Wednesday morning. Karim, who is also editor of the East Jerusalem Arabic weekly El-Auda, emphatically denied that the news agency was in any way connected with the PLO.

He insisted that it functioned only as an information service for foreign correspondents and was supported solely by the subscriptions of its foreign clients. He noted that a similar closure

order issued in 1984 was rescinded.

The Foreign Press Association appeal was initiated Tuesday by the group's chairman in Israel, Robert Slater of Time magazine, and supported by the Israel Journalists Association.

Editors Committee Protests

The Israel Editors Committee issued a strong statement Wednesday denouncing the IDF's actions as a violation of freedom of the press and the public's right to know what is taking place in the territories.

On Monday night, the IDF sealed off the West Bank and Gaza Strip for three days, in anticipation of an escalation of violence Wednesday, when Palestinians observed Land Day.

Although the IDF said the closure of the territories would be lifted early Friday morning, there were indications from Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin, IDF Chief of Staff Dan Shomron and other military authorities Tuesday that it might be extended if conditions warranted.

Slater and other journalists here have expressed concern that this may well be the case.

In an attempt to allow some media coverage, the army has organized three specialized media pools, which have been allowed into the territories by special permit and only under escort by IDF officers.

The Editors Committee charged that these measures create a false impression and would further damage Israel's image abroad. Amnesty International, the London-based human rights agency, expressed concern that restricted press access into the territories might be intended to conceal possible human rights violations.

It called on the Israeli authorities to make sure Palestinian rights were respected during the press ban. Amnesty also said it would continue to press for an independent judicial inquiry into Arab charges that there have been extensive human rights violations since the Palestinian uprising began Dec. 9.

ARABS SEEKING NEW U.N. INVESTIGATION By Yitzhak Rabi

UNITED NATIONS, March 30 (JTA) — The Arab states plan to ask the Security Council to appoint a new U.N. commission to investigate the situation in the Israeli-administered territories and Israel's handling of the current unrest, diplomatic sources said here Wednesday.

The Security Council convened late Wednesday afternoon at the request of the Arab bloc to discuss the situation in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. One of the first speakers was Chedli Klibi, secretary general of the Arab League, who urged the council to adopt "practical measures" to make Israel put an end to what he called its "terrorist practices."

The Arabs were expected to ask for another condemnation of Israel and demand an end to Israeli rule in the territories, the sources said.

No draft resolution was circulated. Diplomatic sources said Tuesday that what the Arabs want to achieve by calling the Security Council into session is a continuation of international pressure on Israel that has been building since Palestinian unrest began in the territories nearly four months ago.

The Security Council meeting coincided with Land Day, a day of protest by Palestinian Arabs against Israel's expropriation of Arab lands in Galilee 12 years ago.

**SHULTZ SPEAKS OUT ON PLO MISSION,
DEFENDS MEETING WITH PNC MEMBERS**
By Howard Rosenberg

WASHINGTON, March 30 (JTA) — Secretary of State George Shultz said Wednesday that the law Congress passed in December closing the Palestine Liberation Organization's mission to the United Nations was "dumb," because it resulted in lopsided votes at the United Nations that have "legitimized the PLO in the international community."

"It's always good to stand with Israel," Shultz said, referring to Israel and the United States being the only countries at the United Nations defending the closure. "But, nevertheless, when you get all of our allies and friends voting for the PLO and against the United States — it's kind of dumb."

The mission was ordered closed by March 21, but Zehdi Terzi, the PLO representative to the United Nations, has refused to comply. Terzi was served with a summons March 22, giving the PLO 20 days to appear in court to answer a complaint filed by U.S. Attorney Rudolph Giuliani.

Speaking to Israeli reporters two days before he leaves for the Middle East, Shultz said he opposed closing the mission, because the office had been accredited by the United Nations. "We don't like the fact they've accredited the PLO — but they have," he said.

Shultz, who will be visiting Israel, Jordan, Syria, Egypt and Saudi Arabia in his second trip to the Mideast in less than a month, stressed that his Mideast peace initiative "still holds up very well," even though Egypt is the only country that has approved it.

He defended the provision for a conference convened by the five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council because Jordan needs "the legitimacy that comes from an international conference." He acknowledged, though, that Israel and the United States would prefer not to convene such a conference, and simply go right to direct negotiations.

Israeli Premier Yitzhak Shamir made clear his strong opposition to such a conference during his recent visit to Washington.

Shultz also said that interim negotiations on autonomy for the Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip are contained in the proposal to meet Israel's concerns not to move too fast to final negotiations. He noted the Arab countries would prefer just to hold negotiations on the final status of the territories.

Rules Out Palestinian State

He added that Palestinians have to participate in the negotiations. "The idea of a Palestinian state is just not in the cards," he stressed. "And so we should structure things from the beginning in a way that associates Palestinians with countries." This was an apparent reference to the concept of a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation that could gain shared control over the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

On another issue, Shultz emphasized that his meeting last Saturday with two Palestinian Americans who are members of the Palestine National Council did not set a precedent.

He said U.S. officials have talked previously with members of the PNC, the quasi-legislative arm of the Palestine Liberation Organization. The United States differentiates between the PLO and the PNC, although Israel does not.

In his first detailed public defense of Saturday's meeting, Shultz said the two PNC members, Edward Said and Ibrahim Abu-Lughod, "do not advocate terrorism; they support United Nations Resolution 242. They are very comfortable with the idea that Israel is there."

U.N. Resolution 242 calls for the return of Arabs lands and implicitly recognizes Israel's right to exist.

The secretary took issue with a policy that would exclude him from talking with U.S. citizens like Said and Abu-Lughod, adding that such a restriction "is just beyond the pale as far as I'm concerned."

Israel lodged a formal protest to the State Department, criticizing the distinction made between being a PNC member and playing a more active role in the PLO. In 1975, the United States barred its officials from talking with the PLO until it recognized Israel's right to exist.

Shultz called the meeting "a good thing," adding that "it does not in any way change our policy, which I follow not simply because it was set out in 1975, but I think it's a very important idea that we are not going to talk to and negotiate with the PLO."

**CANCELLATION OF ISRAELI CONCERT
NOT TIED TO UNREST, OFFICIALS SAY**
By Yitzhak Rabi

NEW YORK, March 30 (JTA) — A report in an Israeli paper this week that a U.S. performance by top Israeli singers was canceled because of growing anti-Israel feeling in the United States was denied by a representative of the Jewish community in Hartford, Conn., where the concert was scheduled June 4.

The newspaper Yediot Aharonot reported Monday that star singers Yardena Arazi and Dudu Fischer have become the victims of Israel's decreasing popularity in the United States as a result of the disorders in the administered territories.

According to the paper, the two were to appear in a joint concert in Hartford, in celebration of Israel's 40th anniversary. But the show was canceled for fear that it will become a failure because of the situation in the territories, the paper claimed.

But according to Pinni Koren, director of Israeli affairs at the Jewish Community Center of Hartford, the show was not canceled, but postponed by producer Shmuel Dagan.

The reason for the postponement, Koren said, is that the Hartford Philharmonic Orchestra is scheduled to perform a concert in salute to Israel's 40th anniversary the following day. Many members of the Jewish community have already purchased tickets for the orchestra concert, making it unlikely that they will attend the Israeli concert the night before, he said.

"The decision to postpone the show has nothing to do with the situation in the territories," Koren stressed. "It is nonsense."

Efforts by the JTA to reach Dagan, the producer of the show, were unsuccessful.

Erela Hadar, consul for cultural affairs at the Israeli Consulate in New York, also denied in a telephone interview that the show was canceled because of the situation in the territories.

Arazi is one of Israel's most popular singers. She will represent Israel at this year's Eurovision song contest. Fischer is the star of the Israeli version of the musical "Les Miserables."

PATRIARCH COMPARES PALESTINIAN SUFFERING TO THAT OF JESUS
By Ruth E. Gruber

ROME, March 30 (JTA) -- Msgr. Michel Sabbah, the first Palestinian appointed by the pope to the office of Catholic patriarch of Jerusalem, has likened the suffering of the Palestinian people under Israeli occupation to the suffering of Jesus on the cross.

He made the comparison in an interview with the newspaper *La Repubblica*, published here Wednesday. The interview was conducted in Jerusalem three months after Pope John Paul II named Sabbah the highest-ranking Catholic prelate in the Holy Land.

Sabbah also said that while the traditional Palm Sunday procession in Jerusalem last Sunday was canceled because of the tense situation in the administered territories, he planned "no cancellation of traditional Easter rites."

Half the usual number of Easter pilgrims have arrived from abroad, apparently because of the Palestinian disturbances in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. But the poor showing has not daunted the patriarch.

"We won't cancel anything," he said. "We're dealing with prayer. And then, Holy Week and the commemoration of the sufferings of Christ adapt themselves perfectly for these days."

Sabbah, who admitted he has had no contact with the Israeli authorities since assuming his new office, drew an analogy between Jesus' ordeal and that of the Palestinian people.

He said Jesus bore the cross and "every Palestinian carries the cross and has done so for many years. They carry it through wounds, through jail, through people closed into camps, through families without wages or food -- an individual, social and collective cross."

Sabbah added that he viewed the Palestinian uprising in the Israeli-administered territories as "a normal and natural thing. After 20 years it is normal that the people rebel and say enough with occupation."

He expressed hope that "all these sufferings will not be in vain, that this clear expression against such a long military occupation will make people understand that it has to end. Today, unfortunately, there are no signs of peace. Rather violence is continuing against violence."

Israeli Envoy Interviewed

La Repubblica published a full-page interview Tuesday with Israel's ambassador to Italy, Mordechai Drory. The Israeli diplomat expressed pessimism over the continuing confrontations between Israeli security forces and the Palestinians.

"It's certainly true that the latest events have focused attention on the Palestinian problem, maybe too much, to the point where it has made us forget that there is not just this problem, but also that of the relationship between Israel and the Arab states," Drory said.

He acknowledged that Israel is politically divided, but though there are deep splits in public and political opinion, it is the elected government which must act. The Israeli democracy elected Yitzhak Shamir prime minister and no one else, the envoy declared.

But he agreed with Shamir's rival, Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, that the elections in Israel next fall will be the most important ever in that country. "For the first time, the Israeli people will be called on to decide their very future."

AUSTRIAN OFFICIAL DENIES MAKING ANTI-ZIONIST REMARK ON WALDHEIM
By Reinhard Engel

VIENNA, March 30 (JTA) -- A ranking Austrian government official has flatly denied that he had told the Kuwaiti News Agency that Austria "will not succumb to Zionist threats and pressures to remove President Kurt Waldheim from his office."

Thomas Klestil, secretary general of the Austrian Foreign Ministry and its No. 2 man after Foreign Minister Alois Mock, told the Vienna news magazine *Profil* that the Kuwaiti News Agency, Kuna, probably mixed up its question with his answer in its report published while Klestil was visiting the Persian Gulf states earlier this month.

On the basis of that report, which was picked up by a major news service, the World Jewish Congress accused Klestil of "a shocking attempt to incite anti-Jewish hatred in an Arab country."

Klestil, a former Austrian ambassador to the United States, said he had told Kuna in an interview only that Waldheim has no reason to resign, having been democratically elected.

In New York, Elan Steinberg, WJC executive director, told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency Wednesday that Klestil should "address his correction to the Kuwaiti News Agency. When it appears there, it will be accepted."

Steinberg added, "We know Mr. Klestil as the Austrian official who for more than a year attempted to obstruct American justice by trying to block the Justice Department's placement of Kurt Waldheim on its 'watch list.'"

Waldheim has been barred from entry into the United States in his official capacity, because of his Nazi past.

SAUDI ARMY ON ALERT FOR ISRAELI STRIKE
By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, March 30 (JTA) -- The Saudi army has been put on a high state of alert to fend off any possible Israeli attack on the sites for intermediate-range missiles it recently acquired from China, according to American sources quoted this week by the Israeli newspaper *Davar*.

The sources said the CSS-2 missiles, which have a 2,000-mile range, will be deployed at two separate sites 60 and 375 miles south of Riyadh, the Saudi capital.

The Saudi deputy defense minister, Prince Abed Al-Rahman al-Aziz, condemned Monday what he called Israeli "threats" to knock out the missiles. He warned such an act would be "blatant intervention in the internal affairs of the Saudi kingdom."

An implied threat of an Israeli pre-emptive strike at the missiles was attributed earlier this month to Yosef Ben-Aharon, director general of the Prime Minister's Office, while he was accompanying Premier Yitzhak Shamir on his visit to the United States.

Ben-Aharon issued a denial, which was affirmed by Shamir when he returned to Israel on March 22.

Because of the Passover holiday, there will be no JTA Daily News Bulletin dated Monday, April 4. We wish our readers a joyous holiday.