

ISRAEL DEPORTS EIGHT TO LEBANON AND ORDERS 12 MORE EXPELLED

By Gili Sedan

JERUSALEM, April 11 (JTA) -- Israel expelled eight Palestinians from the West Bank and Gaza Strip to Lebanon on Monday and ordered 12 others deported.

Four of those ousted are from Beita village in the West Bank, scene of a clash on April 6 in which a teen-age Jewish girl was killed. The other four, from Gaza, had been under deportation orders since Jan. 3 and had waived their right to appeal.

The remaining 12 ordered deported may appeal to a military tribunal and, if rejected, to Israel's Supreme Court.

Monday's expulsions were the first by Israel since Jan. 13 when four West Bank residents were deported after deciding not to appeal.

In Washington, State Department spokesman Charles Redman said the latest expulsions were "counterproductive" to peace in the Middle East.

"We have said before we believe they are counterproductive; that they are in violation of the Fourth Geneva Convention (of 1949) and that they only further inflame tensions," Redman said.

Israeli military authorities described the deportees as "senior activists in terrorist organizations who were involved in incitement and subversion."

But their attorneys charged that the Israel Defense Force was appeasing militant Jewish settlers who have demanded vengeance for the death of 15-year-old Tirza Porat in Beita last Wednesday.

She was among 16 Jewish teen-agers from nearby Eilon Moreh settlement on a Passover hike in the region, accompanied by two armed adult settlers. An autopsy and investigation by the IDF determined that the girl was killed by a bullet apparently fired in panic by one of the settlers -- not from stoning by an Arab mob as originally reported.

TRAGEDY IN VILLAGE OF BEITA PITTING SETTLERS AGAINST ARMY

By Gili Sedan

JERUSALEM, April 11 (JTA) -- The tragic events last week in the West Bank village of Beita have further polarized opinion in Israel over how to deal with Palestinian unrest in the administered territories.

If anything, attitudes have hardened since the revelation over the weekend that 15-year-old Tirza Porat of Eilon Moreh, alleged to have been stoned to death April 6 by an Arab mob, was actually killed by a bullet fired in panic by an armed Jewish settler, Romam Aldubi.

The cause of her death was determined by autopsy and a reconstruction of the incident by Israel Defense Force investigators. This has turned militant Jewish settlers and their political allies fiercely against the army. They no longer can claim with much credibility that young Tirza was a martyr to Arab hatred and violence.

Revelations about the actual cause of death have not changed the minds of those dedicated to a Greater Israel, encompassing all of its biblical

territory, in which there is no room for hostile Arabs.

On the other hand, Israelis who believe that only compromise can end four months of bloodshed between Arabs and Jews see the Beita incident as yet another case to pointing to the dangers inherent in Israel's continued control of the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Death Could Have Been Avoided

Some advocates of compromise believe Porat's death could have been avoided had she and 15 other Jewish teen-age settlers not gone on a Passover hike in an Arab-populated area, at a time of severe tension. They noted that the group did not coordinate its plans with the IDF and that it was escorted by two militant adult settlers, both armed.

But Shoshana Illan insists the youngsters had a perfect right to go on the outing near their home. Illan's husband, Menahem, was one of the armed escorts. He and their daughter were both injured by rocks.

"My daughter traveled at her home. She didn't go to other areas," the woman said. "If our children cannot travel where they live, that's bad."

But according to David Lanir, a Jerusalem student, "the controversy over the responsibility of the hikers in the affair is off target. The real controversy should have been about the tough measures taken against the villagers" of Beita, he said, "because if these are punitive measures taken when the picture is not yet clear, God knows how the authorities will react when a similar event takes place and the Arabs are clearly at fault."

The IDF has demolished 14 houses in Beita, but was ordered by Israel's Supreme Court on Sunday to desist from further demolitions.

Army Versus Right Wing

Many Israeli leaders and opinion-makers fear the most dangerous long-term consequence of the Beita affair is that it has involved the army in a political controversy with the Israeli right wing.

Zeev Schiff, military correspondent of Haaretz, wrote Monday that the IDF and extremists among the Jewish settlers are heading for an "inevitable confrontation." The IDF is not prepared to allow the settlers to determine the security needs in the territories, Schiff wrote.

"In their zeal to achieve their goals, they do not refrain from harming the IDF and do not perceive that by doing so, they are in effect aiding Israel's enemies,"

President Chaim Herzog stepped into the dispute Sunday, warning that attempts to drag the IDF into the political arena "will bring catastrophe upon us." He said, during a visit to Galilee, that attacks on the army were "very dangerous and must be guarded against at all costs."

The settlers counter that more harm is being done to national security by the IDF's failure to take harsher measures against the Arab population than by their own accusations. They have long taken the view that the security forces are not doing enough to protect them.

The settlers have already demanded that Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin fire the IDF chief

of staff, Gen. Dan Shomron. Rabin has been attacked by ministers of Likud's Herut wing for the army leak to the media of its preliminary finding that Porat died from a bullet, not stoning.

The situation is complicated by the fact that this is an election year in Israel. The Jerusalem Post stated in an editorial Monday: "True to its most deep-seated political sentiments and fearful of a hemorrhage of its voters to Tehiya and Kach, the Likud has been tagging along.

'Putschist Attempt'

"Where the integrity of the land is involved, the party that currently holds the premiership apparently does not mind lending a helping hand to attacks on the army and what can only be termed a putschist attempt to take Israel's democratic order by storm," the English-language newspaper said.

Tehiya is an ultranationalist right-wing opposition party. Kach, is the extremist movement headed by Rabbi Meir Kahane. It advocates the expulsion of all Arabs from Israel and the administered territories. The party holding the premiership is Likud, headed by Yitzhak Shamir.

Ariel Sharon, the Likud-Herut minister of commerce and industry, proposed Sunday that in reaction to the Beita affair, the government should establish a new settlement near Nablus to be called Tirza, in memory of the slain teen-ager.

In addition, Sharon called for the evacuation of all Beita residents from their homes, except those found to have sheltered Jewish children, and a ban on further building in the village.

GORBACHEV REPORTED TO URGE ARAFAT TO RECOGNIZE ISRAEL

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, April 11 (JTA) -- The State Department had no reaction Monday to a report that Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev has urged Palestine Liberation Organization leader Yasir Arafat to recognize Israel's right to exist.

Gorbachev made the request during a meeting in Moscow with Arafat Saturday, according to a report Sunday in the Communist Party newspaper Pravda.

Pravda quoted Gorbachev as saying: "The Palestinians are a people with a difficult fate. But they receive broad international support, and this is the guarantee for resolving the main question for the Palestinians -- self-determination.

"In the same way, recognition of the State of Israel, consideration of its security interests, the solution of this question is a necessary element in the establishment of peace and good-neighborliness in the region based on principles of international law."

In addition, Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze was quoted by Tass, the official Soviet news agency, as saying at a dinner Saturday that "the Palestinian people, which is one of the main parties to the Middle East conflict, must be ensured the right to self-determination in the same measure as it was ensured to the people of Israel."

Gorbachev's remarks, much more conciliatory on Israel than in the past, came as Secretary of State George Shultz prepared to go to Moscow next week for meetings with Shevardnadze.

The Mideast is expected to be on their agenda as it will be when President Reagan goes to Moscow for his fourth summit meeting with Gorbachev from May 29 to June 2.

WEST GERMANY TO RESUME AID TO SYRIA

By David Kantor

BONN, April 11 (JTA) -- West Germany will resume financial assistance to Syria, frozen since 1986 because of Syria's involvement with international terrorism, it was reported here from Damascus Monday.

The promise was made by the West German minister for economic cooperation, Hans Klein, who is on a four-day visit to Damascus. Klein visited several development projects in Syria financed by the Bonn government for which it will make available some \$87 million this year.

According to Klein, Damascus is serious in its efforts to resolve the hostage crisis.

Klein reported that he was assured by President Hafez Assad Sunday that Syria would do everything in its power to help free Rudolph Cordes, a West German businessman being held hostage by extremists linked to the Hezbollah (Party of God) in Lebanon.

A court in Duesseldorf is currently hearing the case of Abbas Ali Hamadei, a Lebanese accused of masterminding the kidnapping of Cordes and another West German, Alfred Schmidt. Schmidt has since been released.

A Frankfurt court is scheduled to hear the case of Mohammed Ali Hamadei, Abbas' brother, who is accused of hijacking an American airliner in 1985 and killing one of its passengers.

Reporters accompanying Klein said the minister expressed understanding for Syria's position toward Israel. The newspaper Die Welt quoted Klein as saying that many of the "alleged" illegal activities of the Syrian secret services in West Germany were based on "absurd accusations" made by the Americans.

West Germany joined the United States and other Western European countries two years ago in downgrading diplomatic ties with Damascus. A West German court found at the time that Syrian agents were involved in promoting terrorism here.

Klein, a well-known supporter of the Arab cause, has maintained a basically friendly attitude toward Israel. He has frequent contact with Israeli officials in Bonn.

TABA ARBITRATION PANEL RECONVENES

By Tamar Levy

GENEVA, April 11 (JTA) -- The international panel arbitrating Israeli-Egyptian boundary disputes reconvened here Monday following the Passover-Easter recess to hear the final arguments of both countries.

Israel and Egypt will each have two days to sum up their cases, completing the process that began last year. The arbitrators will then adjourn to deliberate and write their final report, which is expected to take several months.

The panel's judgment will be binding on both parties. It will settle disputed claims to 14 sites along the Israeli-Sinai border, the most important of which is ownership of the half-mile-square Taba resort region on the Red Sea.

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JACKSON WON'T 'SIT DOWN' WITH ARAFAT; GORE SAYS HE'S NOT PANDERING TO JEWS

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, March 11 (JTA) -- The Rev. Jesse Jackson said Sunday that if he was elected president he would try to bring Israel and the Palestinians together, but would not "sit down" with Yasir Arafat, head of the Palestine Liberation Organization.

"We must not equate Arafat and PLO with a sovereign people, the Palestinian people," Jackson said in an interview on the CBS-TV program "Face the Nation."

"In the final analysis, it's not Arafat versus Israel; it's the Israelis versus the Palestinians."

Jackson, campaigning in New York for the April 19 Democratic primary, has come under fire for what is considered to be his anti-Israel positions. Mayor Edward Koch has said that Jews would be "crazy" to vote for him.

Jackson has been under strong criticism from the American Jewish community since the fall of 1979, when he met twice with Arafat in Beirut and was photographed embracing the PLO leader. In between the two meetings with Arafat, Jackson went to Cairo for talks with Egyptian President Anwar Sadat.

Another contender in the Democratic primary, Sen. Albert Gore Jr. of Tennessee, in making a strong bid for the New York Jewish vote, has repeatedly criticized Jackson's meetings with Arafat.

Both Gore, who has been attacked for pandering to Jewish voters, and Jackson sought to clarify their position on the CBS program Sunday.

Jackson maintained he met with Arafat after meeting with Sadat "for the sole purpose of challenging him to change his posture and move toward a mutual recognition policy with Israel as opposed to an elimination-of-Israel posture."

He stressed that "our first obligation ought to be to assure Israel's security," which, he noted, includes "convincing the Palestinians to recognize their right to exist."

Mutual Recognition Urged

Jackson said that he wants to be part of a process to move Israel and the Palestinians "toward mutual recognition, as opposed to the present posture of mutual annihilation and daily killing."

Gore called the charge of pandering to Jewish voters "outrageous," noting that during his eight years in the House of Representatives he "compiled a 100 percent voting record in support of a strong Israel, a strong U.S.-Israel relationship," while representing a rural farming district that was less than one-tenth of one percent Jewish.

"I've articulated the same position throughout this campaign, and indeed for 12 years," Gore said, referring to his eight years in the House and the last four years in the Senate.

Gore also denied that he had endorsed Israeli Premier Yitzhak Shamir's positions when he met with the Israeli leader in New York last month.

He noted that he supports the "land-for-peace formulation" advanced by Secretary of State George Shultz but rejected by Shamir, as well as United Nations Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, which call for return of Arab lands and recognition of Israel's right to secure borders.

CANDIDATES' SCRAMBLE FOR JEWISH VOTES SHIFTS TO ORTHODOX IN BOROUGH PARK

By Andrew Silow Carroll

NEW YORK, April 11 (JTA) -- The 100,000 Jews of Brooklyn's mostly-Orthodox Jewish neighborhood of Borough Park are agreeing on the Democratic candidate they don't want for president, but are split when it comes to choosing between his rivals.

"Both Gore and Dukakis will be warmly received, as long as it's not Jackson," said Rabbi Bernard Freilich, administrator of the local Council of Jewish Organizations. "Still, we have a split. The Jews have to decide on one candidate."

Freilich's comments came the day before Massachusetts Gov. Michael Dukakis was scheduled to visit Borough Park and the day after Sen. Albert Gore Jr. of Tennessee made a neighborhood campaign stop. It included a private meeting with Rabbi Solomon Halberstam, the 81-year-old leader of the Bobover Hasidic sect.

The Rev. Jesse Jackson has not yet scheduled a stop in Borough Park before the April 19 New York primary.

The reasons the neighborhood rejects Jackson were best summarized in a quarter-page advertisement in Sunday's edition of The New York Times, which listed Jackson's association with Black Muslim leader Louis Farrakhan, his comments in support of the Palestine Liberation Organization and his "respect and appreciation" for Syrian President Hafez Assad among reasons not to vote for Jackson.

The ad was signed by Assemblyman Dov Hikind, who represents Borough Park and yesterday gave his endorsement to Gore.

No 'Stop Jackson' Campaign

"This is not a 'stop Jackson' campaign," said Hikind in a telephone interview Monday. "Rather, this is an effort to use education to tell his whole record."

Hikind said he supports Gore because, as a member of Congress from Tennessee, representing a vastly non-Jewish constituency, Gore's voting record on Israel "was 100 percent, and that speaks louder than any campaign rhetoric."

Hikind said that unlike Dukakis, Gore has been willing to criticize Jackson's views, especially on foreign policy in the Middle East.

"It would be horrible to reward one individual who avoids criticizing Jackson and to penalize the person who hasn't. That would be immoral."

Community Vote Is Split

According to Freilich, Borough Park's Jews aren't ready to vote for anybody, and he blamed Democratic leaders for the split. Neither Gov. Mario Cuomo or Brooklyn Borough President Howard Golden, who share good relations with the neighborhood, have endorsed a candidate.

Neither Hikind's endorsement of Gore, nor an endorsement of Dukakis by Rep. Stephen Solarz (D-N.Y.) carry the weight of an endorsement by those leading Democrats.

"True, we're a voting bloc, but the party couldn't care less about this campaign," said Freilich. "The one thing you can say about all these things: It's a plus for the Republicans."

Freilich said neither the Council of Jewish Organizations nor the Bobover rebbe endorse candidates. Asked what transpired during the meeting between Halberstam and Gore, Freilich replied, "It was a prayer for good luck."

ESTEEMED SCIENTIST INSISTS EVERY JEW WANTS TO LEAVE USSR

By Susan Birnbaum

NEW YORK, April 11 (JTA) -- "I can tell you that in every (Jewish) living room, leaving the Soviet Union is discussed," said Alexander Lerner, the former refusenik and eminent professor of cybernetics.

Lerner, 74, once of the Moscow Institute of Physics and Technology and more recently of the Weizmann Institute of Science in Rehovot, Israel, was in New York last week as a guest of the American Committee for the Weizmann Institute.

He was on his way to Los Angeles to deliver a talk at the University of California at Los Angeles on some of the dizzyingly brilliant problems he worked on as a famed Moscow scientist and later as "persona non grata" during the 16 years he spent as a refusenik.

In January, the Soviets allowed Lerner's dream to come true, and he flew to Israel to take up an immediate post as professor emeritus at the Weizmann Institute, a position the prestigious school held for him for 15 years.

By any standard, in any country on earth, the Moscow savant had it good while in the Soviet Union. A five-room apartment filled with sumptuous belongings, a dacha in the country, two cars. Plus the rare ability to travel all over the world to deliver papers on complex scientific problems that would be published in scientific journals worldwide.

An Eye Toward Jerusalem

Yet, he always thought of "Ishana haba'a b'Yerushalayim" (next year in Jerusalem), said the 74-year-old scientist, a warm smile continuously on his lips and an energy that would make a 20-year-old jealous. He sat in a small circle of people from the press and the American Committee for the Weizmann Institute at the Sheraton Centre Hotel here.

The Soviets used Lerner's success in the Soviet Union as proof that there was no discrimination against Jews. But "for my children, the gates were closed," Lerner said. He recalled the intellectual promise of his daughter Sonya, who by the age of six had proved all the theorems of plane geometry and was written about in the newspapers as a "wunderkind."

But in 1971, when he made the decision to emigrate, Sonya was immediately dismissed from her postgraduate studies. Lerner himself immediately lost his positions at the university and the Soviet Academy of Sciences.

His son, Vladimir, an engineer and expert in systems analysis, could not work in his field. Instead, "he played piano in the circus, worked as a carpenter and driving instructor and -- 'sof-sof' (Hebrew for 'finally') -- the last few years he reached an estimable level as maintenance engineer repairing pinball machines."

Ironically, Lerner's scientific development benefited from his condition of refusal, he said. "For the first time in my life, I had no obligations at all. I was in a position to have a lot of free time to work," he said, grinning. "I needed nothing more than a piece of paper and a pencil and a little bit of a brain."

Lerner was plunged into the scientific advances of the West as his colleagues from around the world learned of his plight and came faithfully to his Moscow apartment, allowing the "snowball process of talking to other scientists" to

take effect.

In the second part of 1972, he said, he organized a private seminar in his home in which scientists discussed mathematical applications to biological and medical problems, including the development of an artificial heart. This lasted 10 years, until one day "the KGB came to my apartment and said, 'Stop. The seminar is forbidden.'"

'Moving Seminars'

Lerner and physicist refusenik Viktor Brailovsky, whose seminar was halted at about the same time, organized "moving seminars" together. "This is alive up to now," he said.

Lerner praised the immeasurable help he got from visiting foreign scientists, who kept him "au courant" and gave him the necessary psychological support. But he was most happy when the Israeli scientists came.

Upon his arrival in Israel, he proposed to the Weizmann faculty a special project to construct an artificial heart, working with experts in polymers who are interested in developing heart membranes, he explained.

"The artificial heart now in existence is not perfected and solves no practical problem," Lerner said, claiming that there is a "real market" for 300,000 artificial hearts and "only a small group of scientists worldwide" working on the project.

Lerner recalled that in his long years as a refusenik he "served in the foreign ministry of aliyah." His apartment was a meeting place for political figures from throughout the West, including Australian Prime Minister Bob Hawke and U.S. Sen. Edward Kennedy (D-Mass.).

But among all his visitors, Lerner was most impressed by the late Vice President Hubert Humphrey. "He was extraordinary," said Lerner, "a person who understood you immediately after you only said half a word."

Lerner believes that "approximately 2 million Jews want to leave the Soviet Union" -- the total number of Jews believed to be living there. "But not everybody is ready to do it, for many reasons," he said.

Discussed 'In Every Living Room'

"Some understand that they will never get permission. Some fear they cannot survive in competition. And some are so stupid they believe in progress in the Soviet Union, that things will get better," he explained. "But I can tell you that in every living room, leaving the Soviet Union is discussed."

Hearing that the Solidarity Sunday demonstration for Soviet Jews in New York would not be taking place this May, Lerner said, "It's a pity that such a decision was made." He said this demonstration is a favorite video program for Soviet Jews, and he believes it impresses Soviet authorities as well.

Lerner described himself as an optimist. "I have good reasons. Glasnost is not very important," he said. It is just Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev's ploy, because he "wants to improve the economy and badly needs cooperation with the West."

And, he said, "the cheapest price for this is Jews."

Although "not satisfied" with the number of Jews who have emigrated so far, he said that the increases this year are still "something. But of course we should pay for it. For nothing you get nothing."