

## AMERICAN ENVOY PRESENTS PLAN TO RESOLVE TABA BORDER DISPUTE

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, May 1 (JTA) -- The United States is working urgently to achieve an 11th-hour compromise agreement between Israel and Egypt before their dispute over Taba is resolved by binding arbitration.

Abraham Sofaer, the U.S. State Department's legal adviser, met with Israeli officials here Sunday, after talks he had in Cairo. He reportedly has come up with a plan that would give Egypt sovereignty over Taba, a half-acre strip of beach near Eilat on the Red Sea. But, according to the plan, Israel would continue to operate two vacation resorts built there by Israeli entrepreneurs.

The resorts are the Avia Sonesta, a luxury hotel, and the Rafi Nelson Holiday Village. Sofaer reportedly has suggested that Egypt and Israel own the hotels jointly through a holding company.

The initial response he had from Israel's Foreign Ministry seemed favorable, but the Prime Minister's Office was less enthusiastic.

Taba is the most important of 14 disputed sites along the Israel-Sinai border. Arbitration hearings were concluded in Geneva last month and an international panel of five jurists is presently deliberating its decision. The panel has 90 days, but informed sources say it will issue its ruling by the end of this month.

The United States has been seeking a compromise agreement, so far without success. Sofaer is expected to meet with Israeli officials Monday on the terms of his draft proposals and then plans to return to Cairo for more talks.

There are two problems to overcome. Egyptian law forbids foreign companies from owning property in Egypt. The resorts at Taba would have to be owned at least 51 percent by Egypt in order to comply. The Israeli owners object.

The second problem is that Israeli visitors to the resorts would have to carry Egyptian visas. Sofaer reportedly has proposed that this requirement be waived, or applied only to guests staying longer than 48 hours.

## OFFICER SUSPENDED FOR KILLING ARAB; WEEKEND PASSES CALMLY FOR MOST PART

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, May 1 (JTA) -- An Israel Defense Force officer was suspended from duty Sunday after a fatal shooting at a village near Jenin in the West Bank.

Israel Radio reported that the second-in-command of an IDF company was relieved of his duties after army investigators determined that the killing of a 20-year-old Palestinian in the village may have been unnecessary. The man, identified in unconfirmed reports as Naim Yusef Taha of Fakua village, was shot during a riot-breaking operation by the IDF company.

Meanwhile, relative calm prevailed in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Disturbances were reported, however, in the Shati and Jabalya refugee camps.

May Day, the traditional workers holiday, was hardly observed in the territories, in contrast to Arab observances in Israel proper. The Pales-

tinian trade unions canceled official ceremonies and most Arab day laborers reported to their jobs in Israel.

Military sources said that 80 percent of the workers from the Hebron area and 60 percent from the Nablus region were at their jobs, as were the majority of workers from Bethlehem, Ramallah and Tulkarm.

Most Arab workers from the Gaza Strip reported to their jobs. Schools were open. Public transportation operated normally, except for some disruptions in the Tulkarm district.

Observers said the high attendance at work and virtual ignoring of May Day reflected the financial dislocations suffered by hundreds of thousands of Palestinians in the territories since the uprising began.

Nevertheless, many shops were closed and Arab municipalities were open only half a day.

## IDF Chief Is Upbeat

Gen. Dan Shomron, the IDF chief of staff, made an upbeat assessment of the situation in the territories. Talking to reporters during a visit to the Gaza Strip, Shomron maintained that the Palestinians have had enough.

He said they now understand that they have no chance to achieve their goals by rioting. They are undergoing a sobering-up process and realize they must negotiate with the Israeli authorities if they want to change their situation, Shomron said. The chief of staff also observed that the Arab countries cannot help the residents of the territories, and the rest of the world does little else but watch events on television.

But not all was quiet this weekend. In Hebron, one Arab was wounded Saturday night, reportedly in a confrontation with armed Jewish settlers from the adjacent township of Kiryat Arba. The settlers claimed they were strolling through Hebron when they were attacked with stones. They responded by firing shots into the air.

Crowds gathered at the scene but soldiers dispersed them without resort to firearms. Nevertheless, groups of Arab youths continued to set up roadblocks throughout the town during the night and stoned military vehicles.

An Arab was admitted to a local hospital with bullet wounds. The IDF is investigating a possible connection to the incident with the settlers.

Two Palestinian men, one 25 and the other 18, were detained in Hebron last week on suspicion of splashing acid on three Arab police officers who had returned to their jobs after resigning.

## ISRAELI ARABS MAY STAGE UPRISING OF THEIR OWN, KNESSET MEMBER WARNS

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, May 1 (JTA) -- An Arab member of the Knesset came under attack by some of his Jewish colleagues over the weekend amid signs of growing restiveness in the Israeli Arab community.

Three Likud Knesset members demanded that the attorney general immediately revoke the parliamentary immunity of Mohammad Miari,

leader of the Progressive List for Peace, on grounds of "incitement to violence."

Miari, addressing his party's convention in Nazareth, warned that Israeli Arabs might stage their own uprising "if the (Israeli) authorities continue to deny them their rights." Even Knesset members of the dovish Shinui party protested, saying Miari's statement damaged Jewish-Arab relations.

Miari, whose party includes left-leaning Israeli Jews and Arabs in its Knesset faction, promptly backtracked. He told reporters that he was not implying that the current unrest in the administered territories would spread to Israel proper, only that "the situation could push" Israeli Arabs toward an uprising of their own.

Tension is mounting. The windows of a Jewish-driven car were smashed by stones thrown in the Arab village of Musmus over the weekend. No one was hurt and no arrests were made. Musmus lies opposite the larger Arab town of Umm el-Fahm, near Afula, the scene of violent disturbances during the Israeli-Arab general strike of Dec. 21.

A resident of Umm el-Fahm, Hassan Jabarin, 38, was just placed under administrative detention for six months, on orders of Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin. Jabarin is secretary of the radical Al Ansa group, which denies Israel's right to exist. He can be held in custody for up to six months without trial or charges.

Meanwhile, the Nazareth regional court ordered three juveniles from the city held in custody for three days on suspicion of throwing stones at vehicles. The police representative who pressed charges in court said the authorities would invoke an article of the law that allows prison sentences of up to 20 years for stone-throwing.

# ISRAEL CAN EXPECT MORE TERRORISM FROM LEBANON, SAYS ONE PLO LEADER

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, May 1 (JTA) -- The Palestine Liberation Organization is about to open a broad front against Israel in southern Lebanon, the head of one of the group's terrorist factions was quoted as saying.

Nayef Hawatme, head of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, was quoted by Davar as saying that the PLO would take such action in coordination with Syria and left-wing Lebanese elements.

Hawatme was also quoted as saying in Damascus that the moment the Syria-PLO reconciliation process is completed, the terrorist organization will transfer its headquarters from Tunis to Damascus.

Davar also said that the mainstream Shiite Amal militia has uncovered and confiscated a large weapons cache, belonging jointly to Hezbollah and Palestinian terrorist organizations, near the Zaharani River in southern Lebanon.

Amal leader Nabih Berri said that the cache included combat material, and a greater quantity of ammunition than what Amal already possessed in that area.

Meanwhile, Hadashot reported Friday that Syria and Iran have secretly agreed on operational cooperation in southern Lebanon, as well as the distribution of areas of activity among Hezbollah, the PLO and other terrorist organizations acting under Syria's aegis.

Since hundreds of Syrian soldiers crossed the

Awali River and headed for Sidon a month ago, the Syrians have found themselves increasingly involved in wars among competing militias, particularly those involving Amal.

The paper said this involvement has led Syria to discover large-scale Iranian involvement, forcing it to reach an agreement with Teheran regarding the distribution of forces in southern Lebanon.

Syria also discovered that during the past few weeks, the Iranian ambassador to Lebanon has been in southern Lebanon commanding Hezbollah forces against Amal.

It is estimated in Israel that increasing extremism in the Arab world, as well as understandings reached by Syria with the PLO and Iran, will lead to an escalation of terrorism from Lebanon, Hadashot reported.

# PRO-PALESTINIAN PROPOSAL REJECTED, BUT ARABS CLAIM 'MORAL VICTORY'

By Andrew Silow Carroll

NEW YORK, May 1 (JTA) -- The California Democratic Party voted Saturday to reject a proposed platform amendment calling on the United States to support Palestinian statehood and an international peace conference.

But despite the party executive board's rejection of the amendment, by a 4-1 vote, both pro-Israel and pro-Arab groups agree that the serious consideration given the proposal represented a significant display of pro-Palestinian sentiment among the state's Democrats.

That the issue was debated at all was a "moral victory," according to Salam Al Marayati, the originator of the amendment.

"We have ended the deadly silence," said Marayati, public relations director of the Los Angeles-based Muslim Political Action Committee. "We wanted the policy debated and we got it. A new chapter to the story of establishing a balanced U.S. policy in the Middle East has been written."

Rabbi Abraham Cooper, who as vice dean of the Simon Wiesenthal Center in Los Angeles was one of the leaders of the fierce Jewish opposition to the campaign, called the proposal's progress "distressing."

Cooper linked the move in part to the success of the Rev. Jesse Jackson's presidential campaign with left-of-center voters. The Wiesenthal Center opposes Jackson's candidacy, saying that he has "shown no understanding" of the American-Israeli relationship.

"It may be a portent of some of the things that will happen in a national convention," Cooper said of the proposal. He believes such an amendment would undermine Israel while rewarding the Palestine Liberation Organization.

The original proposal was presented by the Arab American Democratic Federation in March at the State Democratic Convention in Palm Springs.

# 'Self-Determination and Statehood'

The proposed amendment read, "We support a policy which supports the Palestinian people's right to self-determination and statehood in the occupied territories of the West Bank and Gaza, and by calling for an international peace conference to negotiate all outstanding issues in the Arab-Israeli conflict."

Party officials at the convention blocked a floor debate on the proposal, however. In a memorandum to the Platform Committee in April,

the state party chairman, Peter Kelly, wrote that the amendment request "represents a drastic and radical change" to the current platform draft and "runs counter to all previous stands of the Democratic Party going back more than 40 years."

The amendment's supporters persisted, gathering the signatures of approximately one third of the 900 to 1,000 state convention delegates on a petition supporting full discussion of the amendment.

The petition allowed debate on the proposal at Saturday's executive board meeting in San Jose.

In their own letter to executive board members, supporters said the amendment is "not drastic" and that, with the exception of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's Likud bloc, it has "in one form or another" been embraced "by all parties to the conflict, including the U.S."

Still, opponents of the proposal included most of California's leading Democrats, including U.S. Sen. Alan Cranston, Lt. Gov. Leo McCarthy, Attorney General John Van de Kamp and Comptroller Gray Davis, according to the Los Angeles Times.

#### **Dukakis Opposed**

Massachusetts Gov. Michael Dukakis, the front-runner in the Democratic presidential campaign, indicated in a message to the executive board that he was opposed to the amendment.

Yet Cooper of the Wiesenthal Center believes the proposal will play a significant role in California's upcoming presidential primary. "When Governor Dukakis arrives in California to start his campaigning, a lot of people are going to want to know specifically what he thought of that proposal."

James Zogby, director of the Arab American Institute in Washington, said in a telephone interview that the rejection of the proposal did not represent a defeat. Zogby is lobbying Democratic leaders in a number of states to include what he called a more "balanced discussion" of Middle East policy in their platforms.

"If it is a defeat for anybody, then it's a defeat for the Palestinians, the Israelis and the Democratic Party," said Zogby. "We say, 'Give us a free debate. Let people talk about it.' The Peter Kellys are afraid of a free debate, because they know that they probably cannot win."

#### **BEGUN ADDRESSES 'FREEDOM DAY' RALLY ORGANIZED IN LIEU OF SOLIDARITY SUNDAY** By Marlene Goldman

NEW YORK, May 1 (JTA) -- Former Soviet prisoner of Zion Yosef Begun thanked an avenue block packed with "Freedom Day" ralliers for winning his release, but expressed concern at the shrinking numbers of Soviet Jewry demonstrators since he and other highly publicized prisoners have been freed.

"We have no right to weaken our struggle, demanding and pressure on the Soviet Union," Begun shouted to an estimated 2,000 demonstrators at the Soviet mission to the United Nations. Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev "says his country is free and open, that human rights is there. But it's not true," Begun added, as he spoke publicly in America for the first time.

Begun, accompanied on the podium by his wife, Inna (who now goes by the Hebrew name Nehama), reminded the crowd that "Jews have to remember about slavery. We are now free, but our brothers are not."

As a chant of "Yosef" grew, Begun changed the word to "Yuli," referring to Yuli and Inna Kosharovsky, who recently completed a 17-day hunger strike marking Yuli's 17th year anniversary as a refusenik.

Members of the Student Struggle for Soviet Jewry, who coordinated the rally in lieu of the annual Solidarity Sunday march, which the Coalition to Free Soviet Jews canceled this year, handed out postcards calling for Yuli's release to be sent to President Reagan, as a show of support prior to the president's upcoming summit in Moscow with Gorbachev.

Ralliers carried signs demanding freedom for Kosharovsky and other refuseniks, such as Igor Lirtsman and his children. They shouted cries of "One, two, three, four. Open up the iron door. Five, six, seven, eight. Let our people emigrate," and "We want freedom and we want it now."

#### **Trade, Cultural Links Stressed**

The key word for the demonstration was delivered by program host Rabbi Avi Weiss of the Student Struggle, who observed that "linkage" of trade, culture and human rights affects U.S. dealings with South Africa. "We demand no less," he said.

"The bridges of American trade, technological and cultural exchange should be based on pillars of human rights," he told the crowd.

Weiss criticized the millions of dollars American banks loan the Soviet Union at low interest and offered this challenge to such companies as McDonald's, Nabisco, Chevron and Johnson & Johnson that deal with the Soviet Union: "Would you do business in South Africa?"

Dance groups and such sports organizations as the National Hockey League, which Weiss said is considering league games with the Soviets, and the National Basketball Association, which participates in exhibition games with the Soviets, were also challenged by Weiss as to whether they would conduct such activities with South Africa.

"Some people are being duped by glasnost," Weiss said. "Tell Gorbachev we will not be fooled; we will not be silent."

Weiss noted that while many of the well-known refuseniks are now free, Jewish emigration is only 18 percent of what it was in 1979. He also pointed to such "Catch 22's" as the rule that any family who wishes to leave and has a son 15 years or older must first have that son serve in the Soviet army. "Then he can't leave because they claim he knows state secrets," Weiss said.

"On the eve of Summit IV, we are not satisfied with words," Weiss stressed in reference to President Reagan's and Secretary of State George Shultz's verbal support and empathy for Soviet Jews. "We want action."

Other speakers at the rally, which was coordinated by the SSSJ, the Long Island Committee for Soviet Jewry, the Union of Councils for Soviet Jews and the Soviet Jewry Education and Information Center in Jerusalem, included Rep. Ted Weiss (D-N.Y.), Rep. Bill Green (R-N.Y.), Catholic activist Sister Rose Thering and Rabbi Haskel Lookstein, vice chairman of the Coalition to Free Soviet Jews.

The basic message each directed toward Reagan, as this rally kicked off a "Countdown to Summit IV" campaign, was summarized by Lookstein: "Do not stand idly by while Jewish blood is spilled and is being spilled," he shouted. "You and I will be here until Kosharovsky and all the others get out."

# SOUTH AFRICAN POLICE ARREST IRISH WOMAN FOR DESECRATION

JOHANNESBURG, May 1 (JTA) -- Police have arrested a 38-year-old Irish woman in connection with the so-called pigs' head incident last week, when pigs' heads marked with swastikas on their foreheads and Stars of David on each ear were placed on the doorstep of the Great Synagogue and at the Jewish Club in Durban.

The woman, Yvonne Tina Malone, who is believed to have been in the country for two and a half years, was arrested Wednesday after South African detectives worked around the clock to make an arrest.

The incident took place April 20, the eve of Israel's Independence Day and the 99th anniversary of Adolf Hitler's birthday.

According to the police in Port Natal, the public played a great part in helping with the arrest. Following the advertisement of a monetary reward, several people contacted the police, who were then able to track down the butcher where the woman allegedly bought the pigs' heads.

On Wednesday, the woman was detained and then appeared in the local magistrate's court on two charges of criminal injury. The case was adjourned until June 1, and the accused was released on warning.

The investigation officers in charge of the case said, "At this stage we do not believe there were any more people involved. The woman has not implicated anyone else, however the police are still investigating."

The incident prompted South African President P.W. Botha to issue a strong warning to neo-Nazis in South Africa, that he was no longer prepared to tolerate their antics.

# EX-KNESSET MEMBER TAKEN INTO CUSTODY ON SUSPICION OF FRAUD, CONSPIRACY

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, May 1 (JTA) -- Shmuel Flatto-Sharon, a former Knesset member who used parliamentary immunity to avoid extradition to France, was ordered held in custody for six days Friday by a Tel Aviv magistrate.

The police accuse him of fraud and the embezzlement of \$9 million from Swiss firms, conspiracy to commit a crime and passing bad checks.

He also is believed to be under investigation for his alleged involvement in large-scale, illegal currency transfers, via the administered territories, to Europe.

Flatto-Sharon, still a fugitive from French justice, was arrested Thursday at his luxurious villa in the fashionable Savoyon suburb of Tel Aviv. His arrest culminated a six-month police investigation of which few details have been released.

Police who searched his home Thursday hauled out crates of documents. They reportedly found a small quantity of hashish and unlicensed firearms. Flatto-Sharon cooperated in the search, opening his safes for the police. Three of his associates have also been detained.

Flatto-Sharon, once described as a multi-millionaire, fled to Israel from France in the late 1970s to escape arrest on charges of embezzlement and fraud.

Extradition proceedings were under way when Flatto-Sharon managed to get himself elected to the Knesset, where he sat as a one-

man independent faction. Many said he bought the votes in order to enjoy parliamentary immunity.

He served one term and was later disqualified on grounds of election fraud.

# NEO-NAZI'S SECOND TRIAL RESUMES IN TORONTO COURT

By Ben Kayfetz

TORONTO, May 1 (JTA) -- A self-trained "historian" claimed in district court here last week that neo-Nazi propagandist Ernst Zundel forced people to prove that the Holocaust actually occurred.

David Irving, a British writer, testified for the defense in the retrial of Zundel, who is charged with spreading false news calculated to arouse racial hatred. Zundel published a Canadian edition of the booklet "Did Six Million Really Die?", a denial of the Holocaust written years ago by British fascist Richard Harwood.

His earlier conviction was overturned on a technicality and a new trial was ordered.

According to Irving, Zundel's publication of the booklet, with an introduction and summation of his own, "has provoked and irritated" people and "forced them to prove what they have been maintaining."

Irving, who has no formal training as a historian but wrote a two-volume biography of Hitler, said his "research" found "no documents whatsoever indicating the Holocaust had occurred" and no evidence that Hitler knew of an extermination of Jews.

Under cross-examination by Crown Attorney John Pearson, Irving admitted he had not read through all of Adolf Eichmann's testimony in his 1960 trial in Israel, where Eichmann admitted that the "Final Solution" was discussed by the top Nazi leadership at the 1942 Wannsee conference.

The defense presented two other "expert" witnesses earlier in the week. Fred Leuchter of Boston, a consultant on execution devices, said the gas chambers at Auschwitz and other death camps were too leaky and poorly equipped for killing purposes.

Bill Armontrout, an American prison warden, said he had witnessed three gas chamber executions and that there would have been a risk to attendants in the use of cyanide gas in a room the size of the Birkenau gas chambers.

# ISRAEL TAKES 7TH PLACE IN SONG FESTIVAL

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, May 1 (JTA) -- Israel took seventh place of 21 countries competing in the Eurovision song festival in Dublin Saturday night.

The annual event, sponsored by the European Broadcasting Union, was held in Ireland. That country won the contest in 1987 and with it the privilege of hosting this year's contest. The 1988 winner was Switzerland; Britain was runner-up.

Israeli singer Yardena Arazi was satisfied to rank among the top third of the contestants with her specially written song, "Ben-Adam" (Human Being). Many Israelis felt that anti-Israel sentiment in Europe this year, generated by the situation in the administered territories, would have prevented Israel from winning no matter how great its song and performance.

Arazi and her back-up musicians were greeted with media hostility when they arrived in Dublin last week. The Israeli group was under heavy police guard throughout its stay.