



U.S. SAYS IT WON'T TALK TO PLO; MURPHY TO VISIT MIDEAST NEXT WEEK

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, July 27 (JTA) -- The State Department stressed Wednesday that U.S. officials are prepared to meet at any time with "responsible Palestinians," but not members of the Palestine Liberation Organization.

"There's no change in our policy toward the PLO and U.S. government contacts with the PLO," State Department spokesman Charles Redman said.

He was responding to a report that Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak told an interviewer that he believes that the United States is ready to meet with non-prominent members of the PLO.

The U.S. position on the PLO since 1975 has been that it will have no contacts with the organization until it recognizes Israel's right to exist and accepts U.N. Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338. They call for the return of Arab land and recognize Israel's right to exist within secure borders.

Redman announced that Richard Murphy, assistant secretary of state for Near Eastern and South Asian affairs, will go next week to Israel, Jordan, Syria and Egypt to discuss the peace process in the Middle East.

"As usual, he will be prepared to meet with responsible Palestinians to discuss the peace process on the same basis as Secretary (of State George) Shultz has offered to do during his trips to the Middle East," Redman said.

When Shultz went to Israel in June, right after the Moscow summit, he sought to meet with Palestinians, but they refused to attend a scheduled meeting.

Redman said Murphy's trip was not intended to pave the way for another visit by Shultz to the region.

Before going to the Middle East, Murphy will meet in Geneva on Monday and Tuesday with his Soviet counterpart, Vladimir Polyakov, to discuss the Mideast peace process and the Iran-Iraq war, Redman said.

U.S. AGAINST REFUGEE STATUS FOR SOVIET EMIGRES IN ISRAEL

By Howard Rosenberg

WASHINGTON, July 27 (JTA) -- The State Department has no plans to change U.S. immigration laws to allow Soviet Jews to come to the United States from Israel as refugees, a senior Reagan administration official said Wednesday.

"There's no intention to apply to change the (U.S.) immigration code, the refugee regulations" Assistant Secretary of State Richard Murphy told the House Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Europe and the Middle East. Murphy also argued that such a U.S. policy "would be rejected by the government of Israel."

Under current U.S. law, Soviet Jews are not considered refugees after they arrive in Israel. But there have been reports that the State Department might grant refugee status to Soviet Jews if Israel implements a recent decision by its Cabinet to require all Soviet Jews emigrating on Israeli visas to go directly to Israel.

Murphy, who heads the Bureau of Near Eastern and South Asian Affairs, said that Israel has been "very unhappy" that over the last few months more than 75 percent of Soviet Jews leaving on Israeli visas have "dropped out" in Vienna to leave for Rome, where they can then apply to immigrate to the United States as refugees. The dropout rate in some months has been as high as 90 percent, Murphy noted.

He said one Israeli official complained of becoming a "travel agency" for Soviet Jews. Virtually all Soviet Jews leaving the USSR leave on Israeli visas.

The Israeli Cabinet voted in June to require all Soviet Jews leaving on Israeli visas to fly from Moscow to Tel Aviv via Bucharest, Romania, where they would pick up the visas. This would presumably make it impossible for visa recipients to "drop out" and go to the United States.

Consular Team En Route

Neither the Soviet nor Romanian governments have yet reached any decision on meeting Israel's request. An Israeli consular delegation left for Moscow Tuesday, the first Israeli diplomatic delegation to go to the Soviet Union in 21 years.

Murphy noted that the United States supports "freedom of choice" for Soviet Jews in deciding where to settle.

Mainstream Jewish organizations and refugee resettlement agencies have supported the Israeli decision while maintaining that Soviet Jews who want to come to the United States should leave on U.S. visas.

Few Jews currently do so. Those that do received a setback earlier this month, when the U.S. Embassy in Moscow announced that it could not continue issuing visas on the usual basis, because it had run out of funds earmarked for refugee resettlement.

The subcommittee hearing, chaired by Rep. Lee Hamilton (D-Ind.), also focused on the Middle East and the situation in the Persian Gulf. Committee members sharply differed with Murphy on the wisdom of the administration's proposed \$1.8 billion arms sale to Kuwait.

The House has until Aug. 6 to vote on a resolution to block the sale, introduced by Rep. Lawrence Smith (D-Fla.). The Senate voted July 7 to ban part of the package -- 300 Maverick "G" air-to-ground missiles.

ADVOCATE OF PLO, CRITIC OF ISRAEL JOIN RANKS OF DEMOCRATIC COMMITTEE

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, July 27 (JTA) -- An Arab American who is a supporter of the Palestine Liberation Organization, and a Los Angeles city councilman who has compared Israel's treatment of West Bank Arabs to Hitler's treatment of Jews, are among those added to the expanded Democratic National Committee at its post-convention meeting in Atlanta last Friday.

Ruth Ann Skaff of Houston, who has been active in various local and national Arab-American organizations, was among 10 supporters of the Rev. Jesse Jackson added to the committee as members at large, as part of the unity agreement between Jackson and Massachusetts Gov. Michael

Dukakis, the Democratic presidential nominee. Eight Dukakis supporters were also named members at large.

Councilman Robert Farrell, while also a Jackson supporter, automatically became a member of the party executive committee when he became president of the Conference of Democratic Municipal Officials.

There are 50 members of the executive committee and 387 seats on the Democratic National Committee, some shared by more than one person. The DNC does not make policy. Its basic function is to coordinate the presidential campaign, raise funds and increase political support for the Democrats.

Hyman Bookbinder, an adviser to the Dukakis campaign on Jewish and Middle East issues, said while he is not pleased with some of the new DNC members, what is more important is that Dukakis and the overwhelming majority of members of the committee support Israel and are not sympathetic to the PLO.

Skaff, whose grandparents emigrated from Lebanon, was a spokeswoman for the Ad Hoc Committee on Lebanon in Houston in 1985, when she accused Israel of "aggression against civilians in south Lebanon."

'Campaign Of Terrorism'

At a meeting of Arab Americans in Houston last year, she said "Israel was using U.S. aid to carry out a campaign of terrorism against civilian residents."

Farrell's comparison of Israel to the Nazis was made in an interview with the pro-PLO East Jerusalem daily Al-Fajr during a visit he took to the West Bank in May 1986. He toured the West Bank, Gaza Strip, Jordan and Saudi Arabia as part of a delegation under the auspices of the Association of Arab American University Graduates.

Farrell said at the time that the Palestinians "are living in a state of terror." He said he found "parallels between the plights of Palestinians and that experienced by blacks in America." He said the situation he found reminded him of his own experiences "living down South on the other side of the railroad tracks."

Farrell also was among a group of well-known blacks listed as supporters of a 1985 appearance by Black Muslim leader Louis Farrakhan in Los Angeles.

KNESSET ADJOURNS ON PEACEFUL NOTE, AS MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS LAW PASSES By David Landau

JERUSALEM, July 27 (JTA) -- The Knesset voted late Tuesday night to hold municipal elections and Knesset elections on different dates.

The measure, backed by the Labor Party and most of the smaller factions, sailed through its second and third readings to become law. Likud adamantly opposed the change, but outnumbered, it boycotted the vote.

Mayoral and town council elections are now scheduled for Feb. 28, instead of Nov. 1, when Israeli voters will elect a new Knesset. Until now, local and national elections have been held concurrently.

The issue marked the last major clash between Labor and Likud in Parliament before the 11th Knesset adjourned Wednesday, after a day of relatively calm debate.

On Tuesday, the parties exchanged abusive recriminations over the handling of such matters

as the Middle East peace process and the Jonathan Pollard spy scandal.

But on Wednesday, the two coalition partners set aside their differences temporarily to easily defeat seven no-confidence motions introduced by opposition parties.

The issues ranged from communal strife in Jerusalem to the highway accident rate, which has soared in recent days.

Army Service For Yeshiva Students

Meanwhile, the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee cast a vote Wednesday to require all yeshiva students to do military service, an issue that could have repercussions in the next Knesset.

The committee endorsed the recommendation of a special subcommittee to expand the Hesder yeshivas, unique among the Orthodox institutions, because students do military duty during their five-year course of religious studies.

The recommendations would require that all yeshiva students not enrolled in the Hesder system do military service when they reach age 24. This is six years later than the standard military age of 18.

The period of service would be less than the three years required of other Israeli youths. But the blanket exemptions, in force since the state was founded 40 years ago, would be abolished.

NURSES END THEIR HUNGER STRIKE, BUT DOCTORS TO WALK OFF JOBS By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, July 27 (JTA) -- The Israel Medical Association has called a 24-hour strike for Thursday of some 10,000 doctors at government and Histadrut hospitals.

The nurses union, however, has ended its dispute with the government.

Dr. Shmuel Friedman, chairman of the medical association's professional committee, said the strike would be a "warning" to protest the failure of public health employers to sign wage contracts.

The strike call came only a day after doctors at government and municipal hospitals returned to normal work schedules Tuesday, after seven months of strikes and sanctions.

They will be walking off the job again Thursday, along with colleagues employed by Kupat Holim, Histadrut's health care agency. Only the handful of private hospitals, mainly in the Jerusalem area, will not be affected.

Friedman stressed there was no connection between the new strike and the earlier dispute at the state-run hospitals. He said doctors in the public sector still have no wage contracts for 1987, let alone 1988.

The medical association is demanding contracts of several years' duration that provide annual salary increases. It wants physicians' salaries linked to average wages, as is the case with public officials.

The nurses union, meanwhile, called off its week-long hunger strike Wednesday, after accepting a government proposal to hire 24 percent more nurses at state hospitals over a five-year period.

The union had demanded 28 percent more nurses. The government originally offered 18 percent. The compromise was reached after several nurses, subsisting for days on a liquid diet, collapsed outside the Prime Minister's Office.

U.N. SECRETARY-GENERAL URGES EXTENSION OF UNIFIL MANDATE By Yitzhak Rabin

UNITED NATIONS, July 27 (JTA) -- Charging the situation in southern Lebanon is "volatile," U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar recommended Wednesday that the Security Council extend the mandate of UNIFIL, the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon, for another period of six months.

The present mandate of the force, established by the Security Council in 1978 to maintain peace in southern Lebanon, expires July 31. A vote on the proposed extension, though not yet scheduled, is expected Friday.

The secretary-general, in a report to the Security Council dated July 25 and circulated here Wednesday, asserts the 5,844-troop force "continues to play an important role in controlling the level of violence in a very volatile situation which, without it, could quickly escalate into wider conflict."

Perez de Cuellar was sharply critical of the security zone Israel maintains in southern Lebanon. He said that the area under Israeli control is "manned by the Israel Defense Force and the so-called South Lebanon Army."

He claimed "resistance groups continued to launch frequent operations against IDF and SLA" and that the two forces "generally responded with heavy artillery" when attacked.

According to the secretary-general's report, UNIFIL recorded a total of 114 attacks on IDF and SLA forces in the first five months of the current mandate: 19 in January, 19 in February, 26 in March, 19 in April, 14 in May and 17 in June.

PALESTINIAN UPRISING MAY BECOME ACCEPTED WAY OF LIFE, RABIN WARNS By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, July 27 (JTA) -- Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin warned this week that the Palestinian uprising, now in its eighth month, is in danger of becoming an accepted fact of life here.

From Israel's viewpoint, the situation is bearable, but it must not come to be regarded as the norm, Rabin said. Israeli security forces are not confronting a segment of a society, but an entire society, the defense minister said.

The tragedy of the confrontation is compounded by the fact that so many of the victims are young children, killed or severely wounded by the Israel Defense Force.

The latest of them is Suheir Fuad Assane, a 13-year-old Palestinian girl from the Shati refugee camp in Gaza. She was shot to death when IDF soldiers opened fire to disperse rioters at the camp, frequently the scene of violent demonstrations.

The problem is that the IDF soldiers, trained for combat and not riot control, are sent to cope with disturbances in the narrow lanes and winding alleys of overcrowded refugee camps or in the casbahs of Nablus and other Arab towns.

Small groups of soldiers are suddenly face to face with mobs of angry Palestinian youths, equipped with slingshots and stones, which can be fatal.

Standing orders are not to shoot, except in life-threatening situations. It is up to the ranking officer at the scene to decide when a situation is

dangerous enough to use firearms.

The IDF does not claim that every fatal shooting was justified. Soldiers have been punished when found to have used excessive force or to have fired their weapons needlessly.

Rabin says the defense establishment is striving to reduce the level of violence. The message Israel is trying to send the Palestinians is that they cannot avoid collective punishment, as long as they do not collectively restore law and order.

Meanwhile, Israeli politicians are trying to be upbeat about the situation in an election year. They seem to think that by repeating over and over that the uprising is on the wane, it will eventually disappear.

But it has not done so, and it is the underground Palestinian command that holds the initiative. It decides when and where to demonstrate, when to throw stones or gasoline bombs, when to go on strike, when not to report to jobs in Israel.

And the uprising has spread. For half a year, the police managed to maintain relative quiet in Jerusalem. In recent weeks, East Jerusalem has erupted in violence. Hundreds of police reinforcements have been sent there and patrol the streets day and night. Fewer Jews dare to visit East Jerusalem, and the city is more divided than it has been since the reunification in 1967.

ANTI-WAR MONUMENT STIRS AUSTRIA'S SOCIALISTS AND CONSERVATIVES

By Reinhard Engel

VIENNA, July 27 (JTA) -- A stone and bronze monument against war and fascism that is to be built in this Austrian capital has stirred a political and cultural battle that seems to stem from a deep-seated desire of many Austrians to forget their country's Nazi past.

The debate appeared to be settled Tuesday when Mayor Helmut Zilk announced that the monument will be erected as planned, in a square behind the State Opera and the famed Albertina museum in the inner city of Vienna, where thousands of tourists pass each day.

The highly visible site was supported by the Socialist Party, which heads the governing coalition, but it was fought tooth-and-nail by the Conservatives, who preferred to have the monument placed in Morzin Square, where Gestapo headquarters was located from 1938 to 1945.

The Conservatives were accused of opposing the memorial altogether, but lacking the courage to say so publicly, tried to shunt it to a site where it would be almost hidden from view.

Old zoning laws were invoked by the Conservatives to try to oppose the central location.

When that failed, they objected to the artist commissioned to do the work, the world renowned Austrian sculptor Albert Rrdliczka.

Hrdliczka, 66, had once been a Communist, as was his father, but he quit the party in 1965. Hrdliczka was among the Austrians who opposed the election of Kurt Waldheim as president of Austria.

Hrdliczka's massive work of stone, bronze and marble includes a small, kneeling bronze figure cleaning the street, symbolic of the anti-Semitism that overwhelmed the Viennese at the time of the Anschluss in 1938.

Mayor Zilk stressed that he would not give in to pressure, and that the memorial will stand as originally planned.

**YOUNG HUNGARIAN JEWS DISCOVER
THEIR JEWISHNESS FOR FIRST TIME
(Part 1 Of A Series)
By Susan Birnbaum**

BUDAPEST, July 27 (JTA) -- Wherever the Emanuel Foundation for Hungarian Culture delegation went in Budapest, the refrain was the same: "I didn't know I was Jewish until . . ."

The ages varied, but the words were the same. Their discovery was startling, unexpected. Now, these people say, the recognition that they are Jewish gives them pride, a sense of responsibility and special feeling toward Israel.

In Hungary, Jews are beginning to adjust, not only to a widely acknowledged acceleration of freedoms that include religious expression, but to the mere ability to openly say the word "Jew."

Laszlo Siklos, 35, a member of the Goldmark Choir, Budapest's accomplished Jewish chorus, said he didn't know he was Jewish until he was 13, when his father said he was needed to say prayers at a Jewish funeral.

Lajos Diosi, 38, another choir member, admitted that until recently his Jewish background was something he dodged. "You have to know that in our press, the word 'Jewish' was avoided."

On a trip where Jewish journalists and filmmakers seemed to abound, several admitted that only as young adults did they learn of their Jewishness. Asked to discuss this, most said, "Ah, but that is a long story for another time."

One man who wanted to talk was Endre Rosza, a radio producer who broadcasts programs unabashedly Jewish.

Until recently, said Rosza, "One didn't pronounce the word 'Jew' out loud." He emulated the effect twice, lowering his face, to bring home his point. "It was an insecurity."

Rosza lived in Paris for several years but decided to return because "I had something to do," namely, to "reaffirm that I am Hungarian and Jewish."

Gravitational Center

He said he "absolutely believe(s) in Israel. It is our gravitational center."

In September, Rosza began the Federation to Maintain Hungarian Jewish Culture. The group of about 70 has no formalized structure, and meetings, including Torah study, take place in member's apartments.

Estimates of how many Jews live in Hungary vary, with official tallies between 80,000 and 100,000. Most agree that only between 20,000 and 30,000 fully participate in Jewish life.

But all agree an accurate count is impossible because of the large number of Jews who for years have not practiced Judaism, and the indeterminate number of those who don't know they're Jews.

Professor Geza Komoroczy, a professor of Near East Studies at the University of Budapest, is now director of the Center for Jewish Studies at the university.

The center was established -- in a public ceremony last year -- between the Hungarian Academy of Sciences and the New York-based Memorial Foundation for Jewish Culture.

Komoroczy, who teaches Assyrian, Arabic and cuneiform, was allowed to include the study of classical Hebrew at the school -- the first such program in all Eastern Europe, he said.

This year the department offered a "trial balloon" -- beginners' Hebrew -- to determine the

demand for Hebrew classes.

Usually, 10 students of Near Eastern studies enrolled in his Biblical text-reading class. But in the beginner's class, where 20 enrolled, Komoroczy said, "I looked at the faces in the first class, and they were regular Hungarian Jewish students."

Then, he said, the students started coming to him in his office, saying, "I am only a Jew. Can I take this class?"

Komoroczy said they got permission to add a Hebrew major.

Success Of Hebrew Program

Komoroczy, sporting a long, Hasidic-style beard and faded jeans, brimmed with anecdotes about Hungarian Jews and the success of the Hebrew program.

His favorite incident took place in June, when he participated in the Scheiber Memorial Lectures at the Budapest Rabbinical Seminary, named for its late director, Rabbi Sandor Scheiber.

As he finished speaking, an old lady approached him, smiling. He did not recognize her but noted her fine dress and the presence of a "chai" on a chain around her neck.

"Do you not remember me, Dr. Komoroczy?" the woman asked.

He re-created how he looked carefully at the woman, obviously a member of the upper middle class, "very fine. And I looked and looked, but I couldn't place her."

"Don't you know me, professor?" she asked again, and then he realized that "she was the woman who had cleaned my room for 15 years at the university."

Never in all that time had it ever occurred to him that she was Jewish, and never had she let on that she was educated.

Suddenly, Komoroczy understood this woman's story, that she must have been the wife of a man of some stature, or perhaps she herself had once held an impressive position, and had lost it in the strain of the Communist government. "And she never said a word."

Christian Philo-Semite

The absolute stunner, however, came when a reporter asked Komoroczy about his personal story. "But I am not Jewish," he said. His statement was met with disbelief.

Thus it has taken the strength of a Christian philo-Semite to inaugurate the class that will teach Hungarians to converse with their coreligionists and learn their religion.

Most Hungarian male Jews still do not feel comfortable publicly sporting a yarmulke -- what they call a "koppel" -- in public.

Little David Doman, 10, son of the Jewish newspaper's editor, looked like any religious Israeli, or American or French Jewish, boy in his knitted blue and white kippa and his "Jerusalem" T-shirt as he waited backstage at the Vigado concert hall during the program of Jewish music.

David said he carries his koppel to wear when he is "with Jews." Asked if he would like to wear it all the time, he replied simply, "It would be nice."

As he left the concert, Siklos changed his koppel to the black one he wears "frequently." But why not always?

"For us in Hungary, to be a Jew is not a shame -- but it is not a glory, either."

(Next: Learning to be Jewish)