

HUSSEIN CUTS TIES TO WEST BANK; PALESTINIAN ACTIVISTS ARRESTED

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, July 31 (JTA) -- Security authorities arrested several well-known Palestinian activists in Jerusalem and the administered territories this weekend, as Cabinet ministers convened to discuss King Hussein's latest moves to reduce Jordan's ties to the West Bank.

The king told his nation, in a televised address monitored here Sunday, that he was prepared to accept the secession of the West Bank from Jordan, in order to create an independent Palestinian state. He indicated that in doing so, he was bowing to the wishes of the Palestine Liberation Organization.

His statement followed two other moves to wash his hands of the territory. On Thursday, Hussein announced in Amman that Jordan had canceled its five-year development plan for the West Bank.

The statement terminating the \$1.3 billion plan said the decision was made at the request of PLO chief Yasir Arafat, to prove that Jordan has no designs on the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

On Saturday, Hussein issued a decree dissolving the lower house of Jordan's Parliament, which has represented the interests of Palestinians in the Israeli-administered West Bank.

The Jordanian monarch described these measures as intended to "allow the PLO to undertake upon itself full responsibility for the territories and waive any doubts regarding the position of Jordan."

But Israeli ministers said at Sunday's weekly Cabinet session that the Jordanian measures are mainly tactics and should not be seen as a definitive departure from Jordanian strongholds in the territories.

Blow To 'Jordan Option'

Nevertheless, Jordan's moves were regarded here as a major blow to the "Jordanian option" advocated by the Labor Party. It envisions negotiations with Jordan resulting in some sort of joint administration of the West Bank.

Last week, Vice Premier Shimon Peres, the main advocate of the Jordanian option, said that the Jordanians would be unable to detach themselves from the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Pro-Jordanian figures in the territories also shared the view that the main thrust of Jordan's latest moves was symbolic. But Tahsin Fares of Nablus, a member of the Jordanian Parliament, told Haaretz he regards the measures "as a real calamity to the West Bank and its people."

Overall, Israel is seen to view Amman's latest moves in the roller-coaster ride of Jordanian-PLO relations as acknowledgment that Jordan has lost most of its power bases in the administered territories since the beginning of the Palestinian uprising last December.

In a new drive to contain the unrest, now in its eighth month, Israeli military authorities detained several key Palestinian activists early Sunday.

During pre-dawn hours, authorities arrested Faisal al-Husseini, whom they described as a senior activist in Al Fatah, the military wing of

the PLO. Husseini was placed under administrative detention for six months by order of Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin.

Police also arrested Mustafa Abu-Zahara, a convicted terrorist, and placed him under administrative detention for six months. And eight East Jerusalem residents were detained for questioning.

Husseini has been in trouble repeatedly with the authorities. He was first placed under administrative detention in April 1987 for his Fatah activities, and released after three months.

Last September, he was placed in administrative detention for six months, "following a resumption of his activities in the Fatah organization." After a three-month extension of that detention period, Husseini was released from incarceration in June.

Arab Institute Closed

Authorities reported that despite these measures, Husseini renewed his "subversive and hostile" activities in the Fatah organization immediately following his latest release.

In recent years, Husseini has headed the Institute for Arab Studies in East Jerusalem, which authorities closed for a year on Sunday.

Although Husseini insists that the institute is merely an academic research institute, authorities say it serves as a center for subversive activities and employs former security prisoners.

Police say the institute has been involved in disseminating materials intended to incite unrest, through calls for strikes and other activities. Various leaflets were reportedly found Saturday night during a search of the institute and Husseini's home.

Abu-Zahara, also arrested Sunday, was convicted in 1979 of aiding a terrorist and was sentenced to three-and-a-half years, two of which were suspended.

Since his release, he has carried on activities connected with the struggle against Israeli authorities in Jerusalem, police charge. Included in the litany of Abu-Zahara's activities are organization of demonstrations and commercial strikes and incitement to non-payment of taxes.

Police also arrested eight others for interrogation on Saturday night, as a result of information on their involvement in disturbances.

The moves against these Palestinian personalities were seen here as a signal by Israel that it intends to intensify measures against the uprising, despite the obvious boost it has received from Hussein's measures.

SHULTZ SAYS JORDAN STILL WANTS TO PLAY ROLE IN PEACE PROCESS

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, July 31 (JTA) -- Secretary of State George Shultz stressed Sunday that Jordan will continue to play a central role in the Middle East peace process, despite King Hussein's move to cut official ties with the West Bank.

Hussein "has to be a partner, and everybody recognizes that, because Jordan has the longest border with Israel of any Arab state," Shultz said in an appearance on CBS-TV's "Face the Nation."

"So if there is going to be peace between Israel and its neighbors, then Jordan is involved,"

the secretary said.

The State Department said Friday that the king's latest moves will be discussed when Richard Murphy, assistant secretary of state for Near Eastern and South Asian affairs, arrives in Amman this week.

Murphy will also be visiting Israel, Syria and Egypt after meetings in Geneva on Monday and Tuesday with his Soviet counterpart, Vladimir Polyakov.

State Department spokesman Charles Redman also said Friday that Washington does not believe that Hussein's decision to cancel a five-year development plan for the West Bank is a signal of "any lessening of Jordan's intention to be actively involved in the peace process."

Support For Joint Delegation

Redman added that the United States still believes that the "best opportunity for Palestinian participation in negotiations (with Israel) is in a joint Palestinian-Jordanian delegation."

However, official Jordanian statements have pointed to the recent Arab summit in Algiers, which adopted resolutions opposing such a joint delegation led by Jordan.

The development plan has been denounced by the Palestine Liberation Organization and some Arab countries as an attempt by Hussein to compete with the PLO for influence on the West Bank.

A Jordanian statement said that the decision to drop the economic plan was made at the request of PLO leader Yasir Arafat and to "allow the PLO to shoulder its responsibility."

Hussein's action was seen by some as an attempt to demonstrate to Palestinians on the West Bank, where Hussein's influence is waning, that they still need him and cannot count on the PLO alone.

Shultz explained the decision Sunday as recognition by Hussein that "the Palestinians living on the West Bank and Gaza have asserted themselves as wanting to speak for themselves."

But Shultz ruled out the PLO as "a suitable peace partner." He reaffirmed the U.S. position that it will not have any contacts with the PLO until it recognizes Israel's right to exist, renounces terrorism and accepts U.N. Security Council Resolution 242 and 338, which call for the return of Arab land and recognize Israel's right to exist inside secure borders.

"We need to keep the pressure on the PLO to recognize that Israel is there, Israel is going to stay there, it's a fact of life," the secretary said.

And he said the PLO "might as well accept the fact and they ought to stop the terrorism and recognize that 242 and 338 are the roads to peace."

Kissinger Against New Effort

At the same time, Shultz stressed that "we are and always have been ready to meet with Palestinians, and I've met with some." He said there are "credible Palestinians" who are not members of the PLO.

But on Shultz's last visit to Israel in June, Palestinians refused to attend a scheduled meeting with him because of pressure from the PLO.

Meanwhile, former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger said Sunday that although Shultz made a "courageous effort" to bring about peace in the Middle East, he should not return to the area, because nothing can be done to move the process

forward in the waning days of the Reagan administration.

"I do not think anything could be accomplished before the new administration comes in," Kissinger said on NBC-TV's "Meet the Press." "We need a reassessment of the whole situation in light of the American and Israeli elections."

Israel is expected to hold its Knesset elections Nov. 1, one week before the Nov. 8 presidential election in the United States.

U.S. Backed Development Plan

Jordan's economic development plan was warmly welcomed by Shultz when Hussein announced it in 1986. The secretary has often preached to Israel and Jordan the need to improve the "quality of life" for residents of the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Hussein announced the plan to provide funds for schools, water, agricultural projects and welfare in the West Bank, after his attempt to work with Arafat on the peace process collapsed.

Redman noted Friday that the United States has a longstanding policy of support for economic and social development on the West Bank, which Washington has supported by providing funds to private voluntary organizations working in the territory.

This year, the United States contributed \$7 million to these groups, Redman said. The contribution was \$14 million in 1987 and \$5.5 million in 1986.

U.N. EXTENDS UNIFIL MANDATE

By Yitzhak Rabi

UNITED NATIONS, July 31 (JTA) -- The Security Council unanimously adopted Friday a resolution extending the mandate of UNIFIL, the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon, for another six-month period.

The present mandate of the 5,844-troop force expired Sunday.

UNIFIL was established by the Security Council in 1978 to maintain peace in southern Lebanon.

Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar, in a report to the members of the Security Council last week, said that UNIFIL continues to play an "important role" in controlling the level of violence in the area.

He said that without UNIFIL, the situation "could quickly escalate into a wider conflict."

HISTADRUT-OWNED FIRMS MAY FACE COLLAPSE, COMPTROLLER WARNS

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, July 31 (JTA) -- Several enterprises owned by the Histadrut labor federation, including the daily newspaper Davar, face possible collapse if measures are not taken soon to reverse their financial problems, the federation's comptroller general has warned.

Naftali Blumenthal issued the warnings in a report due to be published Sunday, parts of which were obtained in advance by the news media.

According to Blumenthal's report, major institutions in impending danger include Davar, the Amal education network, the Yakhin Git processing plant in Ashkelon and the Phoenecias household goods factory in Haifa.

In addition, Blumenthal reported, the Hassneh Insurance Company, Israel's largest, has accumulated losses of \$52 million.

SENATE BILL SAYS U.S. MUST BUILD MISSIONS IN TEL AVIV AND JERUSALEM

By Howard Rosenberg

WASHINGTON, July 31 (JTA) -- The Senate voted last week to allow the State Department to build the new diplomatic facilities it wants in Tel Aviv, as long as it constructs comparable compounds in Jerusalem.

The measure, sponsored by Sen. Jesse Helms (R-N.C.) and adopted by voice vote as an amendment to the State Department's 1989 appropriations bill, is intended to force a future U.S. president to decide whether to recognize Tel Aviv or Jerusalem as Israel's capital.

Israel has declared Jerusalem its capital. But the vast majority of nations with whom it has diplomatic relations, including the United States, maintain their embassies in Tel Aviv.

Under the Senate bill, the U.S. structures would have to be designed in a way that "equally preserves the ability of the United States to locate its ambassador or its consul general at either site, consistent with U.S. policy."

The amendment also requires both structures to open at the same time and prevents the State Department from announcing which site will serve as the embassy until construction on at least one of the facilities is close to completion.

A congressional source said the agreement was hammered out by Helms, Sen. Chic Hecht (R-Nev.) and Max Kampelman, counselor to Secretary of State George Shultz.

Should the House approve the measure, the department would likely seek construction money in its 1991 budget request, a State Department official said.

The latest Senate vote comes a few weeks after Sen. Daniel Moynihan (D-N.Y.) reintroduced his 1983 bill to move the U.S. Embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem.

SHULTZ MEETS WITH LEADERS OVER SOVIET EMIGRATION

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, July 31 (JTA) -- The State Department and the American Jewish community are not at odds over the issue of "freedom of choice" for Jews who emigrate from the Soviet Union, Morris Abram, chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, stressed Friday.

"The entire organized American Jewish community believes in the principle of freedom of choice for Soviet Jews," Abram said, after he and other Jewish leaders met with Secretary of State George Shultz.

But Abram, who is also chairman of the National Conference on Soviet Jewry, added that the "choice should be exercised in the Soviet Union."

He explained that Soviet Jews who wish to emigrate to the United States should apply for visas at the U.S. Embassy in Moscow, while those who want to go to Israel should apply at the Dutch Embassy, which handles diplomatic affairs for Israel in the Soviet Union.

The Jewish leaders were meeting with Shultz to discuss the most recent problem, that of the inability of the U.S. Embassy to process visas for Soviet citizens wishing to immigrate to the United States. The problem is a lack of funds budgeted for this fiscal year, which ends Sept. 30.

Abram and Ben Zion Leuchter, president of

HIAS, said they hoped that Congress would clear up the problem. The House on Thursday approved a \$24 million supplemental appropriation for refugees, which includes \$6 million for Soviet emigrants.

The Senate has yet to vote on the measure.

Leuchter said that there are only 150 Jews affected by the shortage of funds, and that the problem has mainly hurt about 3,000 Armenians.

Leuchter said 60 to 80 Soviet Jews have left for the United States each month this year on visas received in Moscow.

Also participating in the meeting with Shultz were Seymour Reich, president of B'nai B'rith International; Robert Lifton, president of the American Jewish Congress; Mark Levin, the NCSJ's Washington representative; and Andrew Glazer, an NCSJ executive committee member.

NEO-NAZIS SENTENCED IN EAST GERMANY, TRY TO GET ON BALLOT IN WEST BERLIN

By David Kantor

BONN, July 31 (JTA) -- An East German court meted out short prison sentences Saturday for four young neo-Nazis convicted of assault and battery in racial incidents.

Meanwhile, the neo-Nazi National Democratic Party in West Germany filed an application with the Allied Powers in West Berlin for permission to participate in the city's municipal elections in January.

The four East German youths, ranging in age from 19 to 21, received terms of from nine to 12 months from the court in Koenigs-Wusterhausen, near East Berlin, for attacking youths in discotheques while making some of them "confess" to being Jewish. The names of the four youths were not released.

In West Berlin, observers and town officials say that the neo-Nazi NPD party has no chance of getting permission to run in the January municipal elections.

The West Berlin chairman of the NPD, Lutz Reichel, protested Saturday against what he called the intervention of the Allied Powers in what were conceived as free elections in West Berlin. Reichel complained that the Allies have the power to strip citizens of their "elementary rights."

JEWS UPSET THAT PRIVATE DOCTORS WILL EXAMINE LAST OF DUTCH NAZIS

By Henrietta Boas

AMSTERDAM, July 31 (JTA) -- Victims of Nazism here have reacted emotionally to a report that private physicians will examine the last two remaining Nazi war criminals imprisoned here.

The Dutch Justice Ministry reportedly has acceded to a request by the director of Breda Prison to call in three physicians not belonging to the prison service to attend to Franz Fischer, 86, and Ferdinand aus der Fuenten, whose age has been reported variously as 76 or 79.

Holocaust survivors have registered concern that medical evaluation may pronounce these men too ailing to be cared for by prison authorities and therefore possibly eligible for release.

Aus der Fuenten headed the Nazi office responsible for the deportation of Jews in Amsterdam; Fischer held the same post in The Hague.

All other Nazi war criminals imprisoned in the Netherlands have either died or were released at least 25 years ago.

CHICAGO BLACKS AND JEWS REACH OUT TO HEAL WOUNDS OF ANTI-SEMITISM

By Andrew Silow Carroll

NEW YORK, July 31 (JTA) -- Clergy and lay leaders representing Chicago's blacks and Jews met last week to denounce "all expressions of anti-Semitism, racism and other forms of bigotry, to prevent them from gaining legitimacy."

Four black leaders and seven Jewish leaders met Thursday and agreed to organize a series of meetings in churches and synagogues stressing the "historic ties" between the two groups.

The meeting was the latest in a series of attempts to heal the breach in black-Jewish relations in Chicago, a breach blown open by disclosures in April of a local black politician's virulently anti-Semitic remarks and what Jews felt was a conspicuously silent reaction on the part of black leaders in the ensuing months.

Although Chicago's Jewish leaders said in interviews last week that passions have cooled since the spring, the tension there is still said to be palpable and troubling.

The Chicago situation raises the question of how Jews should best respond to this latest strain of black anti-Semitism, which seems to scapegoat the Jews for black frustrations with whites.

While some leaders press for intergroup meetings that emphasize, as one rabbi put it, "the real needs and frustrations of the black community," others call such efforts "breast-beating" and advocate a call for greater accountability among blacks.

Hostility between the two groups was first touched off in April, after disclosures that Steve Cokely, an aide to acting Mayor Eugene Sawyer, had delivered a series of anti-Semitic lectures to followers of Nation of Islam leader Louis Farrakhan between 1985 and 1987.

A Worldwide Conspiracy

Among other assertions, Cokely charged that Jews are involved in a worldwide conspiracy "to rule the world," and that Jewish doctors inject black babies with the virus that causes AIDS.

Although Cokely was eventually dismissed by Sawyer, Jews were outraged that the mayor waited more than a week after the aide's charges were made public before doing so.

Jews also resented that, among the 18 blacks on the City Council, only three black aldermen called for Cokely's dismissal.

Jewish leaders interviewed last week, however, disagree that Chicago has degenerated to a point where "if I were Jewish, I would be terrified," as Andrew Greeley, the Roman Catholic priest and writer, said in May.

"I don't think at the present moment things are critical," said Rabbi Herman Schaalman, who as president of the Chicago Board of Rabbis has been asked by Mayor Sawyer to serve on an ad hoc interfaith committee to explore the issue.

"But I don't want to create the impression that there is nothing to worry about," he added. "There are basic problems and injustices that are not amenable to a quick fix. At the same time, to roil the waters is to no one's advantage."

Michael Kotzin, regional director of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, said, "It's not accurate to say that (anti-Semitism) has gripped the entire black community."

He quoted a Chicago Tribune poll taken in June, which found that only 8 percent of the blacks surveyed felt Cokely should have been

allowed to keep his job.

According to Kotzin and others, anti-Semites represent a "fringe" of the black community.

Nevertheless, Kotzin criticized black politicians for their silence after the Cokely affair.

While Sawyer and others have since made statements of the "desirable kind," Kotzin said, "silence has become too prevalent a factor."

Silence 'Too Prevalent'

Richard Wexler, chairman of Chicago's Jewish Community Relations Council, was harsher in his criticism of Sawyer, calling him a "quiescent mayor who can't bring himself to any decisive action."

But while Wexler also believes anti-Semitism is prevalent in only a portion of the black community, he is reluctant to offer a blanket endorsement of black-Jewish dialogue efforts.

He said some efforts at dialogue that attempt to blame the Jews for black resentment are "a kind of breast-beating," which is "basically wrong and unacceptable."

"The fact is that most of the Jewish community represented by the 36 groups of the JCRC feels we've made attempts at dialogue, that we are willing to (go) further, but we will await an emergence of responsible (black) leaders who will reach out to us."

A chairman of one of the dialogue groups, Rabbi Robert Marx of Congregation Hakafa, a Reform temple in Glenview, Ill., said in reference to black leaders that he is unwilling "to write them off."

"That sort of attitude becomes tragic," Marx said, "and the breeding ground of another Lebanon or Northern Ireland." Black anti-Semitism, he said, is a "euphemism for black rage against the white community."

Meets With Farrakhan

Marx said his efforts to reach out to blacks, and to remind them that words, like a cross-burning, "become very reminiscent of past tragedies," have been extended even to Farrakhan.

At a dinner last year with the Black Muslim leader, Marx said that they "talked about the utter urgency of conveying whatever good message he had without anti-Semitism."

For one Chicago politician, Alderman Bernard Stone of the city's North Shore, recent events have ominous implications for Jews.

"There exists a clear and present danger within the black community for Jews. And anybody who denies it is a fool," said Stone, whose ward includes the city's largest percentage of Jewish voters, at 35 percent.

Like many Jews, Stone said, black anti-Semitism urged him to switch from the Democratic to the Republican Party last year.

But others feel cynics are manipulating black-Jewish tensions in order to boost their own candidates, especially in what will be a hard-fought mayoral race next spring.

Some observers feel the current controversy could lead white Republicans to discredit black Democrats and woo Jewish voters.

In spite of all this, Maynard Wishner, president of the Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Chicago, hopeful about the short-term future of black-Jewish relations in Chicago.

"What is really happening now is really sort of a consolidation and opening of communication," he said. "The extreme nonsense of Cokely--that's not around now."