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JORDAN LAYS OFF CIVIL SERVICE WORKERS AS PALESTINIANS WORRY OVER FUTURE

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Aug. 4 (JTA) -- The Jordanian Cabinet, in another step toward implementing King Hussein's new policy of separating from the Palestinians and the West Bank, announced its intention to lay off some 21,300 civil service employees working in Israeli institutions in the West Bank.

Those affected include teachers, hospital workers, municipal employees and those who work in other Jordanian-operated establishments. The move is to take effect Aug. 16.

Hussein's measure was seen here as a substantial blow to relations between Jordan and the Palestinians, who reacted with shock to the harsh reality of having most of their livelihood abruptly cut off from them.

Those who have worked for the government 20 years or longer will continue to receive a full pension. Those who worked at least 15 years will have to wait five years before collecting their pensions.

For those who have worked under 15 years, compensation will amount to a month's salary for every year of work.

Jordan said the cuts would reduce its monthly expenditures by some \$1.5 million.

Despite Hussein's statement last weekend that he was acting according to the wishes of the local Palestinians, there was no doubt among local observers that the move would have a negative effect on relations between the Palestinians and Jordan.

On Saladin Street in East Jerusalem, Sabri Abu-Khater, a former income-tax official, said Thursday he was confident the king would not desert him, and that he would continue receiving his monthly salary of some \$500.

But Abdullah Kaed, a worker at the Jerusalem Hyatt Hotel, said people would adjust to the new circumstances and hate Hussein even more.

"This is the price we have to pay," said Kaed. "What are 20,000 salaries compared to the 10,000 who rot in jail?"

Double Salaries

Of the 14,000 Palestinians employed by the Israeli civil administration, some have been civil servants since Jordanian times. Such workers received salaries from both governments.

Although they will now have their incomes cut considerably, they will still be able to rely on Israeli salaries coming through.

Hanna Siniora, editor of the East Jerusalem paper Al-Fajr, said Thursday that Hussein's move was expected, and was but another indication of the death of the "Jordanian option."

Siniora, too, said this was the price for a new state.

But there are also indications that Hussein's moves were intended to show that the Palestinians need Jordan and needed this show of independence to bring them running back to Jordan.

Palestine Liberation Organization leader Yasir Arafat, who was expected in Amman after Hussein's speech Sunday, has postponed his visit to gain time to study the situation.

Arafat is reportedly enraged at Hussein for having "handed" him the territories just when he is least capable of controlling them. Arafat has long claimed to represent the people who live in the territories.

Meanwhile, Israelis debated the situation.

Premier Yitzhak Shamir rejected a demand by the Tehiya party to immediately extend Israeli law in Judea, Samaria and Gaza, as a result of the political vacuum Hussein has created.

Meeting with Tehiya Knesset members, Shamir said conditions had not really changed.

SHAMIR AIDE SAYS HUSSEIN'S POLICY LEAVES NO PARTNER FOR PEACE

By Yitzhak Rabi

AUG 8 1988

NEW YORK, Aug. 4 (JTA) -- The announcement by Jordan's King Hussein that he intends to sever ties with the West Bank underlines Israel's contention that it has "no partner for negotiations" in the Middle East, a close aide of Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir said here Wednesday.

Avi Pazner, Shamir's media adviser, said that Israel is "still studying" the king's move, but whatever Hussein's intentions are, "it is clear now that he cannot deliver peace."

Pazner, who spoke at a briefing sponsored by Dor Hemshech, the young leadership group of the World Zionist Organization, said that in the aftermath of Hussein's move, Israel "must make sure that the PLO will not be pushed" to become Israel's partner for negotiations.

Pazner reiterated Israel's strong opposition to the PLO, vowing that Israel will never enter into talks with "this terrorist organization, which is bent on our destruction."

Pazner said, however, that Israel must now restore "normal conditions and calmness in Judea and Samaria," where the Palestinians have been rioting and demonstrating since Dec. 9.

He suggested that only then will Israel be able "to find a partner for negotiations" among the local Palestinian residents who are not affiliated with the PLO.

"In the end I think that Jordan will become once again a partner for negotiations with Israel," Pazner said.

According to Pazner, Hussein's decision to divorce himself from the West Bank could be seen as a political maneuver, an attempt to influence the course of events by his unexpected move.

"Hussein may have felt that his regime is in danger," Pazner suggested, "or maybe he is trying to show that without him peace is not possible."

Pazner, claiming the situation in the territories is improving, said "We managed to somehow control the degree of violence and unrest."

Speaking about the media's coverage of Israel, Pazner said he thought they had been treating Israel better lately, because of a realization on the part of the media that Israel is not to blame for everything in the territories.

The media, Pazner said, understands better "that at stake was not only Israel's presence in Judea and Samaria" but its presence in the Middle East itself, as evidenced by the burning of Israel's forests and the terrorist attacks in Tel Aviv and other Israeli cities.

NCSJ REVISES SOVIET JEWRY EMIGRATION FIGURES FOR JULY

By Andrew Silow Carroll

NEW YORK, Aug. 4 (JTA) -- The National Conference on Soviet Jewry announced Thursday a "major correction" on its previously released emigration figures for July, citing an inadvertent failure to subtract 320 non-Jewish emigres from the total figure of 1,698 Jews and non-Jews who left the Soviet Union.

The new figure of 1,378 Jewish emigres in July actually represents a slight decrease from a month earlier, rather than an eight-year monthly high, as NCSJ reported earlier this week.

According to the corrected figures, 136 of the departing Jews, or 7.8 percent, immigrated to Israel. Fifty Jews flew to Israel via Bucharest.

The 320 non-Jews who left the Soviet Union with Israeli documents included Pentecostal Christians, Baptists and nine dissidents, according to official Israeli sources.

The exodus of these groups on so-called Israeli "invitations," apparently an initiative of the Soviet government, has vexed the efforts of Soviet Jewry activists to gather an accurate count of actual Soviet Jewish emigres.

Improve Counting System

According to a spokesman for NCSJ, the organization is now in a process "to see how the system (of counting) can be improved."

"Not only do we want to give absolutely accurate figures, but we don't want to give in to the situation of giving the Soviets credit for something they did not deliver on," he added.

Although July's emigration figures now seem to reflect a decrease of 115 from June, "we will not draw an inference from a one-month drop."

Israeli and State Department sources confirmed Wednesday that evangelical Christians and a small number of dissidents have been allowed to leave the Soviet Union on Israeli visas for quite some time. Their numbers have increased as Jewish emigration figures have risen in the past few months.

The Israeli source said his government "hasn't raised the matter except to call attention to the fact that it's happening. Of course, we're against the misuse of our documents."

A Soviet Jewry activist who has been skeptical of official emigration figures said Wednesday that exact totals are necessary for policy-making.

If the revised figures are accurate, said Glenn Richter, national coordinator of the Student Struggle for Soviet Jewry, "that means the Soviets are beginning to resist again and are not increasing" emigration.

The Israelis, he charged, "have thrown a veil" over the figures to avoid publicizing the evangelical Christian emigration, and NCSJ went along.

No Cover-up

"NCSJ is not involved in a cover-up," said Richter. "It's just not sharp work."

Based on their own calculations on the numbers of evangelical Christians and others leaving on Israeli documents, Richter's organization and the Union of Councils for Soviet Jews record lower numbers for June -- 1,385 versus 1,493 -- than does Israel or NCSJ.

NCSJ declined to respond to Richter's charges. Figures kept by the NCSJ and the Israeli Embassy in Washington also differ slightly on the

total number of Soviet Jewish emigres through June. According to NCSJ figures, 6,078 Jews left the Soviet Union. According to the embassy, of 6,200 emigres who left the Soviet Union bearing Israeli documents, 5,800 were Jews.

Neither NCSJ nor the embassy could account for the discrepancy.

In Geneva, meanwhile, the Intergovernmental Committee for Immigration announced Wednesday that Jewish emigration totaled 1,639 in July. The total takes into account neither non-Jewish emigration nor the 50 Jews who traveled to Israel via Bucharest.

(JTA Geneva correspondent Tamar Levy contributed to this report.)

ZEFFIRELLI DENIES MAKING 'JEWISH CULTURAL SCUM' SLUR

By Ruth E. Gruber

ROME, Aug. 4 (JTA) -- Italian director Franco Zeffirelli has denied using the term "Jewish cultural scum" to describe the producers of Martin Scorsese's film "The Last Temptation of Christ," but reiterated his criticism of Lew Wasserman, chairman of MCA, the entertainment conglomerate whose Universal Pictures subsidiary is producing the film.

In a statement by Zeffirelli, published Wednesday in the Italian media, announcing his intention to withdraw his own film from the Venice Film Festival to protest the inclusion of Scorsese's, Zeffirelli was quoted as saying "Temptation" was the work of "that Jewish cultural scum in Los Angeles" who wanted to strike a blow at the Christian world.

In a new statement published Thursday in the newspaper Corriere Della Sera, Zeffirelli reiterated his sharp criticism of Wasserman but denied having used the crude phrases.

"I could never use the term 'Jewish scum.' I have always been a friend of the Jews. When I made (the television movie) 'Jesus of Nazareth,' I requested the presence and counsel of three rabbis."

Zeffirelli added that "it wasn't I who defined Wasserman in this way. That label was already given him by an organization called Christian Anti-Defamation League."

Zeffirelli said he had been commenting on the attacks, many with anti-Semitic overtones, by this and other fundamentalist groups in the United States.

Nonetheless, he said, he judged Wasserman to be "a merchant on the lookout for dollars, and not, certainly, of quality films that respect precise universal values."

Zeffirelli's statement continued: "As opposed to Scorsese and Wasserman, I did not intend in any way to manipulate in an improper way the Jewish world and culture" in making "Jesus of Nazareth."

"I ask Lew Wasserman, with irony: What would he say if one day an Italian decided to make a film about Abraham sodomizing Isaac?"

Zeffirelli's original statement was quoted extensively in several main Italian newspapers and on the state-run television news.

Corriere Della Sera and another leading newspaper, La Stampa, ran a story on the statement but omitted the anti-Semitic reference.

Wire service reports published in American newspapers Wednesday, including The New York Times, also omitted the "Jewish cultural scum" statement.

WHEN TO FIGHT AND NOT TO FIGHT: JEWISH GROUPS REASSESS STANCE ON U.S. ARMS SALES TO ARABS

By Howard Rosenberg

WASHINGTON, Aug. 4 (JTA) -- American Jewish groups are reassessing their positions on U.S. arms sales to Arab countries in light of the massive \$30 billion arms deal in the works between Great Britain and Saudi Arabia, and the more recent battle over a proposed U.S. sale to Kuwait.

U.S. Jewish groups, like Israel, in principle oppose all arms sales to Arab countries, except Egypt. But they decide on a case-by-case basis whether to fight a given proposed U.S. sale.

In some cases, pro-Israel groups have sought to modify a planned arms package to remove portions considered serious threats to Israel.

On the Kuwaiti sale, for instance, Reagan administration officials, members of Congress and representatives of AIPAC, the American Israel Public Affairs Committee, hammered out a deal July 29 to remove anti-armor missiles from the proposed package and replace them with additional anti-bunker missiles, considered less of a threat to Israel.

On Thursday, the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, representing 46 national Jewish groups, issued a statement endorsing the modified package. But some groups questioned the rationale of fighting the original package from the very beginning.

Concern about the wisdom of lobbying against such sales has been heightened by news of the British-Saudi deal, which was confirmed by both parties last month. If the sale goes through, Britain would replace the United States as the largest weapons supplier to the Middle East.

Saudi Arabia also has negotiated a deal to buy sophisticated intermediate-range missiles from the People's Republic of China, and Syria is rumored to be pursuing a similar purchase.

Loss Of Jobs And Contracts

The fact that Arab nations are turning to countries other than the United States for arms means both a loss of U.S. control over what types of weaponry are finding their way into the Middle East and a loss of jobs for American workers.

Senior U.S. officials, such as Assistant Secretary of State Richard Murphy, have said such sales represent a missed opportunity to U.S. defense contractors.

Abraham Foxman, executive director of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, and other Jewish leaders acknowledged that their groups will be re-examining their policies on arms sales in light of the Saudi-British deal.

Foxman said that as a general policy, U.S. Jewish groups should not act as "automatons" who fight every arms sale to Arab nations. He said, for example, that the arms deal with Kuwait concerned him much less than if Jordan or Saudi Arabia were to receive the weaponry.

AIPAC has come under criticism in both the Jewish and mainstream news media for opposing the original arms package to Kuwait and sales to Saudi Arabia that might have prevented it from purchasing sophisticated weaponry from Britain.

Jerusalem-based free-lance journalist Helen Davis, in an article published in six American Jewish weeklies, including the Baltimore Jewish Times and Philadelphia's Jewish Exponent, quoted unnamed sources as saying AIPAC "has unwitting-

ly shot Israel in the foot by indiscriminately opposing United States military sales to moderate Arab states."

In an official response to the Davis column, which is to run in Jewish papers within the week, AIPAC spokeswoman Toby Dershowitz said that of the \$17 billion in arms and military support services sold by the United States to Arab countries over the last five years, AIPAC has actively fought only 15 percent of that amount.

Martin Raffel, director of the Israel Task Force of the National Jewish Community Relations Advisory Council, said the British-Saudi deal "startled" many Jewish leaders, because "for first time, the threat to go elsewhere to buy sophisticated arms was realized."

NJCRC To Re-Evaluate Approach

NJCRC is an umbrella group representing 11 national Jewish organizations and 114 Jewish community relations councils across the United States. Its Israel Task Force coordinates the Jewish community's policy on issues affecting Israel.

Sources close to the Israel Task Force said no consensus was reached at its mid-July meeting about future arms policies, although the community relations councils were informed that NJCRC intends to re-evaluate its overall approach to arms sales and to give the CRCs further guidance.

Foxman of ADL said Jewish groups have a "lot of work to do" against plans by pro-Arab activists to exploit the Saudi-British deal and "tell the story in a very skewed way."

He said that 40 percent of the British sale was in naval vessels, which the United States does not make available for foreign purchase in the first place. He added that many of the other weapons contain U.S. components, contesting claims that the sale would cost the United States 50,000 jobs.

Stephen Silbiger, Washington representative of the American Jewish Congress, placed much more weight on the jobs issue in evaluating whether to oppose arms sales.

'Take On An Administration'

He said his group did not fight the original proposed sale to Kuwait, and argued that "it is a very serious thing to take on an administration and ask American industry to forego certain jobs."

Morris Abram, chairman of the Conference of Presidents, also expressed concern about the Saudi-British arms deal, as well as other packages already sold to Arab countries by France and the Soviet Union.

He said foreign arms suppliers are not "as devoted and strategically allied to Israel" as is the United States, which unlike the others, determines whether Israel's qualitative edge is being damaged.

He warned that "we will face a catastrophe" if Israel's military superiority is not maintained, arguing that the growing U.S. arms flow to Israel since the 1973 Yom Kippur War has "deterred war obviously" for the longest stretch in Israel's history.

But Thomas Neumann, executive director of B'nai B'rith International, dismissed the argument that U.S. weapons sales to Arab countries are necessarily preferable to those made by other countries, because the United States insists that its weapons will not be used against Israel.

**HUNGARIAN JEWRY:
A REPORTER'S NOTEBOOK
(Last In A 5-Part Series)
By Susan Birnbaum**

BUDAPEST, Aug. 4 (JTA) -- The ground-breaking ceremony for the memorial to the 600,000 Hungarian Jews who died in the Holocaust was itself an extraordinary event that was covered by Hungary's 10 daily newspapers.

Some papers omitted coverage, others provided concise stories, including mention of the Hungarian government officials who were present -- including some wearing yarmulkes.

At least one paper referred to the unprecedented presence of World Zionist Congress-Jewish Agency Executive Director Simcha Dinitz, but it wrote about the Israeli official's appearance as though it were a commonplace event.

A signing ceremony took place prior to the ground-breaking ceremony, followed by a buffet lunch. The festivities took place in a seemingly simple auditorium at MIOK, the National Association of Hungarian Jews, but the room in fact had historical significance.

In 1938, following the Anschluss in Austria, Hungary passed the first of its anti-Jewish laws, among which was one forbidding 80 percent of Jewish actors to work.

So Jewish actors found employment in that very room, and the Jewish man who employed them and fed them then was there to tell the story.

Robert Fuzeni was an actor born in Budapest. In 1938, he said, he was acting on the Jewish stage of OMIKE, predecessor of MIOK. Fuzeni renounced the stage after the war and became a policeman, charged with looking for those responsible for persecuting Jewish actors.

The story of those days is being retold on a film by a crew of Hungarian Jews who do not want the story to be forgotten.

Andor Weiss, executive director of the Emanuel Foundation for Hungarian Culture, sees a lesson in the Holocaust memorial itself.

For the first time, government officials of an Eastern bloc country have acknowledged, publicly and in writing, that the Nazis destroyed Jews "because they belonged to the Jewish faith."

"The world will always say, 'It's not true.' But if the Hungarian government signed a document . . . that means the government has acknowledged that these people were killed only because they were Jews, and the people couldn't say it was not true."

Weiss urged that "people give more and more names" of those who perished "and then the Hungarians cannot deny it . . . This generation has to make sure that it will teach the second generation that it was true, that there was a Holocaust. The second generation should go there and pray, symbolically, for those who have no grave."

Dr. Geza Komoroczy, director of the Center for Jewish Studies at the University of Budapest, says the number of Jews estimated to live in Hungary today can be broken down into about three groups: about 100,000 who "keep something"; perhaps 300,000 who know somehow they are Jews but do nothing about it; and perhaps 100,000 more who are completely unaware of their Jewish roots. Komoroczy is not Jewish.

The 130-year-old Dohany Street Synagogue, said by many to be Europe's largest, stands in need of major restoration. The Emanuel Foundation has made a commitment to this project, as well as the renovation of other Hungarian Jewish synagogues.

Hungarians, both Jews and non-Jews, who were present during the ground-breaking ceremonies, seemed genuinely taken by efforts to restore the synagogue.

Peter Biro, international relations director of the Publishing and Promotion Company for Tourism, said, "You know, we have lost 600,000 . . . For someone who is a Jew, it (the synagogue) is very important. But for a Hungarian who is not Jewish, it is also important. This synagogue is the biggest in Europe. It has to be important for everybody to renew it. For me, it is one of the most important Hungarian monuments. It is important not only for Hungarians but for everyone in Europe."

Former U.S. Ambassador to Austria Ronald Lauder has contributed to the Emanuel Foundation for Hungarian Culture in order to help restore the Dohany Synagogue, enlarge the capacity of the Jewish children's camp on Lake Balaton and realize the Holocaust memorial in Budapest. Lauder's mother, cosmetics tycoon Estee Lauder, was born in Satoraljauihely, Hungary, which is also the burial place of Rabbi Moses Teitlebaum, the Yismach Moshe, the first of the line of Sattmar Rebbes.

At the Dohany Street Synagogue, women, wearing slacks and carrying bags are directed to file down two outside aisles reserved just for them. There they sit separately from the men while a Conservative-style service proceeds from the bimah at the front of the synagogue, accompanied by an organ.

About three blocks away, the Kazinczy Street Synagogue continues the traditional Orthodox service from the central bimah, with women looking out over the men while sitting in an airless balcony.

The American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee -- known fondly as "the Joint" in Hungary and the rest of Europe -- provides about 1,000 meals daily to elderly, needy Jews in Hungary who are Holocaust survivors not eligible for German reparations because they live in Eastern Europe, according to Ralph Goldman, JDC honorary executive vice president.

The meals are prepared in the kitchen at MIOK, and old Jews can be seen daily coming from the kitchen carrying sandwiches. About 200 Jewish senior citizens who are unable to leave their homes are fed by a "meals on wheels" program sponsored by the Joint.

Nobel Laureate Elie Wiesel had agreed to be honorary president of the Emanuel Foundation's International Tribute Committee for Hungarian Jewish Holocaust victims. He expressed his sadness at not being able to attend the ceremony itself, due to an appointment in the United States that had been arranged six months earlier.

No persons interviewed by the JTA were chosen or suggested for interviews by government or other officials, and not one word transmitted from Hungary was censored.