

U.S. CRITICAL OF ISRAEL OVER DEPORTATION OF ARABS By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Aug. 24 (JTA) — Israeli Cabinet ministers met Wednesday to discuss the U.S. State Department's tough criticism of Israel's deportation of West Bank and Gaza Strip Palestinian leaders.

They empowered Foreign Minister Shimon Peres to send a detailed Israeli reply to Washington.

U.S. Ambassador to Israel Thomas Pickering discussed the issue Wednesday with Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin and then at greater length with Premier Yitzhak Shamir.

In a statement issued Wednesday in Jerusalem, the Foreign Ministry said the deportations were carried out with full regard for Israeli law and also in accordance with international law.

The statement said the U.S. and Israel had long differed in their interpretations of the law on deportations, and that Israel does not accept the American interpretations.

At the State Department Wednesday, spokeswoman Phyllis Oakley said the department was "shocked" at Israel's decision to expel 25 Palestinians.

"If all the orders are carried out, a total of 60 Palestinians will have been deported in 1988," Oakley said. "That appears to make expulsion the norm rather than the exception."

"As a strong friend of Israel, we are deeply concerned over the widening use of expulsions. The government of Israel is well aware of our views," Oakley added.

Wednesday's meeting between Pickering and Shamir and Rabin followed a meeting Monday at the State Department between Deputy Secretary of State John Whitehead and the acting head of the Israeli Embassy in Washington, Oded Eran.

Eran is filling in for Ambassador Moshe Arad, who is vacationing in Israel.

At the meeting, Whitehead, who is acting secretary of state during George Shultz's vacation, protested Israel's plans to deport additional Palestinians from the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Erosion Of U.S. Support?

The Washington Post quoted sources as saying Whitehead told Eran that if Israel goes ahead with some new expulsions of Palestinians, it cannot expect continued U.S. support on the issue at the United Nations.

On Jan. 5, the United States supported a United Nations Security Council resolution calling on Israel not to go ahead with its Jan. 3 deportation orders to nine Palestinians.

That marked the first U.S. vote against Israel in the Security Council since 1983.

Officials explained at the time that they supported the position because it believed deportations of Palestinians were unnecessarily harsh measures and only served to increase tension in the territories.

Israel was said to be "deeply disappointed" with the U.S. vote, although Rabin said at the time that the decision to deport the Palestinians "is taken and is in the process of being implemented."

Since the uprising began, the United States has abstained on all other Security Council votes related to Israel's deportation policy.

The Foreign Ministry statement also noted that the deportation issue was tested last April by an appeal to the Supreme Court, when a five-justice panel ruled that expulsions were in full accordance with Israeli law and in accordance with Israel's interpretation of international law.

Legal experts here explained that the restrictions on deportations are enshrined in the Hague Regulations of 1907 and the Geneva Conventions following World War II.

The Hague regulations call on the occupying force to preserve order.

The Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949, on the other hand, prohibits individual or mass deportations and forced transfers. The United States is basing its protest on this agreement.

Israel contends that the convention, issued after the last war, was intended to prevent Nazi-style mass deportations and population transfers for the purpose of extermination, enslavement and economic exploitation, and not to preserve order, which is required by the earlier Hague rules.

(Howard Rosenberg in Washington contributed to this report.)

THREE ARAB LABORERS INJURED AS UNDERGROUND CALLS NEW STRIKE By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Aug. 24 (JTA) — Three Arab laborers from the administered territories, who were on their way to work in Israel, were injured by flying glass Wednesday when the bus they were riding was stoned near the village of Shuweika in the Tulkarm region.

The incident occurred on the first day of a two-day strike called by leaders of the uprising to commemorate some 250 Arabs they claim were killed in the "intifada."

The incident proved that while the intifada leadership cannot force the area population to confront soldiers, they can ensure the observance of strikes.

A call Tuesday for the Arabs to throw firebombs at soldiers, in what was described as "Molotov Cocktail Day," was ignored, but Wednesday's call for a general strike in the territories was largely observed.

All stores were closed on the West Bank, Arab transportation was shut down and few Arab workers left for their jobs in Israel.

Military sources said the workers did not stay home willingly, but were pressured to stay away from their jobs.

In several villages around Hebron, activists prevented laborers from boarding buses for Israel, and activists stoned buses carrying workers who boarded them.

In the Gaza Strip, most Arab workers reported to work Wednesday. The commercial strike was only partially observed there.

In Tel Aviv, alert residents called the police bomb disposal squad when they noticed a suspicious package hidden behind cooking gas cylinders in a quiet street in the northern part of the city. The explosive charge was dismantled without causing casualties or damage to property.

NEW POLITICAL PARTY FORMED; STRESSES TRANSFER OF ARABS By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Aug. 24 (JTA) — Res. Major General Rehavam (Gandhi) Zeevi, a confirmed right-wing hawk, launched his new Moledet (Motherland) political party at its inaugural meeting Tuesday night, firmly nailing the motto "transfer" to his masthead as the main plank in the party's political platform.

The meeting was attended by several hundred people, mainly older citizens, who applauded wildly every time Zeevi mentioned the word "transfer."

Zeevi, presently director of Tel Aviv's Land of Israel Museum at Ramat Aviv, insists he plans to remove the Arabs from Israel only by agreement with them, and not by force.

He told the gathering that he dares to say aloud — that the Arabs should be removed from Israel — what many Israelis feel in their hearts.

"He has brought the idea of the transfer of the Arabs out of the closet and presented it to the public view, for their consideration and acceptance," his supporters say.

Meir Kahane's Kach party also openly promotes the idea of the forced transfer of Arabs from Israel to the Arab states. The right-wing Tehiya party also supports the idea, but is less blatant in pressing for it as an open policy.

According to a Modiin Ezrachi public opinion poll published in Maariv Wednesday, there has been a marked political shift to the right since the start of the Palestinian uprising nine months ago.

While 53 percent of the 1,278 people questioned said they had not changed their political position since the unrest began, 32 percent said they had become more hawkish, while 14 percent said they had shifted to the left and were more dovish today than previously.

SIX YOUTHS ARRESTED ON CHARGES OF RAPE By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Aug. 24 (JTA) — Six youths, four of them kibbutz members, have been ordered held in custody pending an investigation into their alleged participation in a gang rape of a 14-and-a-half-year-old kibbutz girl, extending over several days.

Four other youths are still being sought in connection with the incident.

The youngsters, some of them minors, deny the charge and have requested that they be given lie detector tests to prove they did not rape the girl who, they claim, willingly cooperated in sexual relations with them.

The accused told the court that the girl, a member of Kibbutz Shomrat near Nahariya, where several of the youth are also from, had of her own accord gone to the kibbutz's fields seven nights in a row to meet with them.

According to members of Kibbutz Shomrat, who are shocked by the incident which has caused a sensation throughout the country, the girl only told her parents a few days after the alleged incident took place, when they expressed concern at her withdrawn condition.

A diary reportedly kept by the victim, detailing events during the week the incident took place, was used by the police in tracking down the names and identities of the youths.

ISRAELI SECURITY FINDS FATAH CELLS IN TWO VILLAGES AND REFUGEE CAMP By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Aug. 24 (JTA) — Israeli security forces have recently uncovered Fatah cells in the villages of Silat e-Dhahr and Attara, in the Jenin region, and in the Jalazoun refugee camp, the Israel Defense Force spokesman announced Tuesday night.

The Jenin-region squad consisted of six members who are suspected of having carried out the following attacks:

- * Throwing a petrol bomb at an Egged bus near the settlement of Homesh, on Feb. 25, 1988.

- * Throwing a petrol bomb at the home of a local resident from Silat e-Dhahr, on March 2, 1988.

- * Throwing a petrol bomb at an Egged bus near the settlement of Homesh on March 8, 1988.

- * Throwing a makeshift explosive device at an Egged bus near the settlement of Homesh, on June 25, 1988.

Members of the squad turned over a makeshift explosive device that was ready for use, and chemical materials that were to be used in an explosive device.

The Jalazoun terrorists were part of the "shock forces" which act as the operative arms of the popular committees, the IDF statement said.

The detainees are accused of organizing to carry out violent investigations of local residents whom they had suspected of cooperating with Israel.

During one such an investigation, a local resident was struck repeatedly and killed.

On Tuesday night, the IDF destroyed the homes of three of those suspected of having participated in terrorist activities in the Jalazoun refugee camp.

MAYOR OF OR YEHUDA PAYS CONDOLENCE CALL IN KHAN YUNIS By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Aug. 24 (JTA) — Mayor Yitzhak Bokovsa of Or Yehuda paid a condolence visit Wednesday in Khan Yunis in the Gaza Strip, to the family of one of the Arabs burned to death in the arson committed in Or Yehuda earlier this month.

Three Arab laborers died of wounds suffered when a fire was set to the hut they were staying at in Or Yehuda, near Tel Aviv.

Police remanded two Jewish residents of the town as suspects, but suggested that the motive for the murder was criminal, as the Jews wanted revenge from the local building contractor for not hiring them.

The mayor met Wednesday with the family of Kafa Khalil Abdullah, one of the three victims.

"We came as human beings," Bokovsa told reporters. "We have educated our children not to hurt any human being, Arabs included." He noted that hundreds of Arabs are working in Or Yehuda and that no one was hurting them.

In Haifa, Arab notables met with Mayor Arye Gurel and condemned the grenade attack Saturday night, in which a family of seven was hurt.

Although it was not yet clear whether the motive for the attack was criminal or terrorist, the Arabs expressed the hope that the attack would not damage the good Arab-Jewish relations in the city.

ROBERTSON WON'T CONDEMN ANTI-SEMITISM UNTIL JEWISH LEADERS CONDEMN FILM

By Andrew Silow Carroll

NEW YORK, Aug. 24 (JTA) -- Ducking a Jewish leader's request to condemn anti-Semitism in the form of protests of "The Last Temptation of Christ," television evangelist Pat Robertson has in turn asked the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith to condemn MCA, the corporation that released the film, because the chairman is Jewish.

ADL director Abraham Foxman, who initiated the correspondence, said Wednesday that he was "astonished" at Robertson's response, and that a request to repudiate anti-Semitism did not demand a "quid pro quo."

Earlier this month, Foxman wrote Robertson asking that the former Republican presidential candidate "condemn and counsel" those Protestant leaders, including the Rev. Jerry Falwell, who were injecting anti-Semitism into their protests over the film's controversial portrayal of Christ.

The protests targeted Lew Wasserman, chairman of the MCA conglomerate, whose Universal Pictures subsidiary was releasing "Temptation."

Although the film's director, Martin Scorsese, and other principals in the project are not Jewish, the protesters warned of an anti-Semitic backlash because Wasserman is a Jew.

"The irony is that 2,000 years ago, the Romans crucified Christ and the Jews got blamed. Now another Roman (Scorsese) crucifies Christ again, on film, and again the Jews get blamed," Foxman said.

Some Christian groups, including the National Conference of Catholic Bishops and the National Association of Evangelicals, were quick to repudiate the anti-Semitic nature of the protests. Falwell backed off on his statement before the film was released and denounced the film's critics.

Foxman said he turned to Robertson for a statement because, after Falwell, Robertson is "the other great leader of the fundamentalist, evangelical Christian movement."

First-Name Basis

He and Robertson have consulted frequently in the past, said Foxman, and refer to each other in the letters as "Abe" and "Pat."

Calls to the offices of the Christian Broadcasting Network, of which Robertson is chairman of the board, were not returned.

In his response to Foxman's first letter, Robertson suggests that he will "raise my voice" against anti-Semitism only after Foxman uses his "influence with Lew Wasserman and others at MCA to eliminate this affront to Christianity."

After Foxman wrote back saying he was seriously disappointed with Robertson's reply, Robertson made his request more explicit.

If the ADL "comes out against this blasphemous movie and in the process condemns MCA," wrote Robertson, "you will have said to all Americans that you are not a part of this movie and that it does not have the endorsement of the Jewish leadership in America."

"I will then be delighted to feature your statement on my television network and to give it as much press as I possibly can in the media."

"Then instead of you coming off shrilly blaming the Christians for a problem caused by MCA, you will be coming off as you are -- a champion of all people against all forms of big-

otry and intolerance."

In a third letter to which he has yet to receive a reply, Foxman wrote that he was "flabbergasted" at Robertson's accusations that ADL was "blasting Christians."

"The Jewish leadership" is not the film industry -- why should anyone believe otherwise?" asked Foxman. "Why should Jews be put on the defensive because age-old false stereotypes unfortunately still exist in some quarters?"

"We will not be blamed for the crucifixion a second time."

SANCTIONS AGAINST SYRIA TO STAND DESPITE IMPROVED TERROR RECORD

By Howard Rosenberg

WASHINGTON, Aug. 24 (JTA) -- The Reagan administration will not remove current sanctions against Syria as long as terrorist groups, most notably Abu Nidal's militant Palestinian organization, are allowed to operate from Lebanon's Bekaa Valley, State Department officials said this week.

Most recently, Abu Nidal claimed responsibility for Saturday's grenade attack in Haifa that wounded 25 people.

The possibility of repealing the sanctions was raised after the department's 1987 terrorism report, released Monday, linked Syria to just one major terrorism incident in 1987, as compared to three in 1986.

A department source said, however, that "there are no plans" to remove them, although some "could be lifted at some point."

On Tuesday, State Department spokeswoman Phyllis Oakley praised the "reduction in direct Syrian involvement in terrorism" in 1987.

But Oakley said the reduction would not lead to Syria's removal from the department's list of state sponsors of terrorism.

Syria has been on the list since it was first drawn up in 1979. Listed countries cannot receive U.S. foreign aid or goods and technology that would improve their military or terrorist support capabilities.

As long as there are "terrorist groups training in Syrian-controlled areas," Oakley said, "Syria remains on the list."

Yosef Gal, spokesman for the Israeli Embassy here, refused to praise Syria for any recent improvement in its stance on terrorism.

"We have not seen anything to indicate that Syria has changed its policy on support for terrorism," he said.

Sanctions against Syria were imposed in 1986 after a British court implicated Syria in the attempted bombing of an El Al Airlines plane in London, which had more than 230 U.S. citizens aboard.

The sanctions include barring Syria from participating in Export-Import Bank loans or programs and from receiving subsidized wheat from the Department of Agriculture.

They also bar Syrian Arab Airlines from selling airline tickets in the United States.

The sanctions have a "symbolic significance," the source said. He said that the United States is not a main trading partner of Syria, so that the volume of trade "would not rise much" if they were removed.

In a related development, while Syria has not had an ambassador to the United States since 1986, a new U.S. ambassador to Syria, Edward Djerejian, was sworn in Wednesday afternoon, replacing William Eagleton Jr.

HEBREW UNIVERSITY ON THE ROAD TO RECOVERY, SAYS SCHOOL'S HEAD By Yitzhak Rabi

NEW YORK, Aug. 24 (JTA) — After a long struggle to overcome a deep financial crisis, the Hebrew University of Jerusalem is on the path to recovery.

"We are now in the midst of a process taking us out of the crisis," said Professor Amnon Pazy, the president of the university, in an interview with the Jewish Telegraphic Agency. "We are beginning to see the light at the end of the tunnel, and at the same time we are also growing and developing new faculties and new fields of research."

The financial crisis at Israel's oldest and most prestigious university is a symptom of the general financial crises at all of Israel's higher education institutions, a fiscal problem that mirrors the volatile Israeli economy.

The 52-year-old Pazy, a professor of mathematics who was elected president of the university last year, explained that all of Israel's universities are having difficulties balancing their budgets.

According to Pazy, Hebrew University has accumulated deficits of tens of millions of dollars in recent years. "The worse crisis was in 1985, with a \$30 million deficit," Pazy disclosed.

Last year, he said, the university managed to finish the year with only a \$17 million deficit, and the same deficit is projected for this year.

The 63-year-old university has a yearly budget of \$150 million, 50 percent of which is provided by the government. Only 10 percent of the budget, or \$15 million, comes from tuition. There are approximately 18,000 students who attend the university.

The rest of the budget is derived from money raised by friends of the university around the world, and from investments and other sources.

According to Pazy, the university's economic woes have multiple sources. To begin with, the Israeli government has drastically reduced its financial support of all universities, from paying 80 percent of its budget to only 50 percent.

Government Regulations

At the same time, Pazy pointed out, the universities were not allowed to raise tuition, which is also regulated by the government.

A student's yearly tuition in an Israeli university is a mere \$1,400, which hardly covers the real cost, especially in the science and medicine faculties where laboratories and state-of-the-art equipment are a must.

"In order to balance our budget, we were forced to borrow money from the banks. And in Israel, as you probably know, the interest rate is very high, about 15 percent per year," Pazy said, noting that last year alone, Hebrew University paid about \$10 million in interest on its debts.

In February, the university embarked on a five-year "recovery plan," which calls for reducing the academic staff by 15 percent and the administrative staff by 20 percent.

The plan also calls for raising about \$100 million in the next five years from friends of the university in the United States and elsewhere.

"This plan," Pazy said, "provides only the minimal means for the operation of the university. The preservation of our high standards and excellence under these less than optimal conditions is

a most delicate and difficult task which will have to be carried out in the coming years."

Pazy said that while the university's academic standing in the world is still high, its financial difficulties, if not successfully resolved, can cause a great deal of damage in the long run.

He warned that if a university cannot absorb a new generation of scientists and researchers in all fields; if it cannot afford the best in equipment; and if its libraries' shelves avoid the latest books and publication because of lack of funds, then the damage "may be for generations to come."

At present, however, Hebrew University can be ranked with the best universities in the world. In the fields of mathematics, Jewish studies, Islamic studies, economics and medicine, Pazy said, "Hebrew U. is at the top."

Pazy said the university considers itself a "university for the Jewish people," including students from overseas. As such, the university has been developing its Rothberg School for Overseas Students, which was founded 18 years ago.

The overseas students come from over 50 different countries, Pazy said, including Japan, Korea, Hungary, Poland and China. Most, but not all, of the students are Jewish.

The school's Hebrew ulpan, offered twice yearly, is the largest ulpan of its type in the world. "It attracts students from literally all four corners of the globe, and from all of the world's great religions," the president of Hebrew University said proudly.

EC COMMISSIONER WARNS ISRAEL ON BLOCKING PALESTINIAN TRADE By Yossi Lempkowicz

BRUSSELS, Aug. 24 (JTA) — An Israeli threat to block some Palestinian agriculture exports to the European Community would be a "serious incident," the European commissioner in charge of Mediterranean policy, Claude Cheysson, warned here Wednesday.

Cheysson reacted to a statement made earlier this week by the Israeli Agriculture Minister, Arieh Nahamkin, who advised that Israel would prevent the export of agricultural products to the EC and Jordan from Palestinians who are collaborating with elements hostile to Israel.

"If the Israeli government would hinder a Palestinian export contract drawn up in due form with the European Community, it would be a serious incident," Cheysson said.

He added, however, that Nahamkin's declarations don't worry him as they are perhaps linked to the electoral climate in Israel.

Israel agreed earlier this year to let the Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza export their farm produce directly to the EC market without any interference by Israel's marketing government companies.

Last month, for the first time, Palestinian farmers from the Gaza Strip concluded contracts directly with European importers. The Gaza agricultural products, mainly citrus fruits, are to be shipped to Europe in October.

According to EC sources in Brussels, any attempt by Israel to block Palestinian exports to the EC would be considered a serious blow to EC-Israel relations, in view of the fact that the European Parliament in Strasbourg has yet to give its blessing to three EC-Israel trade and financial protocols.