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REPORTS THAT EGYPT WILL WIN TABA DISPUTE TRIGGER SQUABBLE

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Sept. 27 (JTA) -- Reports that an international panel of arbitrators will favor Egypt's claim to Taba triggered angry recriminations here Tuesday between Labor Party and Likud politicians.

The panel will formally announce its binding ruling Thursday. But the unofficial word from reliable sources is that the arbitrators have decided to favor Egypt's claim to ownership of the one-mile-square strip of beach near the Israeli resort city of Eilat.

The reports have created a political firestorm here. Likud officials accused Labor members of the government of knuckling under to Egyptian terms in the arbitration process. Laborites blamed Likud intransigence for failure to achieve a compromise with Egypt that would have obviated the need for arbitration.

Israeli and Egyptian officials will fly to Geneva on Thursday to hear the formal verdict. Foreign Minister Shimon Peres of Israel and his Egyptian counterpart, Esmat Abdel Meguid, are meeting in New York to work out procedures for implementing the decision.

Will Abide By Ruling

Reports from New York on Monday said the two countries have reaffirmed their solemn commitment to abide by the arbitration ruling.

It will cover not only Taba, but 14 other disputed locations along the Israeli-Egyptian border. Some are only a few square yards in size but one is larger than Taba. There have been no indications how the panel ruled in those disputes.

The Taba issue dominated the dispute during more than a year of arbitration hearings, held in Geneva.

Although it is a tiny area -- it can be walked across in five minutes -- and, both countries concede, has no strategic value, it has become an emotional symbol.

Moshe Arens, a Likud minister without portfolio and Likud's election campaign manager, charged Tuesday that the Laborites in the Inner Cabinet forced the government to agree to Egyptian terms.

He was referring to the wording of the crucial questions put to the arbitration panel in Geneva, which, Arens said, guided their verdict.

The panel consisted of five prominent international lawyers, three from neutral countries and one each from Israel and Egypt.

Another Likud official, Labor and Social Affairs Minister Moshe Katsav, claimed that the Labor Party threatened to break up the national unity government unless Israel gave in to the Egyptian position on this key matter.

Laborites retorted sharply. Energy Minister Moshe Shahal said Premier Yitzhak Shamir and other Likud ministers repeatedly spurned compromise proposals that would have allowed Israel to retain control over a luxury hotel and holiday village it built in Taba.

A Likud official headed an unsuccessful mission to Cairo last month aimed at reaching a compromise.

THREE DEAD AND DOZENS WOUNDED IN HEAVY PALESTINIAN VIOLENCE

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Sept. 27 (JTA) -- Three Palestinians were killed and more than a score wounded in confrontations with Israeli security forces in the West Bank, Gaza Strip and Jerusalem over the Sukkot holiday.

The rioting was acknowledged to be among the worst since the Palestinian uprising began last Dec. 9.

A resident of the Nur es-Shams refugee camp, near Tulkarm, died of wounds inflicted in an encounter with the Israel Defense Force four months ago.

The Palestinian youth shot to death in Jerusalem was the first such Arab fatality in the capital since the beginning of the unrest. Until now, the police here have managed to subdue rioters without killing anyone.

Another youth was fatally shot by IDF troops in Beit Surik village, near Ramallah. The troops had entered the village to make arrests.

A third Palestinian died in a clash with the IDF in Gaza.

The worst of the violence broke out in the West Bank towns of Nablus, Tulkarm and Jenin, and their neighboring villages and refugee camps.

Plastic Bullets A Factor

Security sources placed the number of wounded at 30. But local hospitals reported treating more than 50 wound victims.

The large number of injuries was attributed to the IDF's switch from rubber to plastic bullets as a non-fatal weapon in riot control. The plastic bullets cause much more serious injuries than the rubber variety.

Under recently issued orders, they have been used freely by soldiers to disperse demonstrators. The use of live ammunition remains restricted to officers. Soldiers can use live bullets only on orders of a superior officer or if their lives are in immediate danger.

Those restrictions do not apply to plastic or rubber bullets.

Palestinian rioters were not the only ones who kept the IDF busy over the weekend. Two groups of Jewish extremists attempted to set up illegal settlements near Jericho and Ramallah in the West Bank on Sunday and Monday.

Both times they were removed physically by IDF troops. One group staged a sit-in protest near the Prime Minister's Office.

The army on Tuesday closed off two areas claimed as settlement sites. One is at Yakir, near the highway crossing the Samaria region, and the other at Ofarim, northwest of Ramallah.

In another development, the military court of the IDF southern command issued orders Sunday to hold in custody four soldiers accused of beating an Arab to death last month at the Jabalya refugee camp. The order applies "until the end of legal proceedings."

Meanwhile, a magistrates court in Acre released five Israeli Arabs on bail Tuesday. They are suspected of illegal fund raising for the Palestinian uprising and "nationalist incitement" during a wedding party.

REAGAN MEETS WITH PERES, EGYPTIAN AND DEPLORES ANTI-ZIONIST RESOLUTION By Eugene Silow Carroll

NEW YORK, Sept. 27 (JTA) -- President Reagan met with the foreign ministers of Israel and Egypt on Monday during the first joint high-level meeting of the three countries since the beginning of his administration.

The largely symbolic meeting, planned as a commemoration of the 10th anniversary of the signing of the Camp David accords, came soon after Reagan gave his last address as president before the United Nations General Assembly.

Reagan and Secretary of State George Shultz met with Israel's Shimon Peres and Egypt's Hosni Mubarak for 45 minutes at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel in New York.

Reporters were briefed after the meeting on the leaders' remarks by Israel's ambassador to the United States, Moshe Arad. He reported no diplomatic breakthroughs.

Reagan said he was proud of the 10-year-old peace between Egypt and Israel. He and Shultz said the United States would continue to seek to broaden the peace process in the Middle East, based on U.N. Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, which call for the return of Arab lands and recognition of Israel.

Peres welcomed the Americans' role in standing by the Camp David accords, and praised Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak for "staying faithful to the process."

Mubarak said his country looked forward to an end to violence throughout the Middle East.

Partition Plan Revival

In response to a question by Reagan about the intentions of the Palestine Liberation Organization, Mubarak said he sensed a feeling of realism during recent meetings with PLO leader Yasir Arafat.

Arafat has said he is ready to recognize Israel's right to exist, but faces pressure from other factions within the PLO, Mubarak said.

He also said Arafat is willing to consider the 1947 U.N. Partition Plan, calling for separate Jewish and Palestinian states, as a "birth certificate" of a Palestinian state and not as a blueprint for redrawing Israel's borders. The plan was rejected at the time by Arab leaders and has little appeal to Israelis today.

Peres said Israel is not prepared to accept a Palestinian state as a basis for negotiations, and that few are prepared to take Arafat's professed desire for peace seriously, based on the PLO's terrorist tactics.

"The problem is not the sweetness of his words, but the bitterness of the violence," he said.

The leaders attended a reception Monday evening at the Waldorf-Astoria in honor of U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar.

Introduced To Jordanian

According to Ambassador Arad, Shultz introduced Peres to Jordanian Foreign Minister Taher al-Masri, who was at the reception. Peres also spoke briefly with Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze, Arad said.

The Israeli foreign minister is scheduled to meet formally with Shevardnadze on Thursday.

Peres also planned to meet Tuesday with the foreign ministers of Czechoslovakia and Yugoslavia. A meeting with Japan's foreign minister

was canceled.

In his address to the General Assembly, Reagan called on the United Nations to press human rights issues in the Soviet Union, among other countries.

He said the United Nations should be "relentless and unyielding" in seeking compliance to the 40-year-old Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

To that end, he said, "we must also see to it that the Universal Declaration itself should not be debased with episodes like the 'Zionism is racism' resolution," adopted by the United Nations in 1975.

The president also said refuseniks he met with in Moscow told him that human rights groups "make a difference."

MUBARAK TAKING DIPLOMATIC TOUR OF WESTERN EUROPEAN CAPITALS

By Maurice Samuelson

LONDON, Sept. 27 (JTA) -- President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt is on a dual purpose mission to Western European capitals.

He is trying to re-establish Egypt as an influential factor in Middle East and inter-Arab politics, after years of diplomatic isolation from the Arab world because of Egypt's peace treaty with Israel.

Mubarak also wants international relief for his country's foreign debt, estimated to be between \$40 billion and \$45 billion. He is seeking the support of Western leaders for his request to the International Monetary Fund for new standby credits.

Mubarak met with Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher here Monday and on Tuesday with French President Francois Mitterrand in Paris. He was to leave for Bonn on Wednesday for talks with West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl.

The official statement that followed Mubarak's hour-long meeting with Thatcher indicated they had reached "broad agreement on the way ahead in the Arab-Israeli conflict."

The two leaders are believed to have differed, however, on the ability of the Palestine Liberation Organization to fill the political vacuum left by King Hussein of Jordan, who this summer relinquished responsibility for the Palestinians in the West Bank.

Meets With Hussein

Before meeting Thatcher, Mubarak spent the weekend with Hussein, who has an estate in southern England. In Cairo last week, Mubarak had cordial talks with PLO leader Yasir Arafat.

In view of the upcoming elections in Israel and the United States this November, Mubarak reportedly cautioned Arafat not to declare his government in exile too soon.

But Egyptian efforts to rehabilitate themselves in the Arab world would be advanced if the PLO set up its provisional government in Cairo. It was the traditional capital of Pan-Arabism until the Arab League transferred its headquarters to Tunis to punish Egypt for its pact with Israel.

In Paris, Mubarak and Mitterrand expressed their mutual hope for a peaceful settlement of the Middle East conflict.

Both leaders back an international conference as the best way to reach a lasting peace agreement.

(JTA Paris Bureau Chief Edwin Eytan contributed to this report.)

AUTHOR PAUL COWAN DEAD AT 48; CHRONICLED RETURN TO JUDAISM

By Susan Birnbaum

NEW YORK, Sept. 27 (JTA) -- Paul Cowan, a journalist from an assimilated family who chronicled his own return to his Jewish roots, died Monday of complications of leukemia at New York University Hospital. He was 48 years old.

Until his illness, Cowan and his wife, Rachel, were regular worshippers at Ansche Chesed synagogue on Manhattan's Upper West Side, where they were prime movers in revitalizing the once waning congregation with an infusion of energetic, young, politically involved people.

The couple helped begin the Havurah School, where their children, Lisa and Matt, and other neighborhood children could learn about Judaism from the ground up. The school, started in an apartment, now flourishes at Ansche Chesed.

Paul Cowan was the son of the late Louis Cowan, a former president of CBS News and producer of such legendary television programs as "The \$64,000 Question" and "The Quiz Kids."

His mother, Pauline Spiegel Cowan, was of the family that initiated and owned the Spiegel catalogue. His uncle, Mody Spiegel, was a proud convert to Christian Science.

Choate And Christmas Trees

Cowan's parents raised their children in an assimilated ambience, in which Christmas trees were a perennial ritual. They sent Cowan to Choate, an Episcopal school attended by members of American Gentile society, where attendance at daily chapel services was mandatory.

Cowan graduated from Harvard University in 1963. Soon afterward, he spent two years in the Peace Corps in Ecuador. He wrote a book on that experience, "The Making of an UnAmerican."

Following his parents' death in a fire at New York's Westbury Hotel in 1976, Cowan began learning more about his Jewish background, including the fact that the family's last name had been Cohen and that his great-great-grandfather was a rabbi in Lithuania.

His quest for his Jewish roots produced a book, "An Orphan in History," which became a classic of the Jewish returnee's experience.

In the book, he mused on his double identity as Saul Cohen, descendant of a rabbi, and Paul Cowan, New York journalist. He wrote how he liked both identities.

Rachel Cowan, formerly a Unitarian, converted to Judaism after 15 years of marriage. The couple became gradually more observant together, eventually keeping the Sabbath to the letter.

The former Rachel Brown, whose family traced itself to Pilgrims who came to America on the Mayflower, is now completing rabbinical studies at the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion. She also studied Judaism at the Jewish Theological Seminary of America.

A Book On Inter marriage

The Cowans published a book together last year on intermarriage, titled "Mixed Blessings," which won a 1988 National Jewish Book Award. They were active in organizations of intermarried couples, as well as far-flung groups of rural New England Jews.

Cowan began to feel extreme fatigue a little over a year ago and was diagnosed with leukemia and hospitalized at New York University Medical Center for treatment. He wrote a journal of his

illness for The Village Voice, the New York weekly for which he was a staff writer for more than 20 years.

His absence at last year's Simchat Torah services at Ansche Chesed was clearly notable, following the many years he had been an energetic participant.

Two years ago, amidst joyous throngs celebrating in the closed-off block of 100th St. and West End Ave., Cowan yelled triumphantly to a friend as he danced around the Torah, "Five years ago, who would have believed this could be true?"

Cowan received a self-transplant of bone marrow this summer at Dartmouth University Hospital. However, he suffered a relapse from which he did not recover.

Funeral services were to be held Wednesday at 9 a.m. at Ansche Chesed.

LE PEN SUFFERS STUNNING DEFEAT IN FRENCH REGIONAL ELECTIONS

By Edwin Eytan

PARIS, Sept. 27 (JTA) -- Jean-Marie Le Pen's far right-wing National Front suffered a stunning defeat in the regional elections Sunday.

It scored a bare 5.26 percent of the vote compared to the nearly 15 percent it won in France's presidential elections last April.

Even in Marseilles, the party's stronghold, the National Front emerged with 18.19 percent, down more than 10 percent from its April showing.

The dismal results greatly reduced any chances the center-right and Gaullist parties would enter into some sort of electoral alliance with Le Pen's faction.

That possibility was raised after the presidential balloting, at least in some of the larger cities where Le Pen scored heavily last spring.

Out of 2,042 seats at stake Sunday for district councils, the National Front scored only one victory, with over 1,500 candidates in the running.

French voters will cast ballots again next Sunday, in a second-round run-off between the two top candidates. The far right is out of the race because none of its candidates came anywhere near the top.

The regional elections are regarded as a dress rehearsal for the far more important municipal elections next spring. Jewish observers feared that if Le Pen's party won more than 10 percent of the popular vote last Sunday, it would have become a serious force in French politics.

Although he denies charges of anti-Semitism, Le Pen has publicly denigrated the Holocaust.

ISRAELI JETS BOMB BASES IN LEBANON

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Sept. 27 (JTA) -- Israeli air force jets attacked targets in southern Lebanon on Tuesday and returned safely to their bases.

The targets were reported to have been terrorist bases west of Alawezeh village. They were used as planning and staging areas for raids against Israel Defense Force and South Lebanon Army positions in the southern Lebanon security zone, a military spokesman said.

The air raid was the second over Lebanon since last Friday and the 15th this year. On Friday, Israeli jets destroyed terrorist headquarters near the port city of Sidon.

**5748 IN REVIEW:
ANTI-SEMITISM IN EUROPE AND U.S.,
BUT PROGRESS ON JEWISH EMIGRATION
[Part 2 Of A Series]
JTA Staff Report**

EDITOR'S NOTE: Last month, JTA's New York and Washington staffs compiled an extensive round-up of key news stories that broke during the Jewish year 5748. The 40-page compendium was published in JTA's Features package, which is distributed to Jewish weekly newspapers.

Following is the second part of a condensed version of that compendium. For a copy of JTA's entire "5748 in Review," send your name, your address and \$10 to: Year in Review, JTA, 330 Seventh Ave., 11th floor, New York, N.Y. 10001.

For the Diaspora, 5748 was a year marked by resurgent anti-Semitism in Europe and the United States, successful prosecution of some notorious Nazi war criminals and meaningful progress on Jewish emigration from the USSR.

While the rate of Soviet Jewish emigration remained significantly below the 1979 peak levels, the dramatic monthly increases seen the preceding year continued.

Even more encouraging than the numbers was the large number of prominent long-term refuseniks permitted to emigrate: Ida Nudel, Vladimir and Maria Slepak, Alexander Lerner, Yosef Begun, cancer patient Benjamin Charny and Alexei Magarik, the last prisoner of Zion.

Those who remained in the USSR received support from Soviet Jewry activists in the United States -- especially on Dec. 6, when 200,000 people gathered in Washington in an unprecedented show of solidarity on the eve of Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev's arrival.

Reagan Meets With Refuseniks

The cause of Soviet Jewry also received global attention when President Reagan reciprocated Gorbachev's visit with one to Moscow, where he met with refuseniks.

But while congressional vigils and individual appeals for Soviet Jews continued in the United States, at least one major rally was canceled. For the first time since its inception 16 years before, New York's massive Solidarity Sunday March for Soviet Jewry was called off. Smaller rallies took place in Washington and Helsinki, Finland.

The transit of those allowed to leave the Soviet Union also became a major issue in 5748. Israel, deeply concerned by the high "dropout" rate, announced a new policy in June that would require all those emigrating on Israeli visas to fly directly to Israel.

The U.S. Embassy in Moscow, meanwhile, temporarily suspended its refugee program, under which Soviet Jews and Armenians are granted visas to settle in the United States.

Jews choosing to remain in the Soviet Union received new hope that conditions would improve, with promises of a Jewish cultural center and kosher restaurant in Moscow.

The arrival in Moscow of an Israeli consular delegation in July hinted that in 5749, there would be a continuation of improvements -- not only in Soviet Jewish life but in Soviet-Israeli relations as well.

A number of other Eastern European countries extended olive branches to Israel during the year. Hungary re-established low-level diplomatic

ties in March and then welcomed Israeli officials in May, July and September. Poland extended a gracious welcome in April to top Israelis and thousands of Jews around the world for the 45th anniversary of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising.

Pope Again Angers Jews

Diplomatic progress notwithstanding, there were a number of unsettling developments in Europe. Pope John Paul II infuriated Jews by meeting again with Austrian President Kurt Waldheim and neglecting to mention the extermination of Jews during a visit to Mauthausen.

As Austria marked the 50th anniversary of the Anschluss in March, an international panel of historians ruled that Waldheim must have known about war crimes during the Holocaust, but was not personally involved in either perpetrating or stopping the atrocities.

While East Germany cracked down on the neo-Nazi "Skinheads," anti-Semitism and anti-Zionism cropped up all over Europe.

Perhaps hardest hit was Italy, where a Jewish-owned bookstore was firebombed and Rome's chief rabbi was inundated with hate mail and death threats, fueled by an anti-Israel press. In April, grapefruit imported from Israel were sabotaged and tainted with a harmless, but intimidating, blue dye.

In France, right-wing extremist Jean-Marie Le Pen made a shockingly strong showing in the first round of the presidential elections, but was later defeated in a run for Parliament.

In West Germany, Holocaust survivors were betrayed by their own landmen, when it was revealed in May that the late chairman of the Jewish community and cohorts had embezzled at least \$18 million in reparations funds.

Anti-Semitism was not limited to Europe. In South Africa, men dressed like Adolf Hitler's storm troopers desecrated a synagogue on the Nazi leader's 99th birthday and the eve of Israel Independence Day.

In the United States, Jewish businesses in Chicago were vandalized on the 49th anniversary of Kristallnacht. The Vietnam War Memorial in Washington was defaced with a swastika in May.

Anti-Semitism In Chicago

But perhaps the most vivid memories of anti-Jewish sentiment in 5748 were the outbreak of black anti-Semitism in Chicago last spring and the targeting of Jews in connection with a controversial movie about the life of Jesus.

The year also saw a number of victories in the battle against hate and the drive to bring Nazi war criminals to justice. The most monumental was the April conviction in Israel of John Demjanjuk, the notorious Treblinka death camp guard known as "Ivan the Terrible." His death sentence is now being appealed.

Klaus Barbie's appeal of his jail sentence was rejected by a French court in June. And Andrija Artukovic gasped his last breath in a prison hospital in Yugoslavia.

In Canada, revisionist Ernst Zundel was convicted, the country's first Nazi war crimes trial began and new anti-hate legislation was upheld by a key appeals court. But in the United States, 14 neo-Nazis were acquitted in a long-running trial in Fort Smith, Ark.

Finally, war crimes prosecutions were given a tremendous boost when the United Nations at last opened its war crimes archives to the public.

(Next: Religion And Politics)