

STATE DEPT. REPORT CHARGES ISRAEL WITH INCREASED RIGHTS VIOLATIONS

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, Feb. 7 (JTA) -- In the harshest criticism of Israel's handling of the Palestinian uprising since it began in December 1987, the State Department has charged Israel with "a substantial increase in human rights violations" during 1988.

In its annual report, "Country Reports on Human Rights Practices," to be released officially Wednesday, the State Department also shows understanding for the difficulties the intifada has presented Israel.

"The Israeli government has regarded the uprising as a new phase of the 40-year war against Israel and as a threat to the security of the state," the report said.

"The Israeli Defense Forces, caught by surprise and untrained and inexperienced in riot control, responded in a manner which led to a substantial increase in human rights violations."

This has resulted in an "excessive use of force to try to maintain law and order in the occupied territories," Paul Hare, acting assistant secretary of state for Near Eastern and South Asian affairs, said Tuesday.

His remarks were made in testimony to the House Appropriations subcommittee on foreign operations, which has jurisdiction over foreign aid.

The subcommittee was holding a hearing to determine whether foreign aid should be reduced to countries in the Middle East because of human rights violations. The human rights report is submitted to Congress to aid in legislation.

But Rep. David Obey (D-Wis.), the subcommittee's chairman, appeared to reject any reductions in the \$3 billion in economic and military aid to Israel because of human rights violations.

Obey added that the fact that a country is a large recipient of U.S. aid "does not diminish" the U.S. obligation to press for reforms.

The Lawyers Committee for Human Rights and the Helsinki Watch, two U.S.-based human rights monitoring groups which testified before the subcommittee, also rejected any cuts in the \$3 billion in economic and military aid Israel receives from the United States.

They argued that the United States should place additional private and public pressure on Israel to resolve their differences.

Amnesty International told the subcommittee it does not address aid issues.

The human rights report also emphasized rights abuses in Iraq, Egypt, Iran and Kuwait.

The report called Iraq's human rights record "abysmal," due mainly to its use of poison gas against Kurds.

It praised Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak for extending political liberties, but also cited "credible reports" that police and security officials practice torture with impunity.

As in past years, the human rights report contrasts the situation in Israel proper, which it calls an open and democratic society, with the situation in the territories, which is under military rule.

Also, as in past years, the 22 pages devoted

to Israel are the most of the 169 countries dealt with in the 1,559-page report.

"This report differs from many others in this compilation because of the greater detail available on the situation in the occupied territories by virtue of Israel's open and democratic society," the section on Israel explains.

Compiling figures from various sources, the report finds that 366 Palestinians were killed, mostly by the Israeli army, but some by Jewish settlers.

Another 13 Palestinians were killed by Palestinians for collaborating with Israel. Eleven Israelis were also killed.

In addition, more than 20,000 Palestinians and 1,100 Israelis were injured, according to the report.

In Israel, initial reactions to the report were critical. Judge Advocate-General Amnon Strashnov, the IDF's chief lawyer, complained on Israel television that the State Department did not account for the security threats facing Israeli soldiers in the territories.

In New York, Theodore Ellenoff, president of the American Jewish Committee, said the report "should be taken very seriously," but "placed within the context of the security challenges Israel now faces."

(JTA correspondents Howard Rosenberg in Washington and Gil Sedan in Jerusalem contributed to this report.)

U.S. RESERVES JUDGMENT OF PLO OVER INFILTRATION ATTEMPT

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, Feb. 7 (JTA) -- The State Department said Tuesday that the attempt by armed Palestinians to infiltrate Israel on Sunday would have a "negative impact" on the U.S. dialogue with the Palestine Liberation Organization.

But Charles Redman, the department spokesman, refused to say whether the United States considered this a violation of the PLO promise not to engage in acts of terrorism.

Israel formally asked the United States on Monday to end its dialogue with the PLO on the grounds that the attempted infiltration from south Lebanon was proof that the PLO had not renounced terrorism, one of the conditions for talks with the United States.

The request was made by Oded Eran, deputy chief of mission at the Israeli Embassy here, to Ned Walker, deputy assistant secretary of state for Near Eastern and South Asian affairs.

In a speech to the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations in Jerusalem on Monday, Foreign Minister Moshe Arens said the United States should break off talks with the PLO because it had broken its anti-terrorism pledge.

Redman said the United States takes the incident "very seriously" and has instructed Robert Pelletreau, the U.S. ambassador in Tunisia, to take up the case with the PLO officials. Pelletreau is the only U.S. diplomat authorized to meet with the PLO.

The incident Sunday occurred in the Israeli security zone in south Lebanon, five miles from

the Israeli border. Israeli troops killed five of the nine terrorists who were carrying automatic rifles, rocket-propelled grenade launchers, hand grenades and a pair of wire cutters.

The Israeli army said three of the dead men belonged to George Habash's Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, while the other two were members of the Syrian-based Palestine Liberation Front.

The two radical groups, while members of the PLO, nevertheless rejected the statement by PLO leader Yasser Arafat at a press conference in Geneva Dec. 14 recognizing Israel's right to exist and renouncing terrorism.

This statement was the basis for the United States agreeing later in the day to open a dialogue with the PLO.

However, Redman said that the U.S. position is that "we hold the PLO responsible for the acts of its constituent elements."

But he refused to define how the United States will make a judgment on whether the PLO has broken its pledge. Redman said each incident will be judged on a case-by-case basis.

The PLO has maintained that acts against Israeli soldiers or within Israel itself are not terrorism.

"An incident of terrorism is terrorism wherever it occurs," Redman said.

He also agreed with a statement by former Secretary of State George Shultz, at a luncheon at The Washington Post recently, that "when we said an end of terrorism, we mean an end of terrorism."

The attempted infiltration was the first such since the U.S.-PLO dialogue began.

COURT GRANTS EXTENSION OF DEMJANJUK APPEAL

By Cathrine Gerson

JERUSALEM, Feb. 7 (JTA) -- The High Court of Justice has agreed to a request from the lawyer of convicted Nazi war criminal John ("Ivan the Terrible") Demjanjuk to postpone hearing an appeal of his death sentence until Nov. 1.

Citing ill health, attorney Yoram Sheftel requested the delay in order for him to find another attorney to help appeal the sentence.

Sheftel has not yet been able to find a replacement for his legal partner, Dov Eitan, who leaped to his death from a Jerusalem tower Nov. 29.

At Eitan's funeral, a survivor of Nazi death camps threw acid in Sheftel's face, which affected his eyes and hindered his preparation of an appeal.

The appeal had originally been scheduled for May, more than a year after sentence was passed on the Ukrainian-born former U.S. citizen.

A five-man panel of the High Court of Justice, headed by its president, Meir Shamgar, will hear the appeal.

Demjanjuk, 68, was convicted April 18 of crimes against humanity, crimes against the Jewish people, war crimes and crimes against a persecuted people.

During his Jerusalem trial, which lasted 15 months, he was identified as the Treblinka death camp guard known as "Ivan the Terrible," who operated the gas chambers where more than 800,000 Jews perished during World War II.

If the death sentence is upheld, Demjanjuk will be the second war criminal executed in Israel. Adolf Eichmann was hanged in 1961.

REVISIONIST MEETING CANCELLED AFTER JEWS AND OTHERS PROTEST

By Edwin Eytan

PARIS, Feb. 7 (JTA) -- A symposium scheduled to take place here Friday of "revisionist historians" who allege that the Holocaust never took place was abruptly canceled Tuesday, following a storm of protest in Jewish circles and among former Resistance fighters.

Owners of the hall in which the symposium was to have taken place canceled the contract.

Some 30 Jewish organizations, associations of former Resistance fighters and anti-racist leagues took part in a news conference here Tuesday to protest the symposium.

Soon after, the owners of the building, an association of civil engineers, announced they had not known the purpose of the symposium when they made the hall available.

Henri Rocques, a French historian who published a thesis denying the existence of the Holocaust and who was one of the organizers of the symposium, tried to attend the Jewish protest meeting.

He was forcibly expelled by several former deportees.

He later announced that he had given up for the time being any plans to hold the conference in the near future.

Rocques said that some 30 revisionists from France, West Germany, Belgium, Luxembourg and Spain were planning to attend the symposium.

The president of the International League Against Racism and Anti-Semitism (LICRA), Jean Pierre-Bloch, announced that, in spite of the symposium's cancellation, a protest meeting will be held Thursday in front of the Memorial to the Unknown Jewish Martyr.

W. GERMAN NEO-NAZIS TO FIELD PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE

By David Kantor

BONN, Feb. 7 (JTA) -- The neo-Nazi Republican Party claims it can block the re-election of President Richard von Weizsacker of the Federal Republic of Germany by fielding a candidate of its own.

Franz Schoenhuber, chairman of the Republicans, said in Munich Saturday that his party would nominate candidates, but he offered no names.

As Schoenhuber spoke, thousands of anti-Nazis protested in West Berlin, Nuremberg and Stuttgart against the Republicans' unexpectedly strong showing in the West Berlin legislative elections Jan. 29.

According to Schoenhuber, many members of the ruling Christian Democratic Union would vote for an alternative to von Weizsacker.

The CDU lost ground in the West Berlin elections while the Republicans won nearly 8 percent of the popular vote, for 11 seats in the 128-member municipal parliament.

They will also get two seats in the Bundestag, the federal parliament, as of the autumn of 1990.

The Republicans, the first neo-Nazi party ever to sit in the Bundestag, will be entitled to participate in the vote for the president who is chosen by the Federal Assembly.

The Assembly is composed of all members of the Bundestag plus several members from the various state parliaments.

ANNE POLLARD TO TESTIFY IN COURT ON OWN BEHALF

By Susan Birnbaum

NEW YORK, Feb. 7 (JTA) -- For the first time since her imprisonment March 4, 1987, Anne Henderson Pollard will testify Thursday in her own behalf, to tell how she has been treated in prison for her medical ailments.

Late last month, Magistrate Janice Symchych of U.S. District Court in St. Paul issued an order to the Federal Bureau of Prisons, to show cause why Anne Henderson Pollard should not be released on a writ of habeas corpus.

A writ of habeas corpus is a procedure for obtaining a judicial determination of the legality of a prisoner's custody. Pollard will appear in the courtroom of the Federal Medical Center, a prison facility in Rochester, Minn.

In a petition to the court, attorneys for Pollard charged the warden of the Rochester prison, Joseph Bogan, with illegal imprisonment and inflicting cruel and unusual punishment on Pollard by refusing to treat her medical needs.

Anne is serving two concurrent prison terms for being an accessory to her husband Jonathan Pollard, convicted of spying for Israel.

She had been returned to the Federal Medical Center in Rochester, Minn., from Danbury General Hospital on Jan. 14, in what her family terms "kidnapping."

Anne was being treated in Danbury for dehydration and malnourishment, according to a diagnosis by a doctor at the Danbury Prison Camp.

Prior to that, she had been at the Rochester facility, which is a prison hospital. Pollard's family says she was unexpectedly and forcibly taken from her hospital bed and returned to the Minnesota prison.

She has told attorneys and family she is not being treated for her illnesses, which reportedly include biliary dyskinesia and gastroparesis, making it difficult and painful for her to digest food. She also has some eye ailments which she charges have not been treated.

Spokesmen for the prisons told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that Pollard's transfer back to Rochester was effected in order to adequately treat her medically.

Jonathan Pollard, who is serving a life sentence for espionage in a maximum security prison in Marion, Ill., recently ended a five-day fast he had embarked on to protest his wife's treatment.

BEGUN, NUDEL PROTEST AGAINST POLLARDS' LONG IMPRISONMENT

By Cathrine Gerson

JERUSALEM, Feb. 7 (JTA) -- Two prominent Soviet ex-refuseniks, who themselves struggled for years for the right to leave the Soviet Union, have taken up the cause of Jonathan Pollard and his wife Anne Henderson Pollard.

Ida Nudel and Yosef Begun joined about 50 demonstrators outside the U.S. Consulate here Monday, demanding the release of the Pollards.

Appealing to President George Bush to grant clemency, the two dissidents said in a statement that as former political prisoners, they were grateful for the role played by the United States in obtaining their own release.

Nudel told reporters she considers the two Americans to be "hostages in a foreign country."

ORTHODOX ZEALOTS ARE SUSPECTED OF DEFACING BEN-GURION'S GRAVE

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Feb. 7 (JTA) -- The grave of David Ben-Gurion, Israel's first prime minister, was defaced with swastikas by vandals Monday night, and police suspect a gang of young religious zealots, calling themselves Keshet, as the perpetrators.

The grave near Sde Boker, the Negev kibbutz where Ben-Gurion made his home, is a national shrine.

A caretaker discovered it daubed with swastikas and the spray-painted words, "Come find us. We've reached over here. Keshet."

The grave of Paula Ben-Gurion, the prime minister's widow who was buried alongside him, was untouched.

Kibbutz officials said this was the first time Ben-Gurion's grave had been desecrated.

Nine alleged members of Keshet were taken into custody over the weekend on unrelated charges.

They are suspected of a series of small explosions and attempted bombings of news kiosks that sold non-Orthodox newspapers near the religious township of Bnei Brak.

A tenth man arrested was released Sunday.

CALIFORNIA TO AGAIN CONSIDER PALESTINIAN STATE RESOLUTION

By Tom Tugend

LOS ANGELES, Feb. 7 (JTA) -- Two resolutions urging establishment of a Palestinian state alongside an Israel "within secure boundaries" will be submitted to the California Democratic Party convention meeting this weekend in Sacramento.

The resolutions, submitted by the Arab-American Democratic Club of Santa Clara and the California Democratic Council, a grassroots organization, are being strongly opposed by the Democratic and state leadership.

Although similar resolutions failed at last year's convention, Jewish organizations view the new attempt with some concern.

"If successful, this could be a watershed vote with a ripple effect across the country," warned Andrew Cushnir, associate director of the Anti-Defamation League's Western region and a delegate to the convention.

Furthermore, passage would "pose a severe challenge to the Democratic coalition," heavily dependent on both Jewish and black support, Cushnir added.

The proposals will first go to the Resolutions Committee, which will likely not report them out to the full convention.

However, the signatures of 200 delegates, out of the 2,700 attending, can force a floor vote, and this maneuver is expected to succeed.

The state convention, normally a little-noticed event, is drawing unusual attention this year because Gov. Edmund (Jerry) Brown Jr. is seeking the chairmanship of the party in California.

Brown, a charismatic and unpredictable figure, has joined a rival candidate, most of the Democratic congressional delegation, state officials and Mayor Tom Bradley of Los Angeles in signing a letter emphasizing that the proposed resolutions go counter to the historic position of the Democratic party.

NORWAY, UNIFIL ARGUE RESPONSIBILITY OVER REMARKS BY NORWEGIAN COLONEL **By Hugh Orgel**

TEL AVIV, Feb. 7 (JTA) -- Norway and the United Nations are bickering over who has the responsibility to deal with a slur against Israel, made by a Norwegian officer attached to the United Nations peacekeeping force in southern Lebanon.

The Norwegian ambassador to Israel, Torleiv Anda, called at the Foreign Ministry Tuesday morning to dissociate his government from remarks by Col. Jan Carlsson, commander of the Norwegian battalion of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon.

Carlsson publicly likened the behavior of the Israel Defense Force in southern Lebanon to that of the Nazi occupiers of Norway in World War II.

Anda said the Norwegian component of UNIFIL is under UNIFIL discipline and is not controlled by the Oslo government.

But that statement was flatly denied by UNIFIL headquarters in Nakoura.

When IDF officers complained, the commander of UNIFIL, Gen. Volgran of Sweden, told them that U.N. regulations gave him no authority to discipline Carlsson.

But a statement in Oslo said "the Norwegian government will not take any disciplinary measures against the officer."

"The matter is totally in the hands of the UNIFIL headquarters."

Furthermore, the statement said, "We have reservations about the remarks, made by the battalion commander, but one has to remember that they were said in the context of harsh deportations that were taking place before his eyes."

The reference was to the forced evacuation of villagers from Shaba in the eastern sector of the southern Lebanon security zone.

About 70 villagers have been expelled into Lebanon proper by the Israel-backed South Lebanon Army, acting on orders of the IDF.

Carlsson told a group of Israeli and foreign officers that the expulsions were inhumane, violated international law and were reminiscent of what the Nazis did to Jews in his native country during the war.

Media reports from Oslo Tuesday quoted Carlsson as standing by his remarks.

TABA TALKS BREAK DOWN AGAIN **AS EGYPTIAN CLAIMS INSULT** **By Hugh Orgel**

TEL AVIV, Feb. 7 (JTA) -- The chief Egyptian delegate stormed out of the Taba talks Tuesday following a "diplomatic incident" which had him furious and put the Israelis in an "apologetic mood."

The head of the Israeli delegation, Yitzhak Lior, said there had been a misunderstanding.

But the Egyptian, Hassan Issa, declared he was insulted by the tone and behavior of the Israelis and would not return to the meetings.

Deputy Foreign Minister Binyamin Netanyahu played down the incident, saying there are always "ups and downs" in negotiations.

The latest "down" followed a series of confrontations and differences over procedure during the past two weeks that have prevented the Israelis and Egyptians from agreeing on the few remaining issues in the Taba dispute.

The talks had seemed back on track Monday after successful mediation by the American observer team.

All seemed to be running smoothly until the Israelis decided to adjourn the meeting Tuesday afternoon without informing the Egyptians.

Issa and his delegation got the news from officers of the U.N. Multinational Observer Force in Sinai.

The Egyptians walked out, canceling their part in a tour of nearby Eilat and refusing to lunch at the Sonesta Hotel, which is Israeli owned and managed.

The crisis has not affected the parallel talks in Cairo.

Israelis and Egyptians there are negotiating Egypt's purchase of the Sonesta Hotel and Rafi Nelson Vacation Village, Taba's two resorts, and compensation to the Israel government for public works installed in the area.

Those negotiations will be resumed Wednesday.

SOVIET RELIEF FREIGHTER IS FIRST TO DOCK IN ISRAEL IN 21 YEARS

NEW YORK, Feb. 7 (JTA) -- The first Soviet flagship to call at an Israeli port since 1967 is scheduled to sail from Ashdod Feb. 14, carrying relief supplies for Armenian earthquake victims.

The cargo will consist of some 1,550 cartons of food, clothing and medicine contributed by "The people of Israel to the people of Armenia."

It will be landed at a Black Sea port for transshipment to the area devastated by an earthquake Dec. 7.

The relief effort was organized by Israeli peace advocate Abie Nathan, with financial assistance from the American Jewish World Service and the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee.

According to Nathan, dozens of Israeli families contributed clothing, coffee, sugar, jam, soap, disinfectants and about 30 tons of flour.

Rabbi Marc Tanenbaum, American Jewish World Services board member, served as liaison coordinator with Nathan, AJWS and JDC.

ISRAELI ENVOY CANCELS EBAN DINNER AT REQUEST OF FOREIGN MINISTRY **By Henrietta Boas**

AMSTERDAM, Feb. 7 (JTA) -- The Israeli ambassador to Holland, Zeev Suffoth, has surprised the public, both Jewish and non-Jewish, by canceling a small dinner reception he was to give in honor of visiting Israeli elder statesman Abba Eban.

Suffoth apparently acted on instructions from the Foreign Ministry in Jerusalem.

Eban was here participating in a symposium on "Peace in the Middle East," which was also attended by officials of the Palestine Liberation Organization last week.

The former Labor member of the Knesset, an outspoken dove, was warned by Foreign Minister Moshe Arens not to take part in the event, which was organized by pro-Palestinian Dutch academicians.

Eban shared the platform with Bassam Abu Sharif, political adviser to PLO chief Yasir Arafat and prominent Palestinian activists from East Jerusalem and the West Bank.

The canceled dinner, however, would have been a modest affair, attended by no more than six to eight people.