

POPULAR FRONT WILL INTENSIFY ITS ATTACKS AGAINST ISRAELIS

By Cathrine Gerson

JERUSALEM, April 10 (JTA) -- The leader of the Palestine Liberation Organization's second-largest faction said Sunday that his group's attacks against Israel will not only continue but intensify.

Speaking in Damascus, George Habash said his Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine will attack Israelis in the administered territories and within Israel's borders.

He also warned Palestinian residents of the territories not to support Israeli efforts to end the uprising and set up an alternative leadership to the PLO.

His statement came one week after Habash stated in an interview with a Kuwaiti newspaper that the Palestinian population in the territories "still doesn't recognize Israel's right to exist" and has not backed a two-state solution to the Israeli-Arab dispute.

In an interview that appeared in the newspaper Al-Seyassah on April 4, Habash also repeated his vow that he would "not relinquish even 1 percent of Palestine."

He added, "In light of the fact that the Zionist movement is a colonial, racist, imperialist movement, we have no choice but to continue the struggle, or surrender."

Habash also denied that the Palestine National Council had recognized Israel's right to exist when it declared an independent Palestinian state during its meeting last November in Tunis.

"It was not so. I can honestly state that no agreement was achieved concerning the recognition of Israel's right to exist," he said.

He interpreted the independence document as declaring "a Palestinian state on Palestinian land, a state which we will rely upon in order to continue the struggle -- in order to rout the Zionist plot of Palestine."

Habash's faction voted against the declaration in November. But he was quoted as saying at the time that he would abide by whatever decision the PNC had reached.

GUNMAN SHOOTS NEAR JAFFA GATE, KILLING ONE ARAB, WOUNDING TWO

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, April 10 (JTA) -- An unidentified gunman fired on passers-by near Jaffa Gate on Monday, killing one Arab and wounding two others.

The attack came just three days after violent demonstrations on the Temple Mount and as security forces announced a ban on non-Jerusalem residents who wish to worship at Temple Mount mosques on Fridays, the Moslem Sabbath.

The dead man was identified as Mohammed Shawish, a resident of the Old City in Jerusalem. The other two victims were a 19-year-old Arab, who reportedly suffered serious head wounds, and another Arab man, who was hit in the stomach. They were admitted to Jerusalem hospitals.

The attack took place shortly after 7 p.m. The gunman reportedly fired an Uzi submachine gun randomly, then fled to the nearby Mamilla

area in the former no-man's land between East and West Jerusalem.

Police sealed off the area and began a wide search for the attacker. According to one eyewitness, the attacker was wearing an Israel Defense Force uniform, but his identity remains unclear. Uzis are issued to IDF reserve soldiers.

Police immediately increased their forces in the Old City, for fear the attack might be a cause for renewed violence.

Ban On Worshipers From Territories

Tension in the capital has been high since last Friday, when Moslems ended their noon prayers with a violent demonstration that included throwing stones at Jewish worshipers at the Western Wall. Thirty-seven of the protesters, some of them from Gaza, were arrested by police.

The growing tension in Jerusalem has led security forces to decide that starting next Friday, residents of the territories will not be allowed to enter the Temple Mount for their Sabbath prayers.

"The police will not allow young men into Jerusalem from Judea, Samaria and Gaza," spokesman Rafi Levy said, after Police Minister Haim Bar-Lev reviewed security measures with senior ministry officials.

Prayers will be limited to Jerusalem residents only. Roadblocks will be placed on the roads leading from the territories to Jerusalem.

The Islamic Wakf trust, which has custody over the area, said on Monday it regretted the violence. "Nobody is happy about it because this is a holy place, not a place for violence," said Adnan al-Husseini, general director of the trust.

NEWS ANALYSIS:**U.S. BACKING FOR SHAMIR PLAN SIGNALS A 'GO-SLOW APPROACH'**

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, April 10 (JTA) -- President Bush confirmed after his meetings last week with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir and Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak that he does not plan to step out front with new proposals to solve the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Instead, he appears to be following the position, advanced by former Secretary of State George Shultz, that the United States can be helpful only if Israel and the Arabs demonstrate a willingness to move the peace process forward.

"If I felt that being immersed in it would help solve the problem of peace in the Middle East, I would do that," Bush said in response to a question at a news conference Friday.

"But I would simply say it is not a time where a lot of high visibility missions" can be "helpful in the process," he added.

That view was echoed Sunday by Brent Scowcroft, Bush's national security adviser, who spoke on NBC-TV's "Meet the Press" program.

"The United States can't make peace in the Middle East," but can "try to help the parties to bring about a dialogue," Scowcroft said. "We have a conception, but it will depend on the parties themselves each making some compromises to make such a process work."

The president appears to be following the

cautious go-slow approach in the Middle East he has exhibited in other foreign policy areas since taking office. "In the Middle East, a little step sometimes can be - proved to be - fruitful," he said.

The president's endorsement of Shamir's proposals for elections in the West Bank and Gaza Strip is in line with this approach.

Not "Warmed-Over Camp David"

The election would allow the Palestinians to select representatives for negotiations with Israel to bring about Palestinian self-rule in the territories. Once an interim period lasting several years demonstrated the ability of Israelis and Palestinians to live together, negotiations would be held on the final status of the territories.

"It is not just warmed-over Camp David," Secretary of State James Baker said of the Shamir plan Sunday on ABC-TV's "This Week with David Brinkley."

"This is the most intractable foreign policy problem that many U.S. administrations faced, and we ought not to be dissatisfied with small steps. We think it has potential," he said.

Both Bush and Shamir stressed that all options would be open for discussion in these negotiations, apparently including an independent Palestinian state.

But both leaders also stressed that their governments are opposed to such a state. "We do not support an independent Palestinian state, nor Israeli sovereignty over, nor permanent occupation of the West Bank and Gaza," Bush said.

Shamir, who also appeared on the ABC program, did not seem concerned about Bush's call for an end to Israeli occupation. He said all sides, including the United States, can bring their proposals to the negotiations for the final status of the territories.

A Solution Acceptable To All

"The Israeli representatives will propose Israeli sovereignty and the Arab representatives will propose Arab sovereignty," he said. "The parties will have to continue their negotiations until they find a solution acceptable to both parties."

Shamir added that he does not expect to be among the Israeli negotiators for the final status of the territories, perhaps hinting he will have retired before then.

Both Shamir and Baker indicated the next step is to reach an agreement on how the elections can be held. Mubarak told Bush that the Palestinians would never agree to elections under Israeli control, but later suggested that they could be held under United Nations auspices.

Shamir made clear again Sunday that the elections cannot be held as long as Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza attack Israel. "I cannot imagine that elections will be possible under the pressure of violence," he said.

"It's pretty tough to conduct fair and democratic elections in an atmosphere of violence," Baker agreed.

But the secretary, who appeared on the program after Shamir, said he did not believe the premier was "saying that, as a requirement for negotiations with the Palestinians on how the elections will be conducted, that there somehow has to be an end to the intifada in advance. I don't think that will work."

Baker said an effort must be made "to find ways to improve the climate on the ground,

improve the atmosphere."

He said this includes the Palestinians outside the territories, where factions of the Palestine Liberation Organization have been trying to infiltrate Israel.

The administration has been urging the PLO to cease the infiltration attempts during its talks with the organization in Tunisia. On Monday, the U.S. ambassador there, Robert Pelletreau, had another informal meeting with a PLO representative, during an airport ceremony Monday for Tunisian President Zine al-Abidine Ben Ali.

Hedges On Jerusalem's Status

Baker also reiterated the U.S. position supporting "direct negotiations that will provide for Israeli security and Palestinian political rights."

But he refused to say whether the United States considers Jerusalem the capital of Israel. "Jerusalem should remain undivided," but its final status "can only be resolved through negotiations," he said.

Shamir pointed out Sunday that the proposals he made to the Bush administration for moving the peace process forward do not only involve elections.

He said his plan calls for the Arab nations to end their state of war with Israel; for the partners in the Camp David accords - Israel, Egypt and the United States - to bring other Arab nations into the process; and for international aid to provide decent housing for the Palestinians living in refugee camps.

Shamir also maintained that the majority of American Jews, as well as Jews elsewhere, support his policies. And now that they have seen his peace proposals, he added, they are "enthusiastic."

PLO SEEKING NEW RECOGNITION

By Tamar Levy

GENEVA, April 10 (JTA) -- The Palestine Liberation Organization will ask to be admitted as a member state at the upcoming annual meeting of the World Health Organization, according to diplomatic sources here.

WHO, a United Nations body, convenes its annual conference May 8. If the PLO request is granted, the PLO will then have the right to vote.

The Israeli mission to the European headquarters of the United Nations here is aware of this possibility and has already started to pressure Israel's friends to oppose the PLO motion.

Israel's argument against PLO membership in the organization rests on the U.N. charter, which says that only sovereign nations may benefit from member status in the international organization.

ISRAEL HANDS OVER FIVE TERRORISTS

By Tamar Levy

GENEVA, April 10 (JTA) -- Five of the 15 presumed terrorists Israeli marines captured last week on a boat bound from Lebanon to Cyprus have been handed over to International Committee of the Red Cross delegates in Israel.

A spokesman for the ICRC here confirmed that the persons turned over to the Red Cross delegates in the security zone in southern Lebanon include two Lebanese and three Palestinians.

The 10 others will be allowed visits by the ICRC after 14 days of detention.

LADISPOLI BULGING AT THE SEAMS AS SOVIET JEWS CRAM SEASIDE TOWN

By Ruth E. Gruber

LADISPOLI, Italy, April 10 (JTA) -- Concern over increasing numbers of Soviet Jewish refugees concentrated in this seaside town has forced officials to limit the number of refugees assigned to the town and to expand refugee housing to other nearby locations.

Three or four months ago, there were 8,000 foreigners in Ladispoli, which naturally caused problems, Deputy Mayor Crescenzo Paliotta said in an interview.

Ladispoli has a resident Italian population of 16,000 to 17,000, and public services could not cope, he said.

Furthermore, despite the large refugee population, the state still counted Ladispoli as a town of 16,000 to 17,000 when it came to funding and personnel.

There were also problems with garbage collection, sanitation and emergency health services, as well as the greater overall problem of community relations: Given that foreigners at one point made up 30 to 40 percent of the population, he said, there was the risk of conflicts and tensions.

"We faced this problem by asking the Interior Ministry and Foreign Ministry to regulate the presence of foreigners here and to reduce it, by limiting new arrivals in town," he said.

"Now there are about 5,000 foreigners in Ladispoli -- at least 4,000 or 4,500 of them Soviet Jews -- and though the number of foreigners is still very high, the situation is better," he said.

Uri Ben-Zion, director of the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee's education and social services program in Ladispoli, agreed that things are better.

"As you know, the number (of refugees) increased more and more and more, and we have more and more people coming out from the Soviet Union," he said in an interview.

No Serious Problem

"Ladispoli can (handle) about 4,000 of them maximum. To have more than 4,000 makes a little bit of a problem with the people here," he said.

He stressed, however, that no serious problems had actually occurred.

"At the beginning, when the number increased to 6,000 and even more for a while, we knew that maybe it would be a bit of a problem," he said. "The problem was that in the street you saw more and more Russian and you felt and saw less Italian."

"So we made a cutoff at 3,500 to 4,000 people, and we are sending the others to other places," he said.

He said the nearby seaside town of Santa Marinella could host about 2,000 Soviet Jews; Nettuno could host about 400; and Rome itself 800. Smaller numbers were being sent to Ostia and Santa Severa.

Both Ben-Zion and Paliotta stressed that relations between local Italians and the Soviet Jews are generally good -- although from time to time, there have been incidents involving young people. They are very rare, Paliotta said.

"For example, during Carnival time, some heavy taunting degenerated into blows between two or three kids. But there's never been anything between adults, and never have organized groups been involved."

He said what was involved was not racism per se, but frustration over public service problems due to the increased population.

"Of course there are racists here, but they are only a few," Paliotta said. "The people here are proud to show that for 10 years there could be this opening to the world without serious problems."

"Of course, some people are happy because it brings them good business -- shopkeepers, apartment rentals," he said.

No Room To Sit

Others are unhappy, not because they are against the foreigners, but because the buses and trains are always packed and they can't get a seat.

Ben-Zion said that the unexpected flood of Jews coming out of the Soviet Union was severely straining the finances of programs set up to help them. "This year we will have about 40,000 people," he estimated.

The JDC had already made its budget before they knew that so many people would be coming out, he said. "There is going to be a budget problem. I hope that they find the way to cope with the situation," he said.

There has also been a further tightening of visa requirements. At present, 20 percent or more of Soviet Jewish applicants are being refused refugee status.

The first wave of people was almost certain to make a very strong case for refugee status, an American source said. Newer arrivals are thought to be more motivated by economic considerations. It is harder to demonstrate they have a real fear of persecution, the source added.

IDB BUYS OUT CANADIAN SHAREHOLDERS OF SUPERSOL

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, April 10 (JTA) -- The Israel Discount Bank's IDB Development Corporation has paid \$41.5 million to buy out its Canadian partners in the Supersol Ltd. supermarket chain, a move which stunned Israel's financial community when it was announced on Sunday.

The Canadian investors, led by Charles Bronfman of Quebec, helped found Supersol -- the most profitable supermarket chain in the country -- 30 years ago, and had been its dominant shareholders ever since.

The purchase price was lower than the company's \$42.8 million market value on the Tel Aviv stock exchange at the end of last week.

A statement issued by Bronfman's Claridge investment group said that the money from the sale would be used to make other investments in Israeli export-oriented enterprises.

The IDB purchase will give it 38.09 percent of Supersol's share capital and 46.82 percent of the company's voting rights.

Together with the 26.61 percent of share capital and 28.23 percent of voting rights it already holds, the bank's stake will now be 64.7 percent of capital and 75.05 percent of voting power.

Supersol last year increased its net earning by 12.3 percent to 19.6 million shekels (\$10.9 million), on sales of 704.2 million shekels (\$391 million).

The biggest competitor to the privately owned supermarket chain is the Histadrut's Co-op chain.

INCHING TOWARD A CONSTITUTION, CABINET BACKS HUMAN RIGHTS DRAFT

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, April 10 (JTA) — Taking a small but important step forward toward the goal of having a written constitution, the Israeli Cabinet on Sunday gave the green light to the Justice Ministry draft of a Basic Law on Human Rights.

The ministerial committee on legislation is to take up the minutiae of the measure soon.

Justice Minister Dan Meridor declined to predict a completion date, but he predicted that the law would be passed, by a broad majority of Knesset members, "within a reasonable period."

The proposed law would thereafter be amendable only by a majority of two-thirds of the house.

It provides for a special constitutional court, comprising seven justices of the High Court, who could examine and disqualify other legislation which they ruled contradicted the provisions of the Basic Law on Human Rights.

The Knesset has over the years passed a number of Basic Laws on various aspects of governance and administration, which, eventually, are designed to be incorporated into a constitution.

But the issue of human rights has always run into obstacles from the Orthodox parties, who were concerned over preserving the rule of halacha on matters of personal status.

Under Meridor's prodding, the ministry drafters have now come up with a document that has won positive responses from the legal and academic community.

Because it expressly excludes "the rules of marriage and divorce" from its own jurisdiction, the law is likely to also gain the approval of the religious establishment.

Professor Ruth Gavison of the Hebrew University, a leading human rights campaigner and noted secularist, pointed out this appeasement to the Orthodox, but offered grudging overall kudos for the measure.

Good Chance Of Passing

"This can't do any harm," she said in an interview Monday, "and it can do some good and it has a good chance of passing."

The 24-clause draft bill opens with a ringing affirmation that "human rights in Israel are founded on recognition of humanity itself as a supreme value, of the sanctity of human life and of freedom. They are to be respected in accordance with the spirit of the principles enshrined in the Declaration of Independence."

Clause Two proclaims equality before the law. "All are equal before the law. There will be no discrimination between men and women or between persons on grounds of religion, nationality, race, ethnic group, land of origin or any other grounds, when such grounds are irrelevant."

Other clauses enshrine personal freedom, freedom of travel, freedom of access into the country, freedom of faith and religion, freedom of expression, freedom of creativity and scientific research, and freedom of association.

Apart from the express exclusion of marriage-and-divorce, the law also excludes from its own jurisdiction soldiers and police officers, whose human rights can be encroached upon, "by law and for reasons of public welfare, government or discipline."

JEWISH GROUPS AMONG THE 300,000 WHO MARCH FOR ABORTION RIGHTS

By Andrew Silow Carroll

WASHINGTON, April 10 (JTA) — Jewish women and men taking part in Sunday's massive abortion rights demonstration here spoke again and again of seizing the "moral high ground" from those who would ban abortion on religious grounds.

"Our passion for choice is rooted in Jewish law and ethics," Lenore Feldman, president of the National Council of Jewish Women, told a crowd estimated at 300,000.

"It's very important for us to come out and say that all religious groups are not trying to obstruct the rights of other people," Joyce Lapin, coordinator of residential life at the Jewish Theological Seminary, said in an interview.

"I have seen 513 anti-abortion proposals in 13 years, 152 of which have required roll-call votes," Sen. Howard Metzenbaum (D-Ohio) told a gathering of Jewish marchers.

"They are not giving up. Today their shrill voices will be drowned out by the sounds of our voices and the marching of our feet."

Metzenbaum spoke at a pre-march briefing sponsored by the American Jewish Congress at the Sheraton Carlton Hotel here.

More than 200 Jews — some from as far away as California — followed the AJCongress banner to join the throngs marching up Constitution Avenue to the rolling lawn of the Capitol.

The demonstration surpassed some of the largest ever held in Washington, including the December 1987 solidarity march for Soviet Jewry, which drew 200,000.

Holocaust Comparison Assailed

Forty-two rabbinical and cantorial students from the Jewish Theological Seminary, the Conservative rabbinical training institution, were among those who crowded onto buses before dawn for the ride to Washington.

Women's American ORT, a co-sponsor of the march, and the American Jewish Committee sent contingents, as did synagogues from throughout the East.

Jews were also represented by the Religious Coalition for Abortion Rights, an intergroup organization.

"Some of our opponents have claimed that choice is not a Jewish response," said Feldman of NCJW as the Capitol rotunda loomed behind her. "To those critics I say: Read the Talmud, the Jewish book of law. In Judaism, the mother's rights always come first."

Feldman and others also voiced objections to abortion opponents who compare the effects of legalized abortion to the Holocaust. Among the handful of abortion opponents who faced the crowds were some waving banners reading "Abortion makes Hitler look good."

Some Stars of David were also included in a mock "cemetery" for fetuses erected by anti-abortion activists near the demonstration site.

A number of Jewish organizations have joined in a friend-of-the-court brief urging the Supreme Court not to overturn the 1973 Roe vs. Wade decision, which declared a woman's choice to have an abortion a constitutionally protected right.

The court will begin hearing a challenge to Roe vs. Wade by the state of Missouri on April 26.