

SICARI'I TAKES CREDIT FOR ARSON OF ISRAELI PUBLISHER'S HOME

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, April 25 (JTA) -- The Sicari'i Jewish terrorist underground has claimed credit for setting fire Monday night to the front door of the Tel Aviv home of Amos Schocken, publisher of the family-owned Ha'aretz and Hadashot daily newspapers and a string of local weeklies.

A man claiming to be from the Sicari'i phoned local newspapers, Israel Radio and Israel Television to say the fire had been set at Schocken's home "because he has damaged Israeli morale."

Both Ha'aretz and Hadashot are independent, privately owned papers that take a liberal approach to Israeli politics.

Schocken said he had been at home with his family shortly before 10 p.m. Monday night when he smelled smoke. He and his neighbors quickly put out the blaze, which damaged the door but caused no other harm.

The Sicari'i group, named after the Temple period band that killed Jews they regarded as traitors or infidels, has claimed responsibility for setting fire to the front doors of a number of Israeli personalities they regard as left-wing and anti-Israel.

Despite several Sicari'i attacks, police have so far been unable to find any trace of the organization and at first wondered whether there was, indeed, any single group carrying out the attacks.

Police sources said Tuesday they now think the modern Sicari'i group probably consists of no more than three active members. But other individuals appear to be "taking a lift" on the name to claim credit for their own real or imaginary actions, which are aimed at drawing attention to their fringe philosophies.

Several American Jewish organizations have deplored the activities for which the Sicari'i has claimed credit. Earlier this month, B'nai B'rith International released a statement by its president, Seymour Reich, saying the organization was "horrified that a Jewish terror ring may now be victimizing both innocent Arabs and fellow Jews who share different political views."

PALESTINIANS AND ISRAELIS CLASH ON THE ISSUE OF TIME

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, April 25 (JTA) -- The Interior Ministry has decided to advance the scheduled date for the introduction of summer daylight-saving time to this weekend. The ministry announced Tuesday that the clocks will be put forward one hour at midnight Saturday.

But Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip have already adjusted their clocks and watches, creating a new source of friction with Israeli authorities.

The latest leaflet issued by the underground command of the uprising called on Palestinians to move their watches forward one hour on April 15 to mark "Summer Time in the State of Palestine."

Palestinians in various parts of the West Bank, East Jerusalem and the Gaza Strip are said

to be following "Palestine Summer Time." Arab municipalities, East Jerusalem schools, shops, mosques and churches are reported to have adopted the new time schedule.

According to Palestinian reports, there have been more than a dozen incidents during the past 10 days in which troops used clubs to break the watches of Palestinians found to be observing "Palestine Summer Time."

West Bank residents have complained that troops and border police have stopped them and asked for the time. When their watches showed the new time, the owners were allegedly beaten and their watches destroyed.

No Policy Of Smashing Watches

A resident of the East Jerusalem suburb of Silwan reported that when he told a policeman the time was 4:00 by his watch, he was ordered to stand at attention for an hour until he caught up with Israel Time.

Military officials said that the Israel Defense Force would investigate any specific complaints filed by Palestinians who had their watches broken. The officials asserted that there is no military policy of smashing watches as punishment for following "Palestine Summer Time."

The issue will, in any case, become moot as of Sunday, when Israel Time and "Palestine Summer Time" will again coincide. Summer Time will be in force for 122 days, ending on Sept. 2, when the clocks will be put back one hour.

Orthodox elements have for years been fighting a losing battle against Summer Time, claiming that altering the clocks puts an unnecessary burden on religious Jews, who rise early to recite their daily morning prayers.

But the electric company says the 122 days of longer evening light will save the country some \$8 million.

Starting Sunday, Israel Time will be three hours in advance of Greenwich Mean Time and seven hours in advance of Eastern Daylight Time in the United States.

U.N. RESOLUTION CONDEMNS ISRAEL FOR KILLING OF ARABS AT NAHALIN

By Andrew Silow Carroll

UNITED NATIONS, April 25 (JTA) -- Israeli and American officials here have expressed disappointment with the General Assembly's adoption last week of a resolution condemning Israel for human rights violations in the administered territories.

The resolution singled out the April 13 raid by Israeli border police on the West Bank village of Nahalin, in which five Palestinians died. It also condemned restrictions placed by Israel on Palestinian worshippers in the Old City of Jerusalem.

The General Assembly adopted the resolution by a vote of 129-2 on Thursday, the first day of Passover. Only Israel and the United States opposed the resolution, which urged the Security Council to provide international protection to Palestinians. Liberia abstained.

The General Assembly also rejected an amendment to the resolution, proposed by Iceland. It was a more evenhanded statement that would have called on both Israelis and Palestinians to

refrain from violence. The amendment was defeated by a vote of 95-23, with 10 abstentions.

The General Assembly, after two days of debate, condemned "the killing and wounding of defenseless Palestinian civilians, and specifically the latest action of members of the Israeli armed forces against the defenseless civilians in the Palestinian town of Nahalin."

It demanded that Israel immediately halt its policies in the territories and reiterated the General Assembly's call for an international peace conference on the Middle East.

'Pointless And Unproductive'

Ambassador Johanan Bein, Israel's acting representative to the United Nations, called the resolution "pointless and unproductive."

"The General Assembly sees fit to convene and discuss an incident whose basic facts remain unclear, while 10,000 Syrian shells rain down daily on Beirut," Bein said in a statement.

Hundreds have died in the Lebanese capital since March 14, when a new cycle in its ongoing civil war began.

U.S. Ambassador Thomas Pickering called the resolution divisive and said it would only succeed in driving the Israelis and Palestinians further apart.

But while rejecting it and noting that Israel was conducting a thorough investigation into the Nahalin incident, Pickering urged Israel to make every effort to avoid the unwarranted use of lethal force in the territories.

Countries usually friendly to Israel, including Canada, the United Kingdom and the Netherlands, qualified their support of the resolution.

Spain, speaking on behalf of the 12 nations of the European Community, said that the level of force used by Israeli troops had been excessive. But Spanish Ambassador Rafael Spottorno was careful to "reject all violence from whatever quarter it came."

Meanwhile, an American Zionist leader has denounced the possibility that the Palestine Liberation Organization will be admitted to full membership in the World Health Organization as the representative of the Palestinian state declared by the PLO last fall.

"This is a cynical attempt by the terrorist PLO to use a humanitarian agency of the United Nations to gain political advantages," Bernice Tannenbaum, chairwoman of the World Zionist Organization-American Section, said in a statement.

U.S. WON'T CONFIRM REPORTS OF NEW ABU NIDAL BASE IN LIBYA

By Howard Rosenberg

WASHINGTON, April 25 (JTA) -- State Department sources would not confirm a newspaper report Tuesday that U.S. intelligence sources have identified a new Abu Nidal terrorist training base near the Libyan chemical plant at Rabta.

"It's news to me," one source said when asked about the base, whose discovery was disclosed by The Washington Times.

The paper said U.S. intelligence sources do not believe there is a direct link between the terrorist training school and the chemical plant, which the United States alleges was built to produce poison gas. The Libyans say the plant manufactures pharmaceuticals.

State Department spokeswoman Margaret

Tutwiler was not asked about the story at Tuesday's daily briefing, but guidance on the report that was prepared for her briefing said the department does not comment on stories quoting intelligence sources, department sources said.

The guidance also criticized Libyan leader Moammar Gadhafi for allowing the Abu Nidal organization to be based in his country since 1987, when the radical group was expelled from Syria, the sources said.

Gadhafi's support for Abu Nidal shows that Libya continues to support international terrorism, the statement concluded.

U.S. officials are concerned that "chemical weapons produced at the chemical plant, which has not entered full-scale production, could be transferred to terrorists," the Times said.

The State Department source said, "That is always a worry with Gadhafi, because he always transfers everything else to terrorists." The source said Libya aids other terrorist groups, such as the Irish Republican Army.

Small quantities of the chemical agent used to produce mustard gas have been manufactured at the plant, the Times said.

The State Department source confirmed that Libya has "had some test runs," but could not confirm suggestions by U.S. intelligence sources to the Times that "chemicals needed to produce the lethal nerve gas Sarin GB also have been manufactured at the plant."

"Once in the bloodstream, Sarin kills its victims by attacking the central nervous system," the Times said. When fully operational, the plant could produce as much as 40 tons of chemical arms daily, U.S. sources told the Times.

Detected By Satellite Photos

The desert camp, capable of lodging up to 500 people, was detected earlier this month through intelligence reports and photo-reconnaissance satellites, according to the Times. The United States has been continuously monitoring the Rabta plant and the area surrounding it, the paper said.

"An obstacle course, firearms range and a pit used to test explosives were also seen at the camp," the paper quoted U.S. officials as saying. It is among "several terrorist training camps located in northern Libya near the Mediterranean coast," the Times said.

U.S. officials identified it as an Abu Nidal training base because of its "training methods and weapons," which have been previously associated with the group.

The Abu Nidal organization split from the Palestine Liberation Organization in 1974, according to the State Department's 1988 report on "Patterns of Global Terrorism."

Among the major attacks perpetrated by the Abu Nidal group are the May 1988 detonation of a car bomb in Nicosia, Cyprus, which killed three and injured 17; a June 1982 attempt to assassinate the Israeli ambassador to Great Britain, Shlomo Argov; an August 1981 attack on a Vienna synagogue, which killed two and wounded 17.

The United States is engaged in a "diplomatic offensive" worldwide to persuade countries not to provide technology or personnel to Libya for developing chemical weapons, the State Department source said.

"So far it has been fairly successful," the source said, "in convincing some countries to crack down more on private companies" that supply such aid to Libya.

AT&T DEFEATS NEO-NAZI PROPOSAL TO ELIMINATE AFFIRMATIVE ACTION

By Marlene Goldman

NEW YORK, April 25 (JTA) -- For the second year in a row, the American Telephone & Telegraphic Co. has overwhelmingly defeated a proposal by the neo-Nazi National Alliance that urges the company to eliminate its affirmative action programs.

The white supremacist organization purchased 100 shares of AT&T stock in 1986, which enabled it to present its resolution on a ballot at the annual shareholder's meeting April 24 at Radio City Music Hall.

Preliminary counts from proxy returns, prior to the vote of the 2,360 people, show that 91.9 percent opposed the National Alliance proposal and 8.1 percent were in favor.

Though AT&T management has gone on record as opposing the National Alliance motion and defeated the proposal last year by a 91.4 to 8.6 percent margin, the company has twice failed attain the 94 percent "no" vote needed to prevent the recommendation from appearing on the next meeting's agenda.

The motion would need support of at least 10 percent of the participants next year to be proposed again the following year, or else it will be barred from the ballot.

In this year's vote, at least six participants spoke against the group's motion, according to Michael Riff, associate director of the New York regional office of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith.

Only one shareholder spoke for the proposal, Riff said, but his contribution was "weak and faint-hearted," since the crux of his argument weighed on an accusation that productivity has decreased because of the minorities employed through the affirmative action plan.

Riff described the meeting as low-key, with most of the debate centered around a proposal by one AT&T employee, Alex Tillman, to expand the affirmative action program to ensure proper representation of women and minorities in the upper echelons of management.

That proposal was defeated as well, 95.3 percent to 4.7 percent, thereby failing to attain the 6 percent support needed to be eligible for next year's ballot.

Celebrating Hitler's Birthday

National Alliance distributes a wide variety of Nazi propaganda, including Adolf Hitler's "Mein Kampf" and a book entitled "Imperium" that advocates the preservation of Western culture through Hitlerian racism.

This month's front cover of the group's publication, National Vanguard, features a portrait of Hitler in celebration of the 100th anniversary of his birth on April 20.

National Alliance is led by William Pierce, author of "The Turner Diaries," which he published under the pseudonym Andrew Macdonald.

The book is a fictionalized memoir of the overthrow of the American government by "super patriots" who kill Jews and non-whites, destroy Israel and establish an Aryan regime throughout the world.

Pierce, a one-time physics professor at Oregon State University, left the academic world to join the American Nazi Party, then led by George Lincoln Rockwell, subsequently launching his own neo-Nazi splinter group.

National Alliance began in 1968, joining with the Youth for Wallace movement as the National Youth Alliance.

Run behind the scenes by Willis Carto, the head of Washington's Liberty Lobby, it was described as a "fighting movement" determined to "liquidate the enemies of the American people." Pierce later took the organization's helm.

The ADL has been providing AT&T with material about the National Alliance and Pierce.

Abraham Foxman, ADL's national director, and John Jacob, director of the National Urban League, both called the proposal a "smokescreen by which the National Alliance hopes to use a highly visible corporate forum to insinuate its anti-black and anti-Semitic views into the business world."

OFFICIAL'S RESIGNATION DEALS BLOW TO EXTREMIST PARTY IN WEST BERLIN

By David Kantor

BONN, April 25 (JTA) -- The vice chairwoman of the extreme right-wing Republican Party in West Berlin, Alexandra Kliche, resigned from office Sunday and quit the party altogether. She cited heavy penetration of the party's institutions and rank and file by neo-Nazis.

Her resignation dealt a severe blow to the new party and its chairman, Franz Schoenhuber, a former SS officer who claims that his group is "right of center" but by no means neo-Nazi.

Latest opinion polls in West Germany show that 8 percent of the population backs Schoenhuber's party. If this prediction materializes in the general elections next year, it would create a political earthquake in the Federal Republic, which has been dominated by moderate, mostly centrist parties up till now.

Schoenhuber and other Republican officials have been lately involved in fierce arguments with Heinz Galinski, the chairman of the West German Jewish community. Schoenhuber repeatedly said that while he had nothing against Jews it was not his duty "to love Galinski because he is Jewish."

Galinski accused Schoenhuber of adopting a Nazi style in spreading hatred against foreigners living in this country.

The Social Democratic Party in Munich, meanwhile, has circulated a brochure showing similarities between the Republicans and the Nazi Party.

Imitating The Nazis

The SPD chairman in Bavaria, Wolfgang Metz, said the information campaign was the party's duty, because both the Republicans and the Nazis started their activities in the federal state of Bavaria.

He added that, both in content and in style, the Republicans are largely imitating the Nazis, using displeasure with material conditions to mobilize support among low-income voters.

The general secretary of the ruling Christian Democratic Union, Heiner Geissler, said Sunday that his party rejects any form of cooperation with the Republicans. He was commenting on suggestions by some party officials that such cooperation would be necessary if the CDU continued to lose support in the polls.

The chairman of the Free Democratic Party, the junior coalition partner in Bonn, has also firmly rejected cooperation with the Republicans. He said his party is very concerned about the resurgence of right-wing political extremism.

SEDER CONDUCTED AT ILLINOIS PRISON ON BEHALF OF IMPRISONED POLLARDS

By Robert A. Cohn
St. Louis Jewish Light

MARION, Ill., April 25 (JTA) -- A group of 15 rabbis and members of the Jewish community of St. Louis from all branches of Judaism participated in a Passover "freedom seder" in front of the maximum security federal prison here on Monday, in support of convicted spy Jonathan Jay Pollard and his wife, Anne.

The seder, led by Rabbi Avi Weiss of the Hebrew Institute of Riverdale, N.Y., began with a brief ceremony on the front steps of the historic Old Courthouse in downtown St. Louis, where the landmark Dred Scott case was argued in 1846.

From there, the group crossed the Mississippi River in a motorcade to the federal prison at Marion, which has been described by Amnesty International as the strictest and harshest in the U.S. prison system.

Weiss spent three hours earlier in the morning visiting with Pollard, who is serving a life sentence for passing classified information to Israel. Weiss was refused permission to provide Pollard with a seder plate or matzot.

"All my adult life, I have found myself standing in front of Soviet missions and embassies to demand that the Soviet Union let our people go," Weiss said. "I never dreamed that I would be standing in front of an American institution asking the U.S. to release a Jewish political prisoner."

The "mini-seder" was conducted on a card table set up just outside the large steel gates leading to the prison grounds.

"We call upon people of good will and moral conscience to join with tens of thousands throughout this great land in raising their voices to ask the U.S. government to let Anne and Jay Pollard go," Weiss said at the seder table. "Let them go so that they can leave the country and settle in Israel, which is their dream."

Weiss said that when told of plans for the freedom seder on his and his wife's behalf, Pollard said the ceremony "dispelled his sense of loneliness and isolation."

Unity Of Souls

"Just the knowledge that a group of rabbis and others from the St. Louis area, who represent tens of thousands of constituents on the outside, creates a unity of souls. We may be separated from Jay physically, but spiritually and emotionally we are one with him and with Anne Pollard."

Weiss broke a matzah at the conclusion of the seder ceremony and left it at the prison gate as a symbol of support for Pollard's freedom.

"We see this freedom seder and similar happenings around the country as a means of moving the wheels of legal and political justice and to raise the voices of moral conscience in order that justice for the Pollards in the form of their release can be achieved."

The ceremony at the Old Courthouse in St. Louis was attended by Pollard's parents, Dr. Morris and Molly Pollard of South Bend, Ind., where Morris Pollard is professor of microbiology at Notre Dame University.

At the courthouse, Rabbi Aaron Borow of Nusach Hari B'nai Zion Congregation in St. Louis said, "We call upon the U.S. government to extend clemency and release Anne and Jay Pollard."

"This is the season of Passover, the season of freedom, when the Hebrew slaves were freed from the bondage of Egypt. Here on the site where Dred Scott argued for his freedom, we are asking for freedom for Jay and Anne Pollard."

Scott, a slave who had lived in Missouri, a slave state, was taken to Wisconsin, a non-slave state. He sued for his freedom, but the Supreme Court rejected his case in 1857, in a major turning point in the struggle to free the slaves prior to the Civil War.

Anne Pollard, who is serving two five-year sentences as an after-the-fact accessory to her husband, is at a facility in Rochester, Minn., where she is suffering from a digestive disorder.

AN ANTI-APARTHEID SEDER IS STAGED IN LONDON

London Jewish Chronicle

LONDON, April 25 (JTA) -- South Africa's Embassy in London was the scene of a "freedom seder" Monday, when the Jews Against Apartheid movement staged its annual Pesach demonstration.

Despite the rain and cold, more than 100 people gathered outside the embassy in Trafalgar Square for a recital of a special Haggadah that mixes traditional passages with modern quotations and Yiddish and African song denouncing the scourge of racism.

The group issued a call for freedom and equality in South Africa. Neatly prepared seder plates and small cups of wine were handed out as traffic roared around Trafalgar Square.

EUROPEAN COMMUNITY INCREASES AID FOR PALESTINIAN REFUGEES

By Yossi Lempkowitz

BRUSSELS, April 25 (JTA) -- The European Community's Executive Commission has decided to allocate food commodities worth about \$13 million to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian Refugees.

An additional cash contribution of \$3 million is intended to cover the operating costs of the U.N. agency's supplementary feeding program.

The grant, funded by the European Community's food aid program, was announced here last week by a spokesperson for the commission.

UNRWA offers health, education and relief services to more than 2.2 million registered Palestinian refugees living in Lebanon, Jordan, Syria and the Israeli-administered territories of the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Under the current European Community-UNRWA program, which covers the 1987-1989 period, the 12 European member nations of the community also provide a cash contribution of about \$18 million per year to UNRWA's education program.

According to the commission, the total value of European Community assistance to Palestinian refugees under UNRWA's regular program is expected to reach about \$37 million in 1989, compared to about \$35 million in 1988.

With a contribution representing some 20 percent of UNRWA's estimated budget in 1989, the European Community is the second largest donor to UNRWA, the commission said.

JTA will not publish a Daily News Bulletin on Thursday, April 27, the eighth day of Pesach.