

ISRAEL ABOLISHES FREE ACCESS FOR ARABS FROM THE TERRITORIES

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, May 17 (JTA) -- Free access into Israel for Palestinians from the West Bank and Gaza Strip was abolished late Tuesday, by order of the Israel Defense Force and police.

For the first time in the 22 years since Israel took control of the territories, Arab residents will require individual permits to enter Israel for work or other reasons.

They may not stay in Israel overnight without special permission.

Arabs with records of criminal or security offenses will be permanently barred.

The new regulations took effect Tuesday night for the Gaza Strip, which is under a blanket curfew of indefinite duration.

The far-reaching policy change was spelled out by top officials Wednesday, in reports to the Knesset's Legal Committee.

Shmuel Goren, coordinator of government policy in the territories, told the committee that all workers from Gaza have been ordered to leave Israel, return to their homes and stay indoors until further notice.

Goren and Deputy Police Commissioner Yehoshua Caspi said the restrictions will eventually apply to the West Bank, although given the many more crossing points into Israel, different arrangements would have to be worked out.

Committee Chairman Uriel Lynn of Likud said persons with criminal records would not be allowed into Israel and that the others would require permits to enter and work.

Permits to sleep over would be needed as well. That rule has existed for some time, but has been only erratically enforced.

Proposal To Seal Off Territories

Meanwhile, the IDF chief of staff, Gen. Dan Shomron, proposed to the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee on Tuesday that the territories be sealed off for several months as a form of economic sanction and deterrence.

Some 100,000 Palestinians with jobs in Israel would be deprived of their livelihood under the plan.

Police Superintendent David Kraus gave orders Tuesday to arrest any Gaza resident found in Israel after the IDF's public proclamation of the new regulations Tuesday.

Thousands of them arrived at the Erez checkpoint, south of Ashkelon, where soldiers channeled them to special buses.

Vehicular traffic was allowed to enter the Gaza Strip, but not to leave. Jewish settlers came and went as they pleased.

The government is making no secret of its harsher policies and is assuming that most Israelis welcome them.

In a rare decision, the IDF allowed an Israeli television crew to accompany soldiers before dawn Tuesday on a pre-emptive raid on Si'ir village, near Hebron.

The film, broadcast Tuesday night, showed dozens of young men arrested in their beds, blindfolded, handcuffed and shoved aboard buses to jail. There was no resistance.

KNESSET BACKS SHAMIR PEACE PLAN, DEFEATING NO-CONFIDENCE MOTIONS

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, May 17 (JTA) -- The Knesset approved the government's plan for Palestinian elections and self-rule Wednesday, and defeated two no-confidence motions on the issue.

But it was a tepid endorsement.

The 43-15 vote in the 120-member chamber reflected the absence of many in Likud, including senior ministers who oppose the initiative but were loathe to vote against the government.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, calling his plan "a fair, sincere and realistic proposal," made an impassioned appeal for Knesset support.

He claimed that the U.S. government and congressional and public opinion in the United States gave it a "clear welcome" and that European governments have shown "interest and some support."

According to Shamir, world Jewry was solidly supportive. He said rejection by various local Arab groups should not be construed as their "last word" and that rejection by the Palestine Liberation Organization is of no consequence.

"We address ourselves not to the PLO, but to the local Palestinians," Shamir said.

But at this juncture, the most serious obstacle to the prime minister's ideas is the revolt brewing in Likud ministerial ranks.

It is led by Ariel Sharon, chairman of the Herut Central Committee; Yitzhak Moda'i, leader of Likud's Liberal Party wing; and David Levy, the housing minister, who holds the rank of deputy premier and has a strong Sephardic constituency.

Of the three, Levy is abroad. Sharon and Moda'i absented themselves from the vote.

Promise Outweighs Risks

They share the view of the far right-wing parties and the Jewish settlers in the West Bank and Gaza Strip that the offer of elections and self-rule to the Palestinians in the territories is a recipe of disaster for Israel.

Sharon, who is minister of industry and trade, has announced he will convene the Central Committee next month to seek a grass-roots rejection of the plan.

Shamir conceded that the plan harbors risks for Israel, but he insisted that these were outweighed by its promise.

He also argued that it was "premature" to embark on internal domestic disputes, "which only gladden the hearts of our enemies."

He told the Knesset it is relatively easy to "take positions" when one does not have "the responsibility for Israel's foreign relations on one's shoulders."

The plan was authored by Shamir and Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin, a Laborite, in close collaboration with Foreign Minister Moshe Arens of Likud and Vice Premier Shimon Peres, who chairs the Labor Party and serves as finance minister.

It is a bipartisan undertaking, but the two coalition partners do not see eye-to-eye on several key issues. These include the eligibility of East Jerusalem Arabs to vote, opposed by Likud

but favored by many in Labor.

This and other areas of disagreement were skirted by the Cabinet on Sunday, when it voted 20-6 to approve the plan.

Less Specific In Knesset Speech

Shamir told the Likud Knesset faction Wednesday that East Jerusalemites would not be allowed to vote and that Israel would decide who could vote and who could stand for election.

He also pledged there would be no elections, indeed not even preparations, as long as the Palestinian uprising continued.

But the prime minister was much less specific in his formal Knesset speech, which has the status of an official government document.

He made no reference to East Jerusalem eligibility, nor did he say categorically that the uprising must stop before the electoral process begins.

He promised only that there would be "no violence during the implementation" of the plan.

The purpose of the elections, according to the government, is to choose Palestinian delegates with whom Israel would negotiate over self-rule and, subsequently, on the final status of the administered territories.

While the government has repeatedly ruled out the creation of a Palestinian state or talks under any circumstances with the PLO, many Israelis are nervous, particularly those on the right.

Votes of no-confidence were cast by four members of parties belonging to the governing coalition: Hanan Porat of the National Religious Party and three from Agudat Yisrael.

Under normal parliamentary procedures, those parties should now resign from the coalition.

ARENS URGES JEWISH LEADERS, U.S. NOT TO DWELL ON PEACE PLAN DETAILS

By Andrew Silow Carroll

NEW YORK, May 17 (JTA) -- Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Arens urged the U.S. government and American Jewish leaders Wednesday to fully endorse Israel's latest peace initiative and not get bogged down in "details" over his government's call for Palestinian elections.

Arens, who arrived here Wednesday, spoke to the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations before departing for Washington to meet with Vice President Dan Quayle and Secretary of State James Baker.

"The United States has a crucial role to play in adding momentum" to Israel's peace initiative, Arens said. "It would be wrong to divert attention to this or that detail that may or may not be spelled out."

Israel's initiative is so compelling, he added, that attention need not be diverted to "all kinds of microscopic details."

But it is the details of the plan that seem to bother members of the Israeli Cabinet, especially as they relate to the plan's call for Palestinian elections in the administered territories.

U.S. officials also seemed troubled by unresolved details of the plan, including whether East Jerusalem Palestinians would be allowed to vote and who would supervise the polling.

But Arens said Wednesday that it would be wrong to focus solely on the elections proposal, which he described as only one element of the four-part plan.

The other parts call for a reaffirmation of the Israeli-Egyptian peace treaty; an effort by neighboring Arab states to begin "normalizing" their relations with Israel; and for an international effort, led by the United States, to solve the Palestinian refugee problem.

Members of the Conference of Presidents evidently will respond positively to Arens' call for support. Seymour Reich, chairman of the 46-member umbrella group, said it would soon issue a statement hailing Cabinet approval of the plan.

Rejects PLO Role

In a brief question-and-answer session with the Jewish leaders after his speech, Arens faced one question that he is likely to be asked again in Washington.

Henry Siegman, executive director of the American Jewish Congress, said his organization endorses the peace initiative, but is concerned with Arens' angry dismissal of the U.S. dialogue with the Palestine Liberation Organization.

Siegman asked Arens why he remains so opposed to talks with the PLO if the elected Palestinians may well turn out to be supporters of the organization. He also asked whether Arens thought the United States could apply pressure on the PLO to "accommodate themselves" to the peace plan.

But Arens again ruled out a role for the PLO. He explained that the PLO says it speaks not only for the Palestinians of the West Bank and Gaza Strip, but for those in Lebanon, Syria, Kuwait and other countries.

"They cannot speak for anything but a Palestinian state," possibly as a first stage to the eventual destruction of Israel, said Arens.

"But there is reason to believe that the people who live in the area (of the administered territories) will be more realistic and understand that Jews and Arabs have to live together."

TERROR GROUP THREATENS ARABS WHO MET WITH U.S. DELEGATION

By Cathrine Gerson

JERUSALEM, May 17 (JTA) -- A Syrian-based terrorist group has threatened the lives of West Bank Palestinians who met with members of an American diplomatic mission here this week.

The threat was broadcast on the Syrian radio station Al Kuds by the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command, a faction headed by Ahmed Jabril that is opposed to Yasser Arafat's leadership of the Palestine Liberation Organization. Al Kuds is the Arabic name for Jerusalem.

The warning was unambiguous. After naming the Palestinians who attended the meeting, the broadcaster said, "The judgement of the people shall be meted out."

It added, "Those who went to this meeting should know that our people are lying in wait to ambush them."

Palestinians in general were urged to resist the Americans. "We must come out against meetings of this type and oppose the American plans for elimination and surrender," the broadcast said.

The American group, which left Israel on Tuesday, was headed by Dennis Ross, director of policy planning at the State Department. It met with a small group of Palestinians to sound them out on Israel's offer of elections and self-rule.

The delegation also had discussions with Israeli, Egyptian and Jordanian officials.

**HUNDREDS OF JEWISH SETTLERS
GO ON MASS RAMPAGE IN HEBRON**

By Cathrine Gerson

JERUSALEM, May 17 (JTA) -- Several hundred Jewish settlers from Kiryat Arba rampaged through Hebron on Tuesday night, firing weapons in an admitted pursuit of revenge for a spate of rock-throwing attacks on Jewish vehicles earlier in the evening.

Three Israelis were injured in the rock-throwing incidents.

The settlers smashed windows, burned cars and tried to set fire to Arab houses in the largely Arab city of 70,000.

A large contingent of the Israel Defense Force rushed to Hebron and gradually restored order. The troops promptly closed the road to Kiryat Arba, the Jewish township that overlooks Hebron.

Soldiers opened fire on Arab youths after being struck by stones. A 17-year-old Arab struck in the head by a bullet was taken to Mokassed Hospital in East Jerusalem, where he was reported in serious condition.

Relations have long been tense between the Arabs of Hebron and the Jews of Kiryat Arba, a stronghold of the militant Gush Emunim settlers movement. This is partly because Jews from Kiryat Arba have established their own heavily protected enclave in the heart of Hebron.

The Jewish settlers have also made retaliatory forays against Hebron Arabs many times in the past.

But the latest incident, involving 300 to 500 settlers, was by far the largest and most serious to date, according to Aharon Domev, head of the Security Information Center in Hebron.

Shooting And Smashing Property

The provocations began at about 7:30 p.m. local time, when dozens of Arab youngsters threw rocks at an Egged bus halted by a road barricade near Hebron.

Some of the passengers who were armed opened fire, scattering the rock-throwers. But the same bus was involved in another stoning incident later.

At about 8 p.m., Yechiel Leiter, a Jewish settler from Hebron, was stoned as he drove into the city.

He dashed from his car, wielding a gun, but was struck in the head by a rock. His weapon fired accidentally, the bullet lodging in the leg of a friend.

News of these incidents enraged the Kiryat Arba Jews, who drove into Hebron shooting and smashing property.

Noam Arnon, spokesman for the Jewish settlers in Hebron, blamed the stonings on the Israeli government's new peace plan calling for Palestinian elections and eventual self-rule.

He claimed the Arabs interpreted the offer as "a surrender to terror" and demanded that the government resign and hold new elections.

One of the principal architects of the peace plan is Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, a politician with solid right-wing credentials.

But the settlers are now charging that Shamir "has deserted us," and they are promising more trouble.

People "who feel their lives are in danger shoot," one settler said. "We have no other choice than to take the matter into our own hands."

**UNESCO WILL CONSIDER PLO'S
REQUEST FOR FULL MEMBERSHIP**

By Edwin Eytan

PARIS, May 17 (JTA) -- The executive board of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization announced Wednesday that it will consider an application by the Palestine Liberation Organization for admission to the U.N. agency.

The matter will be taken up on June 19, when the executive board will decide whether to submit the application to the UNESCO general conference in November.

UNESCO is the second U.N. agency targeted by the PLO in its bid for recognition as the "state of Palestine."

Its chances appear dim, however, in light of the vote by the 166-nation World Health Assembly in Geneva last Friday to defer for one year the PLO's request for full membership in the World Health Organization.

Admission to the WHO is by simple majority. UNESCO and other U.N. agencies require a two-thirds vote.

Its setback in Geneva, however, was attributed in large measure to the U.S. announcement that it would withhold funding for the WHO or any U.N. agency that admits the PLO.

That threat does not hang over UNESCO, since the United States does not contribute to the UNESCO budget. It walked out of the body five years ago, protesting its anti-Western bias.

But the United States is considering a return to the agency, which would be jeopardized if UNESCO admitted the PLO. Also threatened would be the voluntary contributions the U.S. government makes to some of the agency's programs.

**WEST GERMAN COURT SENTENCES
HIJACKER TO LIFE IMPRISONMENT**

By David Kantor

BONN, May 17 (JTA) -- Lebanese terrorist Mohammed Hamadei was sentenced to life imprisonment Wednesday by a Frankfurt court for the 1985 hijacking of a TWA airliner and the murder of one of its passengers, U.S. Navy diver Robert Stethem.

The sentence is the maximum in West Germany, which does not have capital punishment.

Judge Heiner Mueckenberger said the verdict proved Germany's justice system would not be intimidated. Gunmen kidnapped two West German businessmen in southern Lebanon on Tuesday, an act seen as an attempt to influence the outcome of Hamadei's trial.

Hamadei was arrested in June 1987 at Frankfurt airport on suspicion of carrying explosives.

The United States called for his extradition, but the West Germans rejected the request and promised that he would be tried with the same rigor as in an American court.

But in the United States, he could have faced the death penalty.

Hamadei admitted that he and an accomplice hijacked TWA Flight 847 in June 1985 and diverted the plane to Beirut, shortly after it took off from Athens airport.

He blamed the murder of Stethem, however, on his accomplice, who was never apprehended.

The plane, its passengers and crew were held hostage in Beirut for 17 days, until Israel agreed to the phased release of 700 Lebanese Shiites it had captured during fighting in southern Lebanon.

ANNE POLLARD TRANSFERRED BACK TO CONNECTICUT PRISON

By Susan Birnbaum

NEW YORK, May 17 (JTA) -- Anne Henderson Pollard, wife of convicted Israeli spy Jonathan Pollard, has been transferred back to Danbury Federal Prison Camp after spending four months at the Federal Medical Facility in Rochester, Minn.

Pollard, who has served more than 30 months of her five-year sentence for being an accessory to her husband, was moved abruptly from Danbury to Rochester on Jan. 14.

Although a federal magistrate recently declined Pollard's request for a transfer, ruling that the medical treatment she was receiving at the Rochester facility was adequate, her lawyers were able to reach an agreement with prison authorities to have her returned to Danbury.

Pollard was transferred Tuesday. The 8th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Minneapolis authorized the transfer last Friday.

Pollard was the lone female inmate at the Rochester prison.

According to the agreement attorney Nathan Dershowitz reached with prison authorities, Pollard must eat as much as possible. Her weight had dropped to below 90 pounds.

Pollard's family attributes her inability to eat solid food to a digestive disorder. But prison authorities have charged that Pollard sometimes refuses food and medical treatment.

The Jan. 14 transfer to Rochester was prompted by her medical condition, prison authorities contended.

Dershowitz and Pollard's father, Bernard Henderson, said she received only limited medical treatment in Rochester.

Henderson said he was happy with the "better conditions."

Dershowitz said Pollard may now be eligible for "all kinds of furloughs, including medical."

"My hope is that now that she is back, she will have that determination made, and that she will be in the process of relatively quick release," he said.

KKK DEPOSES A GRAND DRAGON BECAUSE HE WAS BORN JEWISH

By Susan Birnbaum

NEW YORK, May 17 (JTA) -- The Christian Knights of the Ku Klux Klan has deposed its grand dragon in Mississippi because he was born a Jew, according to KKK officials.

Jordan Gollub, from a Philadelphia Jewish family, was removed from the Christian Knights by Virgil Griffin of Mount Holly, N.C., national head of the white supremacist group.

"I just felt it was best to get a new grand dragon for Mississippi," Griffin told the Associated Press. He said Gollub's removal "mostly concerned his Jewish background."

Gollub now says he will form his own Klan. This is not the first time Gollub has been ousted.

Gollub resigned from the Christian Knights in 1985, when he was a grand dragon in Virginia, following a feud with Griffin that came on the heels of reports of his Jewish birth.

It was reported that at the time, Griffin had allowed Gollub to stay on because of the good job he was doing. Gollub resigned in December 1985, griping about the Klan's lack of organization.

But Gollub was reinstated, as recently as December 1988, for unknown reasons.

Pat Clark, director of Klanwatch of Montgomery, Ala., thinks Gollub's reinstatement might have had to do with his talents as a recruiter and rally organizer.

David Lowe, associate director of the fact-finding department of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, ascribes Gollub's removal to a radicalization of the Klan.

"It's a sign of the growing Nazification of the Klan that those of Jewish background, regardless of what they profess, are not considered pure enough," he said.

Gollub, presently a resident of Poplarville, Miss., considers himself a Christian, although he admits his parents are Jewish. A New York Post account in 1985 described him as being the son of a prominent Philadelphia physician.

"I was never Jewish. My parents are Jewish. I have never had any Jewish religious background," Gollub told the Post in 1985.

Gollub, about 30 years old, gained experience as a Klan organizer with Bill Wilkinson, a former colleague of David Duke, the Klan leader recently elected to the Louisiana state legislature.

O.U. CLARIFIES ITS ABORTION STAND, DISTANCES ITSELF FROM NJCRAC BRIEF

By Andrew Silow Carroll

NEW YORK, May 17 (JTA) -- The Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations of America is distancing itself from an interfaith brief it signed that urges the U.S. Supreme Court to uphold a woman's right to decide whether or not to have an abortion.

According to Rabbi Pinchas Stolper, executive vice president of the Orthodox Union, a brief his group signed as a member of the National Jewish Community Relations Advisory Council wrongly implies that the Orthodox Union supports "absolute freedom of reproductive choice."

NJCRAC is writing to the Supreme Court "to correct any possible misunderstandings," according to a statement issued by the umbrella group.

The brief in question was filed last month. It asked that the Supreme Court strike down a controversial Missouri law that, if upheld, would severely restrict a woman's right to an abortion in that state.

It also asked the court to uphold Roe vs. Wade, the 1973 landmark Supreme Court decision that affirmed a women's right to an abortion. The court heard oral arguments on the Missouri case last month.

The brief argues that since different religions have contrasting views on abortion, "state statutes drastically curtailing access to abortion unacceptably interfere with constitutionally protected religious and private conscience."

NJCRAC admitted, in a statement, that a "last-minute revision" of the brief might be understood as implying that the Orthodox Union had taken a more "liberal approach" on abortion than had other Orthodox groups.

"We're willing to accept the fact that there was simply a misunderstanding and that's all there is," said Stolper.

Jewish law permits and even requires abortion under certain circumstances rejected by many "right-to-life" groups, including a threat to the life of the mother.

But Stolper said his group cannot accept that abortion on demand is a fundamental right.