

**PLO ABANDONS BID TO JOIN UNESCO,
BUT WINS PLEDGE OF COOPERATION**

By Edwin Eytan

PARIS, June 15 (JTA) — The Palestine Liberation Organization and its supporters were reported Thursday to have abandoned their bid for full membership of the "Palestinian state" in the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization.

They will settle instead for a promise of future close cooperation between UNESCO and "Palestine," diplomatic sources here said.

Omar Messallah, the PLO observer at UNESCO, claimed that "the principle" of admission "has been accepted, but a matter of timing and opportunity forces us to postpone the debate."

The reported compromise reached here appears to end the PLO's recent campaign for admission, with full sovereign rights, into several U.N. agencies.

The campaign was intended to gain respectability for the PLO and international recognition for the independent Palestinian state proclaimed by the Palestine National Council in Algiers last November.

That effort has been frustrated by the United States.

The UNESCO compromise reportedly was hammered out with the active assistance of the United States, which quit UNESCO in 1985. The Americans made clear that admission of the PLO would kill chances of their ever returning.

UNESCO, headquartered here, had been a major target of the PLO's diplomatic efforts.

Seven member states — Algeria, Egypt, Indonesia, Mauritania, Nigeria, North Yemen and Senegal — petitioned UNESCO's 51-member executive council to recommend admission of the "Palestinian state" to the General Conference, the agency's equivalent of the U.N. General Assembly. It will convene here in October.

U.S. Played Influential Role

The executive council was to examine the request on June 19. It is now likely to examine and adopt the compromise resolution, which is fully backed by the UNESCO director general, Federico Mayor Zaragoza.

The text of the resolution recommends "closer collaboration between Palestine and UNESCO." But it is not clear if the text provides for admission of the undefined entity called "Palestine" as a member.

Diplomatic sources said that matter would come up for interpretation at the next session of the executive council in September.

Israeli officials said they believe the promised cooperation would fall far short of membership. Moreover, it would entitle "Palestine," not the PLO or a state of Palestine, to participate more actively in UNESCO's cultural activities, they said.

The United States, which maintains observer status at UNESCO, wields considerable influence because of the chance that it might rejoin the organization and make a substantial contribution to its budget.

In recent weeks, John Bolton, the U.S.

deputy secretary of state in charge of international organizations, advised Mayor and other UNESCO leaders that rejoining would not be possible if the PLO is admitted.

A U.S. threat to suspend its assessed and voluntary contributions to the World Health Organization had a similar impact on the World Health Assembly when it convened in Geneva last month with a PLO request for admission on the agenda. The assembly decided on May 12 to defer the matter for one year.

The International Telecommunications Union, meeting in Nice last week, avoided debate on a resolution calling for the admission of the PLO and the expulsion of Israel. American intervention was believed responsible.

**MOVE BY WORLD LABOR BODY SEEN
AS BLOW TO PLO'S U.N. STANDING**

By Tamar Levy

GENEVA, June 15 (JTA) — Pinchas Eliav, Israel's ambassador to U.N. European headquarters here, believes the Palestine Liberation Organization's standing at the United Nations has just suffered a severe blow.

"The legend that the PLO always gets its way at the United Nations is now shattered," Eliav told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency on Thursday.

He was referring to the annual conference of the International Labor Organization here, where an Arab-sponsored resolution condemning Israel for the alleged mistreatment of Palestinian workers was relegated to third place in the sequence of debate Wednesday.

The first two items, the environment and the international debt, are expected to take up the remaining two weeks of the ILO conference, which closes on June 28.

There is little chance that the Palestinian workers issue will reach the floor before then, ILO officials say.

Eliav said this development indicates that the U.N. agency is fed up with politicization and that the Palestinian issue is passe.

He noted that the United States helped Israel in this affair and that the Eastern bloc, led by the Soviet Union, did not press for debate on the Arab resolution.

High officials of the ILO confirm that an atmosphere of compromise favorable to Israel now prevails in the agency.

**AUTHORITIES SHUT DOWN OFFICES
OF REPUTED PALESTINIAN MODERATE**

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, June 15 (JTA) — Jerusalem police on Thursday shut down the press office of Dr. Sari Nusseibeh, a Palestinian intellectual and reputed moderate.

The closure, for two years, was backed by a court order obtained by the Israel Defense Force central command.

An IDF spokesman claimed Nusseibeh, a writer and philosopher, was an instigator of the Palestinian uprising and a paymaster for Al Fatah, the fighting arm of the Palestine Liberation Organization controlled by Yasir Arafat.

Despite the severity of the charges and demands from right-wing circles, the military authorities shied away from arresting Nusseibeh.

They reportedly feared his arrest would trigger international repercussions, including strong diplomatic protests from the United States, because of Nusseibeh's reputation as one of the moderate political leaders of the Palestinian community in East Jerusalem.

ABC CAMERAMAN SHOT IN RAMALLAH

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, June 15 (JTA) -- An Israeli cameraman for ABC News, Shlomo Franko, was injured in the eye by a rubber bullet Thursday during a skirmish between Israel Defense Force soldiers and Palestinian youths in the West Bank town of Ramallah.

Franko was taken to Hadassah Hospital on Mount Scopus, where he was reported to be in good condition.

Military sources said the ABC team was ordered out of Ramallah, which had been declared a closed military area. But the crew turned up in another part of the city, amid a violent demonstration of about 50 Palestinian youths, the IDF said.

The soldiers did not see the television crew when they fired plastic and rubber bullets into the crowd, according to the IDF. The army has filed a complaint against the ABC crew with the Government Press Office.

Franko disputed the IDF version. He said a different television crew had been ordered out of the area, while his was operating according to regulations.

SENIOR PLF LEADERS KILLED IN RAID

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, June 15 (JTA) -- The commander of a military unit of the pro-Syrian Palestine Liberation Front and two of his top aides were killed Wednesday in the Israeli air force raid on terrorist bases near Beirut, Lebanese sources reported.

Nine other terrorists were injured.

The sources said the PLF chief, Khaled Mustafa Abd-el Salim, and his lieutenants were in two camouflaged buildings flattened by bombs. The buildings were used as air raid shelters.

The targets were located eight miles south-east of Beirut in territory controlled by Walid Jumblatt's Druse militia.

An Israeli military spokesman described them as headquarters and training grounds of the PLF and the Tala'at Yacub faction.

According to the Israelis, the two groups joined forces to mount a Katyusha rocket attack on the Israeli border town of Metulla two weeks ago and also attempted to infiltrate Israel.

ISRAELI SHEKEL IS DEVALUED AGAIN

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, June 15 (JTA) -- The Bank of Israel announced a 0.5 percent devaluation of the shekel Thursday, following a 1 percent devaluation just a week ago.

The shekel now stands at 1.9527 to the dollar.

The economic community was relieved, meanwhile, by a somewhat lower-than-expected inflation rate for May. The Central Bureau of

Statistics announced Thursday that the consumer price index rose by 0.9 percent last month.

Economists feared it would go over 1 percent, which would have signaled the start of a major recession. The lagging economy is currently being described as in a state of "restrained slowdown."

DEGEL HATORAH MEMBERS ARRESTED ON SUSPICION OF BUYING VOTES

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, June 15 (JTA) -- Seven activists of the Degel HaTorah party were arrested this week on charges that they paid Arabs to vote for it in last November's elections.

The ultra-Orthodox party has cried foul.

The accused include two members of the Bnei Brak town council and a member of the town council of Ofakim, in the Negev. They reportedly confessed and were released on bail.

Degel's inexplicable electoral successes in a number of Arab villages raised suspicion of fraud, prompting a police investigation.

But Rabbi Avraham Ravitz, one of Degel's two Knesset members, denied the charges. He said the spectacle of the police "following us from village to village was an anti-democratic act."

The police said that in the Arab village of Fureidis, where 30 voters cast ballots for Degel, some have admitted they were paid between 100 and 150 shekels, then worth \$65 to \$100.

One Arab voter reportedly said he got 5,000 shekels (more than \$3,000) for promising that his entire family would support the Degel HaTorah ticket.

The police also searched the party's offices, where they allegedly found the stubs of checks paid out to Arab voters.

Degel Knesset member Moshe Gafni holds the right-wing Tehiya party responsible for the police probe. He said if 400 votes were nullified, Degel would lose one Knesset seat and Tehiya, which now has three, would gain a fourth.

HIGH COURT SAYS 'TEMPTATION' MAY BE SCREENED IN ISRAEL

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, June 15 (JTA) -- The High Court of Justice ruled Thursday that the controversial 1988 film "The Last Temptation of Christ" may be shown in Israel.

The court thereby reversed the government censor, who banned the film from Israeli screens on grounds that it was offensive to Christians.

"The Last Temptation of Christ," a Universal Pictures film, was directed by Martin Scorsese and based on a novel by the late Greek writer Nikos Kazantzakis.

By depicting the "human side" of Jesus, including his sexuality, the film offended some Christians, though it was praised by others.

It enraged the religious right in America. Although Scorsese and Kazantzakis were Roman and Greek Catholics respectively, the fury of American fundamentalists was manifested in gross anti-Semitism.

The Israeli censor's ban, supported by ultra-Orthodox Jews here, may have been influenced by the reactions of right-wing Christians in America, many of them enthusiastic supporters of Israel.

But the court decided after seeing the film that only "an extreme, brutal and deep insult can justify a violation of the freedom of expression."

**GIANT BRITISH ARMS MANUFACTURER
ADMITS COMPLYING WITH ARAB BOYCOTT**

By Simon Rocker
London Jewish Chronicle

LONDON, June 15 (JTA) — British Aerospace, the United Kingdom's largest military contractor and exporter of manufactured goods, has admitted compliance with the Arab boycott of Israel.

The admission came after an embarrassing mistake in which the company accidentally submitted a boycott request to an American supplier.

The company's media relations manager, Allan Piper, told the Jewish Chronicle that, in the past, the firm had guaranteed Arab clients that no part of any ordered aircraft had been made in Israel.

"Certain Middle East countries insist on a clause in the contract certifying that none of the materials used in an aircraft is of Israeli origin or has any connection with Israel," he said.

"It is not something we would put in an order for any components from America, because of its anti-boycott ruling. We would do so if we were buying from a U.K. source," he said.

In December, the company's military aircraft division, placed an order worth a mere \$330 with Machine Components Corp. in New York state for six toggle switches used on the joy stick pilots use to steer British Aerospace's Tornado jet fighter.

Under the heading "Relations With Israel," the order sought a guarantee from the supplier that none of the parts was made in Israel, made by an Israeli company outside Israel or transported by an Israeli carrier.

'Used The Wrong Form'

American companies can be fined for bowing to boycott requests and must report them to the U.S. Department of Commerce. Machine Components Corp. notified the U.S. authorities of the British demand.

Piper said the boycott clause on the order was a mistake, "because the young lady used the wrong form." British Aerospace, he said, apologized to the New York firm, submitted a fresh order and, as far as he knew, received the consignment of toggle switches.

The switches could be used on Tornado aircraft bound for Saudi Arabia, which has purchased \$5 billion worth of the planes from British Aerospace. But Piper said the Saudis had not insisted on any boycott compliance clause in the contract.

Asked whether it is right for a major British company to comply with the boycott, Piper replied: "It's a difficult question. You have a customer and naturally you try to conform to his wishes. On occasions, political things come into it as well."

**JDC REOPENS OFFICE IN HUNGARY
CLOSED SINCE START OF WORLD WAR II**

BUDAPEST, June 15 (JTA) — The American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee announced here that it has reopened a permanent office in Hungary.

The office began operating Thursday, when the JDC received permission from Prime Minister Bruno Straub, who is president of the Council of Ministers.

The office will allow the agency, the over-

seas relief arm of the American Jewish community, to manage first-hand the variety of programs it has been operating in Hungary since 1980.

Prior to World War II, the JDC maintained an office here, but it was forced to close in 1939.

In New York, JDC President Sylvia Hassenfeld released a statement expressing the organization's pride in the growth and development of its programs in Hungary.

"When JDC returned to Hungary in 1980, we concentrated on providing much-needed assistance to Holocaust survivors. Working in tandem with the community, we were quickly able to branch out into formal and informal educational activities for Jewish youth," she said.

"Re-establishing our permanent office in Budapest will enhance our ability to meet the needs of the increasingly vibrant Jewish community," Hassenfeld added.

JDC projects in Hungary include the Anne Frank Gymnasium, a Jewish high school that has grown from 22 to 129 students, and a network of Talmud Torahs providing after-school Jewish education for students attending secular schools.

The World Jewish Congress also has received permission to open an office here. It plans to do so in July.

Hungary's Jewish population is estimated to number 80,000, and is concentrated in Budapest.

**CHERNOBILSKY RECEIVES PERMISSION,
DESPITE HIS 'POOR RELATIVE' STATUS**

NEW YORK, June 15 (JTA) — Former prisoner of conscience Boris Chernobilsky of Moscow has received permission to immigrate to Israel with his wife and three children, the National Conference on Soviet Jewry reported Thursday.

For 12 years, Soviet authorities blocked attempts by the Jewish activist and radio engineer to emigrate on grounds ranging from his supposed access to "state secrets" to his in-laws' refusal to sign a required financial waiver, the so-called "poor relatives" clause.

The National Conference said this week that the Soviets should remove the "poor relatives" obstacles before it receives more favorable trade treatment from the United States. The issue was one of four contained this week in the conference's conditional support of a waiver of the 14-year-old Jackson-Vanik Amendment.

The lifting of "unreasonable impediments" to emigration was also among the conditions contained in a resolution introduced in both houses of Congress Thursday supporting a presidential waiver of the Jackson-Vanik Amendment.

The resolution, introduced by Sen. Daniel Patrick Moynihan (D-N.Y.) and Rep. Thomas Downey (D-N.Y.), states that Congress is prepared to support a waiver if President Bush receives assurances "that the Soviet government is firmly on a course toward sustained high levels of emigration" and plans to remove "all unreasonable impediments to or against persons wishing to emigrate."

Chernobilsky was granted permission to emigrate last October, but it was rescinded late last year. In November, he was granted a temporary visitors visa to travel to Washington for a human rights conference in a delegation headed by Nobel laureate Andrei Sakharov.

Chernobilsky's wife, Elena, is a Hebrew teacher and was one of the founders of Igud ha-Morim (Union of Hebrew and History Teachers.)

JEWISH BUILDINGS IN PHOENIX WERE TARGETED BY SKINHEADS

By Allison Kaplan

NEW YORK, June 15 (JTA) -- Jewish day-care centers, synagogues and a chapter of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith in Arizona were targets of potential bombings by a teen-age member of the Arizona White Battalion Skinheads.

In January, acting on a tip from local police, the Federal Bureau of Investigations searched the Phoenix home of 17-year-old Michael Bloom, who had been suspended from high school in November for distributing white-supremacist literature.

"We seized an assortment of weapons and the components of over 30 pipe bombs," FBI director William Sessions said Thursday at a luncheon session of ADL's 76th annual meeting.

"We also discovered a map of the area, with circles drawn around over 30 potential targets -- including Hispanic churches, black benefit organizations, the Anti-Defamation League office, Jewish synagogues and Jewish day-care centers," he said.

Joel Breshin, ADL regional director in Arizona, said in a telephone interview Thursday that the FBI informed him in January that his office had been among Bloom's targets, but that the FBI had not yet taken action against Bloom.

Breshin said that Phoenix police had decided not to wait for the federal government to act and filed a complaint Monday with the Maricopa County Attorney's Office. The county attorney, he said, may file conspiracy charges against Bloom.

'Part Of A Disturbing Pattern'

Breshin said that in addition to the pipe bombs, the FBI found brass knuckles, a mace with eight blades, two shotguns, a rifle and a roll of fuse cord in Bloom's home. He also had white-supremacist literature stored there.

FBI director Sessions would not comment specifically on the Arizona case, but in his address to the ADL, he said the FBI had a "keen interest" in the activities of the Skinheads, because of the increasing number of violent racial incidents perpetrated by them.

David Lowe, associate fact-finding director for ADL, called the Arizona case "part of a disturbing pattern which we have seen in various parts of the country."

"It reinforces our repeated call for vigilant law enforcement to deal effectively with this menacing problem," Lowe said.

ADL is releasing a special report this week-end on the Skinheads phenomenon, entitled "Young and Violent: The Growing Menace of America's Neo-Nazi Skinheads."

JEWS OF BERLIN AUTHORIZED SALE OF HAGGADAH, AUCTION HOUSE SAYS

By Tamar Levy

GENEVA, June 15 (JTA) -- A Swiss auction house said Thursday that it had received permission from the Jewish community of West Berlin to put a valuable 14th-century Haggadah up for sale.

But Judaica scholars say the French Haggadah, valued at about \$500,000, disappeared from the Jewish Historical Institute in Warsaw several years ago and is stolen property.

The richly illustrated Wolf Haggadah is scheduled to be sold here Sunday by the Habsburg Feldman auction house, in what is believed to be the first major auction of Judaica in Geneva.

Marek Pototsky, a spokesman for the auction house, said Dr. Vera Bendt, the legal representative of the West Berlin Jewish community, had come to Geneva and refuted any possible ownership claim that could be made by the Warsaw institute, where the manuscript was kept during World War II until it allegedly was stolen.

The Haggadah was originally given to the Berlin Jewish community by Albert Wolf, a 19th-century German Jew. It disappeared from Berlin during the Nazi era and resurfaced in Poland after World War II.

In New York, Rabbi Philip Hiat, assistant to the president of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, said Thursday that the Berlin community has no claim on the Haggadah.

Hiat, who organized the exhibition of the Haggadah in the United States in 1982, argues that the Haggadah should be returned to the Warsaw institute, its rightful owner.

Planned Display In Jerusalem

The Habsburg Feldman spokesman said that the Haggadah's anonymous owner and Bendt had agreed that the Haggadah would be auctioned on behalf of both parties.

Following the sale, Habsburg Feldman is to make a special request to the buyer that the item be displayed in the Jewish National Library in Jerusalem for a period of two years, spokesman Pototsky told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency.

But Hiat said it was unlikely the library would agree to such an idea, since library officials are aware of the Haggadah's removal from the Warsaw collection.

"If his proposal is accepted," Hiat said, "the Jewish National Library will become party to what is known as a theft."

Hiat said the Haggadah is among 227 items that have disappeared from the Jewish Historical Institute in Warsaw.

(JTA staff writer Allison Kaplan in New York contributed to this report.)

MIAMI BEACH HOTEL WILL HELP SINK HITLER'S YACHT ONCE AND FOR ALL

By Linda Brockman

The Miami Jewish Tribune

MIAMI, June 15 (JTA) -- A well-known Miami Beach hotel has donated up to \$10,000 to prevent a bungled ceremony commemorating the 1939 "Voyage of the Damned" from creating further waves.

The Fontainebleau Hilton Hotel will contribute the sum to hoist and re-sink the S.S. Ostwind, Adolf Hitler's private yacht, which was ceremonially sunk in the wrong place during a June 4 ceremony here.

The sinking of the dilapidated craft was part of a ceremony marking the 50th anniversary of the S.S. St. Louis, which was denied entry into Cuba and the United States in 1939. Because no country accepted the boatload of 937 Jewish refugees, 75 percent of the passengers died in concentration camps.

The event's organizing committee intended to dump the yacht's hull in 250 feet of water, where it would become an artificial reef. But the yacht was accidentally sunk in 30 feet of water. It is damaging a living reef and endangering ships.

The Army Corps of Engineers has ordered the shell, which is still in one shabby piece, to be removed by June 22.

That is expected to cost at least \$7,500.