

ISRAEL DEPORTS EIGHT TO LEBANON, ALLEGING THEY ORGANIZED UPRISING

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, June 29 (JTA) -- Israel deported eight Palestinians to Lebanon Thursday, alleging they were organizers of the Palestinian uprising, now in its 19th month.

Four are from the West Bank and four from the Gaza Strip.

Their ouster brought to 55 the number of Palestinian activists deported by Israel since the intifada began in December 1987.

Israel braced for criticism from the United States and human rights groups.

In Washington, there was no State Department briefing Thursday. But a department official said the deportations were "particularly harmful" at a time when Israel is seeking international support for its peace plan.

"We have been strongly opposed to deportations," the official went on to say. "We have made this clear in public and we have said this to the government of Israel many times."

The latest expulsions were carried out within hours after the High Court of Justice upheld the deportation orders, which were issued by the Israel Defense Force 12 months ago.

The eight had appealed their cases, first to a military tribunal and then to the High Court. The accused waited in jail for months while their lawyers argued in vain for a reversal.

Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin has proposed allowing the army to deport Palestinian troublemakers without giving them opportunity for appeal.

But Justice Minister Dan Meridor is said to be opposed to the idea.

The eight deported Thursday were ferried out of Israel by military helicopters.

Sources in Lebanon said they landed at Zummareya, a village near the Israeli-controlled security zone in southern Lebanon.

The deportations were the first since Jan. 1, when 13 alleged leaders of the uprising were expelled to Lebanon.

The IDF identified the eight deportees as Ata Ahmad Hussein Karsh, Nabil Mohammed Tamus, Riad Waji Kamel Ajur and Mohammed Saadi Emdukh, all from the Gaza Strip.

Those from the West Bank are Majed Abdullah Labadi of Abu Dis, Radwan Ziadi of Hebron, Akif Wahid Hamdallah of Anabta and Taysir Mohammed Nasrallah of the Balata refugee camp, near Nablus.

U.S. TALKS WITH NO. 2 PLO OFFICIAL UNDERCUT SHAMIR, LAWMAKERS SAY

By Howard Rosenberg

WASHINGTON, June 29 (JTA) -- U.S. contacts with Salah Khalaf, a top official in the Palestine Liberation Organization, have undercut Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, five Jewish members of Congress charged Thursday.

They made the charge after it was disclosed that U.S. Ambassador to Tunisia Robert Pelletreau had met at least twice with Khalaf, who is the No. 2 official and security chief of Al Fatah, the largest of the PLO factions.

Khalaf, who is often called Abu Iyad, is also a top adviser to PLO leader Yasir Arafat.

The Washington Post reported Thursday that Khalaf told the Kuwaiti news agency KUNA that he had been talking with Pelletreau outside of the formal dialogue.

Until that revelation, it had been understood that Pelletreau was meeting only with Hakam Balaoui, the PLO's representative in Tunis, or Yasir Abed Rabbo, a member of the PLO's executive committee.

An official at the State Department would only confirm Thursday that Pelletreau and Khalaf met earlier this week.

Yossi Gal, the Israeli Embassy spokesman here, said in a statement that such a meeting "does not promote the peace process."

He said Khalaf has pledged his "unwavering support" for the armed struggle against Israel.

At a news conference in the Capitol, Rep. Mel Levine (D-Calif.) argued that the Bush administration "has again pulled the rug out from the Israeli leadership."

Link To Munich Massacre

Levine said the United States should not have met Khalaf, citing his alleged involvement in various terrorist acts, including the 1972 murder of 11 Israeli athletes at the Olympics in Munich.

"We don't select the individuals for the PLO that are going to engage in dialogue with us," the State Department official responded.

The official criticized the lawmakers for having a "pecking order" of whom the United States should talk to. He pointed out that the members of Congress did not complain when Pelletreau met with Rabbo, who has led the PLO delegation to the talks in Tunis.

Rabbo is the No. 2 official in the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, which has been linked to several attempts to infiltrate northern Israel this year.

At the news conference, Rep. James Scheuer (D-N.Y.) expressed concern that the contacts with Rabbo could further harm the beleaguered Israeli prime minister.

Shamir "is coming under savage attack from the right-wing of the Likud," he said, citing the challenge his peace initiative is facing from Likud Cabinet Ministers Ariel Sharon, David Levy and Yitzhak Moda'i.

If Shamir "cannot show that he's got some credibility abroad, his efforts are going to be crippled and weakened," Scheuer said. The United States "should not engage in continuous sniping at him as we have done in the past."

But the State Department official denied having "done anything of the kind." The official said the United States actively supports Shamir's four-point initiative and has sought to convince the PLO to agree to the elections.

The Jewish lawmakers Thursday did not categorically call for an end to the 6-month-old U.S.-PLO dialogue.

But Rep. Charles Schumer (D-N.Y.) said, "If the dialogue entails dealing with people like Abu Iyad, it ought to be cut off."

The other two lawmakers who spoke at the news conference were Reps. Benjamin Gilman (R-N.Y.) and Elliot Engel (D-N.Y.).

ITALIAN JUDGE DISMISSES CHARGES LINKING ARAFAT TO ARMS SMUGGLING

By Ruth E. Gruber

ROME, June 29 (JTA) -- Citing lack of evidence, a Venice magistrate has dismissed charges that Palestine Liberation Organization leader Yasir Arafat was involved in smuggling weapons to terrorist groups in Italy 10 years ago.

But Judge Carlo Mastelloni ordered 19 people to stand trial in the case, among them Al Fatah security chief Salah Khalaf, who will be tried in absentia.

Fatah is the fighting arm of the PLO controlled by Arafat.

Khalaf and his co-defendants are charged with illegally importing weapons, forming an armed band, giving false testimony, and aiding and abetting the operation.

The accused include Italian security personnel charged with covering up the smuggling.

The case dates back to 1983, when an investigation was launched after police uncovered a cache of weapons and explosives while rescuing a kidnapped American military attache, Gen. James Dozier.

The investigation indicated that the arsenal was transported from Lebanon to Venice in 1979 by Red Brigades leader Mario Moretti and other terrorists in a sailing vessel, the Papago.

Antonio Savasta, a former Red Brigades member who turned state's evidence, said the weapons were supplied by the PLO and were distributed among various terrorist organizations in Europe.

Savasta claimed Arafat was involved.

16 KNESSET MEMBERS ON A HIKE TAKE ARAB VILLAGE BY SURPRISE

By Gil Sedan

EIN ARIK, West Bank, June 29 (JTA) -- The residents of this picturesque Palestinian village near Ramallah were dumbfounded Thursday.

Before they understood what was happening, they were surrounded. First soldiers filled the narrow road passing through the valley where the village lies.

Then came buses with journalists, and finally Knesset members -- 16 of them wearing shorts, T-shirts and walking shoes. They said they were on a hike to "demonstrate their love for Eretz Yisrael."

Hiking, especially in and around Palestinian villages, has suddenly become a political as well as physical exercise.

Right-wing Israelis of the Greater Israel school see it as a response to the intifada, a way of showing the Palestinians that Jews have the right to go anywhere in "Eretz Yisrael" and won't be deterred by stone-throwers.

Gush Emunim, the militant settlers movement, has 52 hikes crisscrossing the West Bank planned for Friday.

The politicians of Likud and other right-wing parties were not to be outdone. They took their hike on Thursday, assured of maximum media coverage.

They were protected by the army, which took the precaution of clamping a curfew on Ein Arik, although the hamlet was peaceful enough.

That led to a headline in the afternoon tabloid Ma'ariv: "Whole Army Deployed to Protect the Settlers' Hikes."

Likud Knesset member Michael Eitan, leader

of the group, said the hike was planned a long time ago. He insisted it had no bearing on the upcoming meeting of the Likud Central Committee in Tel Aviv.

The July 5 meeting was called by opponents of Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's peace initiative, who hope to scuttle it or amend it out of existence.

A Chance To Show Off Arabic

Likud Knesset members who support Shamir's plan -- Binyamin Begin, Reuven Rivlin and Yehoshua Matza -- pointed to themselves as living proof that the hike was not intended to serve the political interests of the opponents.

The Likudniks were not the only ones demonstrating their love for the land.

The hikers included Knesset members of the National Religious Party and the ultranationalist party Tehiya, who leaped from rock to rock, wending their way along narrow paths through two Arab villages to the Jewish settlement of Dovev.

The curfew-bound Arabs of Ein Arik were frightened by the sudden invasion and curious.

A few who did not make it home before the curfew were waylaid by Likud Knesset member Tzahi Hanegbi, who was determined to show off his Arabic.

He engaged the stragglers in conversation. How was their health? Where did they work? How many children did they have?

He didn't seem interested in their political views.

"Ahalan u'sahlan," (Welcome, welcome) the somewhat bewildered Arabs mumbled, as television cameramen did their job, delighted to find a Likud Knesset member talking to Arabs.

A few minutes later, after the politicians and soldiers moved on, a young Palestinian told reporters, "If they come here for peace, they are welcome, but if they support the settlers, they are not welcome."

Two Settlers Remain In Custody

The Israel Defense Force also had a point to make: Hiking in the West Bank is perfectly all right, as long as it is coordinated with the proper military authorities.

Recent hikes by settlers, not cleared with the IDF, have led to fatal clashes with Palestinian villagers.

A teen-age Palestinian girl was killed earlier this month by settlers supposedly on a hike in Kifl Harit village.

Last Friday, a 22-year-old youth was shot to death in Karawat Bani Zeid under similar circumstances.

Police arrested 11 settlers in connection with the latest incident. Two of them, Meir Berg and Ariel Begun from Pesagot, near Ramallah, are still in custody.

On Thursday, Jerusalem Magistrate Daniela Wechsler ordered Berg to be held for 10 more days and Begun for five.

Berg was accused by police of deliberately shooting Aziz Khamis Arar in Bani Zeid.

Begun, son of former refusenik Dov Begun, is charged with shooting indiscriminately at the village, causing property damage.

Both settlers insist they fired in self-defense when attacked by stone-throwing Arabs.

But Judge Wechsler said the fact the suspects would not cooperate with the investigators strengthened the police version of events.

**'BATTLEGROUND IS THE MEDIA,'
HERZOG TELLS MONTREAL AUDIENCE**
By Michael Solomon

MONTREAL, June 29 (JTA) -- President Chaim Herzog of Israel declared here Wednesday night that in his country's present struggle, "the battleground is the media" and "the strategic objective is world opinion."

"We have to take the initiative from the hands of our enemies," Herzog said in a speech to some 2,000 Canadian Jews at Shaar Hashamayim Synagogue.

He blasted the news media for "cruel, distorted, prejudiced coverage" of Israel's handling of the Palestinian uprising in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

"The choreographed scenes of stone-throwing youngsters were directed to the households of Western world audiences," Herzog said.

"We are faced with the choice of maintaining the law as the basis for bilateral negotiations or allowing the situation to deteriorate into a new edition of Beirut or Teheran," he said.

He vowed, however, that Israel would never "use the methods of the Soviet Union in the streets of Tbilisi, Georgia" where bullets and poison gas were fired at demonstrators.

Herzog, the first president of Israel to make an official visit to Canada, arrived here Wednesday from Ottawa, where he had addressed a joint session of both houses of Parliament.

In an interview published in the Montreal Gazette, he took a hard line. "There can be no negotiations between us and the Palestinians before violence ends," he told the newspaper.

"Our refusal to deal with the Palestine Liberation Organization is based on its refusal to amend the PLO Covenant, which calls for the destruction of Israel," he said.

Trade Relations Discussed

In his speech at Shaar Hashamayim, Herzog urged Canadian Jews to make aliyah. "We need you," he said.

"Your children should come and settle in Israel. We don't call them to drain the swamps. That has already been done. We wish them to integrate into a sophisticated society and contribute to Israel's progress and the welfare of humanity," he said.

Herzog's first stop in Montreal was at City Hall, where he was received by Mayor Jean Dore and signed the Golden Book in the presence of Montreal's Ashkenazic and Sephardic rabbis and other dignitaries.

He was guest of honor at a luncheon hosted by Jerry Weiner, the secretary of state for multiculturalism and citizenship, who is the only Jew in Prime Minister Brian Mulroney's Cabinet.

Weiner spoke of trade relations between Canada and Israel, which he said amounted to a quarter billion dollars a year.

He said Canada imports more from Israel than from any other country in the Middle East. About 40,000 Canadians visit Israel each year and 40,000 Israelis visit Canada, he said.

"Canada can never and will never abandon our support and our friendship for Israel and its people," Weiner said.

Herzog met Wednesday night with the premier of Quebec province, Robert Bourassa. He and his wife attended a state dinner in their honor presided over by the lieutenant governor of the province, Gilles Lamontagne.

On Thursday morning, the Israeli president met with local Jewish businessmen before leaving for Toronto, where he is spending the final two days of his six-day visit.

According to Alan Rose, executive vice president of the Canadian Jewish Congress, Herzog's visit is "a total success."

"He made a tremendous impact on politicians in this country," Rose said.

**ATHLETES FROM 44 NATIONS ARRIVE
TO COMPETE IN 13TH MACCABIAH GAMES**
By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, June 29 (JTA) -- More than 3,000 Jewish athletes from 44 countries are relaxing at resorts all over Israel this weekend in preparation for the 13th Maccabiah, which opens Monday at Ramat Gan Stadium.

It has been dubbed the "Bar Mitzvah Maccabiah" and will end officially with ceremonies at the Western Wall in Jerusalem on July 13.

Organizers of the Maccabiah, the quadrennial "Jewish Olympics," have expressed confidence that the 18-month-old Palestinian uprising will not adversely affect attendance from abroad.

They are predicting, in fact, that it will be 20 percent larger than the record set at the last Maccabiah in 1985.

The Intifada certainly has not deterred the athletes.

Israel will field the largest contingent, with 846 participants. The United States is second, with 502, followed by Canada, with 267 competitors, and Australia and Brazil, with 237 each.

The smallest delegation is a one-man "team" from Hong Kong, which is participating for the first time. Other first-timers are athletes from Singapore, Portugal and Panama.

While track-and-field events often dominate the Olympic Games, the most popular Maccabiah event seems to be tennis. Over 400 players have signed up, while track-and-field drew only 169 athletes.

The Ramat Gan Stadium holds more than 50,000 spectators, and every seat is expected to be occupied at the opening, when the Maccabiah torch is lighted.

The identity of the athlete selected for the honor will be announced just before the event.

Ultra-Orthodox Are Upset

The torch will have been borne by relays of young runners from the tombs of the Maccabees in Modi'in, where it will be kindled Monday morning.

The Maccabees, a priestly family, led the Jewish revolt against Hellenism and Syrian rule that began in 168 BCE. They reigned over Palestine from 142 BCE to 63 BCE.

Meanwhile, the daily newspaper Davar reported Thursday that a planned sports display at the Western Wall plaza has aroused the ire of ultra-Orthodox Jews.

They have denounced it as a "desecration of the Temple's honor" and plan to demonstrate to stop it.

The ultra-Orthodox frown on the Maccabiah, because it was the Greeks who invented the Olympic Games and they who desecrated the Temple some 2,000 years ago.

The police will have to keep an eye out for the Sicari'i, a secret group of violence-prone religious extremists, who have vowed to do anything to "thwart the plot."

BEHIND THE HEADLINES: WEST GERMANS SEARCHING FOR LINE BETWEEN EXTREMISM AND NEO-NAZISM

By David Kantor

BONN, June 29 (JTA) -- West Germany is grappling with the question of whether right-wing extremism is a legitimate form of political expression or unacceptable because of the country's Nazi past.

The issue has taken on a degree of urgency with the sudden rise of the Munich-based Republican Party, an extreme right-wing group headed by a former Waffen SS official, Franz Schoenhuber.

The Republicans surprised the country and shook the political establishment by winning seats in the West Berlin municipal legislature on Jan. 29.

More recently, on June 18, the Republicans won 7.1 percent of the popular vote in the election of deputies to the Parliament of Europe, the legislative body of the European Community, based in Strasbourg, France.

The Republicans displaced the Free Democratic Party, the junior partner in the governing coalition, as the fourth largest political group in the Federal Republic.

Those elections were viewed by many as a barometer of the next elections for seats in the Bundestag, West Germany's parliament.

If the Republicans equal or improve their performance in next year's Bundestag elections, they could hardly be bypassed for a coalition with Chancellor Helmut Kohl's governing Christian Democratic Union, assuming it retains its leadership.

None of the parties, not the conservative CDU, the centrist Free Democrats, nor the Social Democratic Party and the Greens on the left could command a parliamentary majority.

One Politician Stands Up

Because the Republicans seem to have the makings of a political force to contend with, politicians here are wary of characterizing it as anything more than extreme right-wing.

Another reason is to protect West Germany's image abroad from suggestions that a large bloc of voters is willing to support a party that evokes memories of the Third Reich.

This reticence was broken last week, when Graf Lambsdorff, chairman of the Free Democrats, referred to Schoenhuber as a "neo-Nazi."

"Yes, for me this man is a neo-Nazi," Lambsdorff stated in a newspaper interview published June 23.

He accused Schoenhuber of deliberately trying to play down Nazi crimes. As an example, he cited a recent remark by the Republican leader that Germans gave the world far more than Auschwitz had ever destroyed.

According to Lambsdorff, that remark showed that Schoenhuber is trying to justify the most outrageous Nazi crimes by employing absurd equations.

The leader of the Free Democrats argued that the Republican leadership is rife with neo-Nazis and the party itself far to the right. But he warned that the people who voted for the Republicans could not be lumped together under one label.

Chancellor Kohl insists his CDU would not consider a coalition with the Republicans. But he has given the impression this is a matter of

tactics, not a matter of such an alliance being repugnant.

The deeply conservative Kohl, in fact, has equated the Republicans with the ecology-minded, pacifist Greens, saying they were "extremities" of the right and left respectively.

Politics Of Resentment

Another CDU leader, former party secretary Kurt Biedenkopf, said Monday that it is wrong to boycott the Republicans or to portray them as neo-Nazis.

According to Biedenkopf, their electoral successes are grounded in a comprehensible sociological phenomenon.

Germany, he said, is increasingly flooded by immigrants. Its low-income citizens are in competition with the newcomers for jobs and scarce housing.

They resent this because they are Germans with deep roots in this country, Biedenkopf explained.

But West Germany's Jewish community strongly opposes efforts to play down the neo-Nazi nature of the Republicans.

They may recall that the politics of resentment, skillfully played on Germany's lower middle class between the wars, was one of the tools of the Nazis' rise to power in 1933.

The leader of West Germany's Jewish community, Heinz Galinski, has repeatedly warned the established parties that to delay confronting the Republicans will only enhance the popularity of Schoenhuber and his associates.

"Unfortunately I was right," Galinski said after seeing the returns from the European parliamentary elections.

They were a severe blow to a nation that has come to believe that a neo-Nazi upsurge is out of the question, Galinski said.

SALE OF JERUSALEM POST SHARES FOR \$17 MILLION IS FINALIZED

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, June 29 (JTA) -- The Jerusalem Post, Israel's English-language daily, became part of an international media empire Tuesday, when its sale to the Canadian-based Hollinger newspaper chain was finalized.

Hollinger Inc. paid over \$17 million for a majority of Post shares, previously held by the Palestine Post Co., a subsidiary of the Israel Investors Corp.

IIC itself is a subsidiary of the financially troubled Koor Industries conglomerate, owned by Histadrut.

Koor is retrenching to manage its huge debt to Israeli and foreign banks.

Bank Hapoalim retains a minority interest in the newspaper.

Hollinger is headed by David Radler and Conrad Black.

Its holdings include The Daily Telegraph of London, The Spectator, a London weekly and more than 200 other publications, chiefly in North America.

According to Israel Radio, the agreement completing the sale contained a provision that the Post's 270 employees would share a special one-time bonus of \$200,000.

It was granted by the new owners to allay employees' fears that the change of ownership would adversely affect their pensions and fringe benefits, Israel Radio said.