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**ARAFAT MAY ASK TO JOIN U.N. DEBATE
ON INFLAMED SITUATION IN TERRITORIES**

By Allison Kaplan

UNITED NATIONS, May 21 (JTA) -- A Security Council session to discuss the inflamed situation in Israel's administered territories has been set for Tuesday, and the Palestine Liberation Organization is pressing for its chairman, Yasir Arafat, to participate in the debate.

Security Council consultations were held Monday morning and were scheduled to continue Tuesday and culminate in a formal meeting, which was requested by the 22 Arab nations belonging to the international body.

The request was made in the aftermath of a shooting attack Sunday on a group of Palestinian laborers in the Israeli town of Rishon le-Zion. The incident, perpetrated by a mentally disturbed Jewish man in army uniform, left seven dead and triggered massive rioting in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Soon after the attack, the PLO called for international intervention.

At the United Nations, PLO representative Zehdi Terzi sent an informal signal Monday morning to the U.S. Mission indicating that the PLO would like Arafat admitted to the Security Council debate, according to sources here.

But there were no reports Monday of Arafat having made a formal request for a visa to the U.S. State Department.

An Israeli spokesman said that his government was already lobbying the U.S. administration to signal to the PLO that a formal visa request would be rejected.

"Instead of calming things down," Arafat's entrance to the United States "would escalate the situation" in the territories, said the spokesman, Yuval Rotem.

If Arafat is denied a U.S. visa, action may be taken at Tuesday's meeting to move the meeting to United Nations' European headquarters in Geneva, PLO representatives indicated.

Secretary-General Concerned

In the fall of 1988, a U.N. General Assembly meeting was moved to Geneva after Arafat was denied entry to the United States.

U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar released a statement Monday saying that he "views with grave concern" the Rishon le-Zion attack; the resulting unrest in the territories, which led to the deaths of seven more Palestinians; and the reprisal attack Monday on eight French tourists by a Palestinian in Jordan.

The attack in Jordan, he said, "cannot be viewed in isolation" from Sunday's events.

Perez de Cuellar said that the Palestinian deaths Sunday "highlight the vulnerability repeatedly expressed by those living under Israeli occupation."

He urged that "appropriate steps be taken to enable the Palestinians to feel secure" and that negotiations among all parties to the Arab-Israeli conflict be launched as soon as possible.

The stalled peace process, the secretary-general said, "has deepened the frustration of the peoples of the Middle East, contributing to an escalation of tension throughout the area."

Rotem at the Israeli Mission said his government was "encouraging Jewish organizations to express their views" against an Arafat visit.

Malcolm Hoenlein, executive director of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that the conference has "been in touch with officials in Washington" about the PLO request, which it is monitoring "very closely."

Hoenlein spoke from Little Rock, Ark., where he was addressing a synagogue group.

While he and other Jewish leaders would not comment directly on an Arafat visa request before it was formally made, Hoenlein noted that in the past, many American Jewish groups have urged the Bush administration not to admit Arafat to the United States.

He said the decision about whether to admit Arafat would likely be made at the highest levels of the administration, by President Bush himself or by Secretary of State James Baker.

**ARAB SLAYINGS DIVIDE JEWISH OPINION,
RETURN INTIFADA TO EARLIER HEIGHTS**

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, May 21 (JTA) -- The slaying of seven Palestinians by a lone Jewish gunman Sunday near Rishon le-Zion has not only reignited the full fury of the intifada but seems to have polarized Israelis along political and ideological lines.

And the violence that erupted after the killings appeared Monday to have spread to Amman, Jordan. A Palestinian shouting he was avenging the "martyrs of Gaza and Rishon" took his anger out on the most unlikely victims of revenge, two busloads of mostly French tourists.

In that attack, one was killed and seven wounded, according to reports from Amman. The assailant in that attack, identified as Ahmed Badwan, was described as a former resident of the village of Beit Natif in the West Bank.

Meanwhile, Israeli police identified the confessed killer of the Palestinian workers as Ami Popper, 21, a dishonorably discharged former Israel Defense Force soldier described as mentally deranged.

The Rehovot magistrate, David Moyalem, ordered him held in custody for 15 days while police investigate the crime. The judge referred Popper to the district psychologist for psychiatric evaluation, in order to determine whether he should be imprisoned pending his hearing and whether he is fit to stand trial.

The judge also ordered the police to protect his family against possible reprisals.

Popper's deed has, to all appearances, rekindled the intense flame of the intifada's first months. The shooting near Rishon le-Zion, which also wounded 10 Palestinians, triggered furious rioting in the Gaza Strip, home of most of the victims, despite a total curfew.

Violence also spread to the West Bank. As of Sunday night, six Arabs had been killed in clashes with Israeli security forces, according to IDF figures, and over 600 reportedly were injured.

The IDF reported 12 soldiers hurt in stonings and gasoline bomb attacks.

Radio sidewalk interviews and phone-in

programs pointed to a deep split in Israeli society exacerbated by the tragedy at Rishon le-Zion.

Respondents identifying themselves as right-wing and nationalist deplored the bloodshed but emphasized it was the doing of a "lone, mentally disturbed man."

Said He'd Done 'Something Horrible'

They pointed out that similar seemingly senseless mass killings have occurred in the United States and other countries, but "the country is not to blame."

Israelis calling themselves liberal or left-wing pointed to Israel's polarized society. They blamed popular demands for harsher measures to suppress the intifada, the lack of progress toward a political solution of the Arab-Israeli conflict and the light sentences given Jewish settlers in the territories who have shot Arabs.

They recalled that only last week, Rabbi Moshe Levinger, a militant settler leader from Hebron, was escorted to prison with a hero's send-off from his followers.

Levinger, charged with firing indiscriminately into a crowd of Arabs after his car was stoned, managed through a plea bargain to reduce his murder charge to a charge of negligent homicide. He will serve only five months of a one-year sentence.

Popper, meanwhile, reportedly has given police several motives for his shooting spree.

Arrested at his girlfriend's home in Rishon le-Zion shortly after the dawn attack, he allegedly told police he shot the Arab workers because the woman rejected his advances.

He also claimed to have been sexually molested by an Arab at age 13 and had been hunting for his attacker ever since.

After speeding to his girlfriend's house in a car stolen from one of his victims, Popper allegedly told her and her family he had done "something horrible."

The woman's father telephoned the police, who came quickly and arrested him.

The woman was identified as Hagit Mizrahi, a 19-year-old member of the air force. Police were said to be considering charges against her for not reporting Popper's threats to commit suicide or "do something which would put him away for a long time" if she left him.

U.S. Deplores Violence

According to the police, Popper served in the IDF's armored corps for 18 months, during four of which he was absent without leave. He spent another four months in military prisons for disciplinary infractions and was eventually dishonorably discharged.

In Washington, the State Department said Monday that it deplores "this senseless tragedy, and we extend our deepest condolences to the families of everyone touched by this incident."

But the department's deputy spokesman, Richard Boucher, also noted pointedly that "in the absence of a peace process, the potential for this kind of senseless violence and spiraling responses afterwards goes up."

Boucher said the United States is "disturbed by the number of casualties inflicted by the Israeli army" in response to the rioting after the attack. "We have repeatedly called upon the government of Israel to exercise restraint in these situations," he said.

(JTA correspondent Howard Rosenberg in Washington contributed to this report.)

BOMB EXPLODES OUTSIDE EL AL OFFICE IN ISTANBUL, WOUNDING THREE TURKS **By Elena Neuman**

NEW YORK, May 21 (JTA) -- A bomb exploded Monday outside an El Al Israel Airlines office in downtown Istanbul, wounding three men and shattering the windows of nearby buildings.

No individual or organization has taken credit for the incident, which surprised many, as Turkey has been virtually free of terrorist attacks against Jews and Israelis in recent years.

"In Turkey, there has been some Arab terrorist activity, but not against Israelis," said Ozgen Acar of the Anatolian News Agency's bureau here. "They have been against other Arabs, Americans and Turks."

The last major terrorist incident in Turkey against Jews was the shooting at the Neve Shalom synagogue in Istanbul by the Abu Nidal group in September 1986. Twenty-one worshippers were killed in that attack, which occurred during Shabbat morning services.

On Monday, at 2:10 p.m. local time, residents of central Istanbul were jolted by a loud explosion and the sound of shattering glass.

The cause was a noise bomb that detonated just outside the Babel Street El Al office, causing nearby windows to shatter.

Three telephone workers, Ibrahim Tas, Alper Ustun and Fahrettin Aygunoglu, fixing phone lines three yards from the offices, suffered injuries from flying glass. No El Al staff, who are generally local Turks, were injured.

According to the Turkish Embassy in Washington, there is still no knowledge of who planted the bomb, but an investigation is under way.

SOVIETS SHOULD ALLOW DIRECT FLIGHTS, VICE PRESIDENT TELLS ORTHODOX LEADERS **By Elena Neuman**

NEW YORK, May 21 (JTA) -- The Bush administration is continuing to urge the Soviet Union to permit direct flights to Israel, Vice President Dan Quayle told a group of Orthodox rabbis and lay leaders here Sunday.

"Proclaiming the right to immigrate is not enough. (President) Bush is urging normalized diplomatic relations between the Soviet Union and Israel, and direct flights to Israel," the vice president declared at the annual dinner of the Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations of America.

Quayle was in New York to receive the organization's humanitarian award in recognition of "his distinguished public career and his forthright championship of the safety and security of the State of Israel."

But the vice president received more of a fanfare welcome than he expected when a smoke bomb exploded in the lobby of the Sheraton Centre Hotel shortly before the dinner began.

The "incendiary device," as police called it, was discovered in the cloakroom located one floor below the ballroom. According to the official police report, no bomb threats were received and the incident "did not appear to be connected with Quayle's visit."

Although the bomb detonated hours before Quayle arrived, the smoke lingered in the hotel throughout the ceremonies. But that did not seem to disturb the vice president, who used his address to speak out against anti-Semitism and in favor of a continued strong U.S.-Israel alliance.

**BAKER PRAISED FOR PRESSING SOVIETS
IN MOSCOW ON HUMAN RIGHTS CONCERNS**

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, May 21 (JTA) -- Soviet Jewry advocacy groups here have expressed satisfaction with the amount of time Secretary of State James Baker spent discussing human rights concerns during his talks in Moscow last week with Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze.

The groups were especially pleased that Baker spent about an hour with 15 refuseniks at the official residence of U.S. Ambassador Jack Matlock after arriving in Moscow on May 16.

This was in sharp contrast to his last visit to Moscow, when he refused to meet with refuseniks and other human rights activists as a sign to Soviet leaders of U.S. appreciation for human rights advances.

In a statement Saturday at the conclusion of his talks with Shevardnadze, Baker confirmed that he had raised human rights issues with the Soviet leadership.

"We stressed our continuing concern over the remaining refusenik cases in the Soviet Union and the need to resolve them as soon as possible," he said.

"I also raised my concerns about anti-Semitism and the vital need for the Soviet leadership to speak out strongly against it," he said.

Baker did not say whether he raised the continuing Soviet refusal to approve direct flights between Moscow and Israel, to handle the tens of thousands of Soviet Jews now making aliyah.

Shevardnadze suggested at a news conference that one way to ease the emigration problem was for the Bush administration to allow more Jews to come to the United States.

'Listened Patiently' To Refuseniks

Soviet Jews have been going to Israel in large numbers since last October, when the United States stopped granting refugee status to Soviet Jews who had emigrated with Israeli visas. All Soviet Jews coming to the United States must apply for U.S. visas at the U.S. Embassy in Moscow, where there is said to be a backlog of over 100,000 applicants.

The United States currently has an annual quota of 50,000 refugees from the Soviet Union. In urging Washington to raise that ceiling, Shevardnadze nevertheless acknowledged that the United States has admitted more and more Soviet Jews every year.

The group of refuseniks who met with Baker and his aides was led by Leonid Stonov, who was recently given permission to emigrate after his wife, Natasha, visited Washington.

Natasha Stonov sat next to Baker at a White House ceremony marking Passover. During the ceremony, President Bush gave her a message to take back to all the refuseniks that "they have not been forgotten."

Baker's meeting with the refuseniks brought praise from the Union of Councils for Soviet Jews and from the National Conference on Soviet Jewry.

"The efforts of such distinguished, high-level U.S. officials to allocate quality, not ceremonial, time for such a lengthy and substantive discussion demonstrates the commitment of the (Bush) administration to consider seriously today's pressing human rights issues and the plight of Soviet Jews," said Pamela Cohen, president of the Union of Councils.

"Our reports from Moscow indicate that the secretary devoted a substantial amount of time and listened patiently to the presentation of the 15 individuals that were there," said Martin Wenick, executive director of the National Conference.

The Moscow meeting was a prelude to the summit Bush plans to hold in Washington with Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev from May 31 to June 3. Human rights issues will again be on the agenda.

A New Category Of Refuseniks?

So it was perhaps no coincidence that it was announced while Baker was in Moscow that the Supreme Soviet will take action on long-awaited emigration reform legislation on May 31, the day Bush and Gorbachev begin their talks.

Bush has made clear to the Soviets that he will not sign a trade agreement with the Soviets unless the reform legislation is adopted and implemented. The summit schedule calls for the two presidents to sign any agreements they reach on June 1.

The new legislation is also a condition set by Bush for a waiver of trade sanctions contained in the Jackson-Vanik Amendment. A trade agreement would be meaningless unless the trade sanctions are lifted.

Cohen of the Union of Councils praised improvements in the latest draft of the reform law, which acknowledges that every Soviet citizen has a right to leave the country.

She said the law also would adequately address the problem of Soviet citizens being denied permission to emigrate because of their access to state secrets.

But she expressed concern about a section of the law that creates a new category called "state security." Cohen said the section "establishes separate grounds for a new brand of arbitrary, unreviewable refusal."

She said it is unclear why this category was created or how it is different from state secrecy, which up to now has been used in an arbitrary manner.

In the meeting with Baker, Stonov warned that this new designation could create a new category of refuseniks.

**SHARANSKY BELIEVES ALL REFUSENIKS
COULD LEAVE SOVIET UNION THIS YEAR**
By Ruben Vis

ROTTERDAM, Netherlands, May 21 (JTA) -- Soviet Jewry activist Natan Sharansky believes there is "no doubt that this year all refuseniks can leave the Soviet Union."

Sharansky, himself a former refusenik who spent almost 10 years in Soviet prisons and labor camps, puts his faith in the persuasive powers of the United States, particularly now that U.S.-Soviet relations have been so improved.

Addressing the Rotterdam Jewish Community, where he attended Friday evening services May 18, Sharansky said he expected the 200 to 300 Soviet Jewish families still refused exit visas "will be permitted to go within six or 12 months."

He observed that "in the past, when the Americans and the Soviets rarely met, there was always a list with the names of refuseniks, which the Americans handed to the Soviet delegation."

"Now, they meet almost every week. And still, every meeting the Americans bring up the problem of the refuseniks," Sharansky said.

EDITOR IS FIRST IN FRANCE TO RECEIVE JAIL TERM FOR ANTI-SEMITIC WRITINGS

PARIS, May 21 (JTA) -- The editor of a periodical dedicated to the idea that the Holocaust was a hoax was sentenced here last week to three months in prison.

Alain Guionnet, 36, was found guilty of "incitement to discrimination, to racial hatred, racial violence and racial defamation." He was described as given to "obsessive" and "delirious diatribes" against the Jews.

Guionnet was charged separately on three counts relating to hate activity and was sentenced May 14 to three months for each count. The court ordered that he serve them concurrently.

He was also fined a total of 75,000 francs (about \$13,500) in damages and interest, to be paid to Jewish groups and organizations that combat racism.

It is the first time a French court has jailed anyone for anti-Semitic writings. But it was not Guionnet's first time in court for his revisionist activities.

Guionnet, publisher of the monthly *Revision*, was arrested last year for affixing revisionist posters to cars and public buildings.

A lower court acquitted him in December, on grounds that his acts did not constitute racial incitement. The court said Guionnet had not blamed the Jews for what he called the "legend of the death camps."

The prosecution appealed, however, arguing that his type of fallacious propaganda was a symptom of rabid anti-Semitic incitement.

In March, the Versailles Court of Appeals sentenced Guionnet to one month in jail for disseminating leaflets that claimed the gas chambers never existed. That sentence was suspended.

Last week, the judges at the Paris Court of Justice sentenced Guionnet to three months, saying he "indulged in a diatribe often delirious, even obsessive, against the Jewish community," prompting his readers "to hate members" of that community.

In the September edition of *Revision*, Guionnet published excerpts from the "Protocols of the Elders of Zion," a notorious anti-Semitic forgery. The magazine denounced the gas chambers as a myth made up by Jews.

In October, the magazine wrote about the "hoax or myth of genocide against the Jews" during World War II and included what the court called an "ultimatum" that was a "menace."

E.C. REQUESTS WALLENBERG PROBE

By Yossi Lempkovicz

BRUSSELS, May 21 (JTA) -- The Parliament of Europe has formally asked the Soviet Union to permit an international investigation into the fate of Raoul Wallenberg.

The 518-member Parliament, which is the legislative body of the European Community, headquartered in Strasbourg, France, petitioned the Soviet authorities to place all of the archives related to the Wallenberg case at the disposal of an international commission of historians and experts.

Wallenberg, a young Swedish diplomat posted to Budapest in the final years of World War II, has been credited with saving tens of thousands of Jews from deportation to Nazi death camps by extending them the protection of the Swedish legation.

He was arrested when Soviet troops entered Budapest in January 1945 and has not been heard from since.

The Soviet authorities claim he died in a prison near Moscow in 1947. But numerous reports over the years indicate he may still be alive.

The resolution, adopted in Strasbourg, was introduced by the Christian Democratic, Liberal and Socialist factions at the initiative of Brussels lawyer Simone Lucki, president of the Belgian Wallenberg Committee.

AUSTRALIA CANVASSING PACIFIC RIM ON RESCINDING 'ZIONISM IS RACISM'

By Jeremy Jones

SYDNEY, Australia, May 21 (JTA) -- The Australian government, fulfilling a parliamentary mandate and a commitment to the Jewish community, is canvassing the Asian and Pacific nations to determine if they would support a move to rescind the 1975 U.N. resolution equating Zionism with racism.

Acting Prime Minister Paul Keating told the biennial conference of the Zionist Federation of Australia this week that "in response to the concerns of Jewish leaders, the government is currently considering action which might be taken toward overturning the resolution, and we are canvassing regional governments for their views."

The effort is an outgrowth of the unanimous vote by both houses of Parliament in 1986 to rescind the resolution.

A commitment to try was given leaders of the Executive Council of Australian Jewry and the Zionist Federation last month.

But Australian officials made clear to the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that Australia is unlikely to raise the issue before the United Nations unless and until it appears a clear majority will support the move.

One senior official said the entire campaign could "backfire" if a "forgotten" resolution was given "new life."

The resolution was adopted in the U.N. General Assembly 15 years ago by a vote of 72-35 with 32 abstentions.

Keating indicated that most of the Pacific rim nations have prepared their responses to Australia's queries on the subject, although Foreign Minister Gareth Evans has not yet received his department's findings.

Generally, attitudes toward the resolution are probably reflected in the individual policies of countries toward the Arab-Israeli conflict.

For example, the Palestine Liberation Organization's self-proclaimed "state of Palestine" is recognized by China, Indonesia, India, Malaysia, the Philippines, Pakistan, Nepal and Vanuatu, all of which were canvassed by Australia.

Vanuatu, formally the New Hebrides, is an island group in the southwest Pacific that achieved independence in 1980.

In addition, Brunei, Laos, Thailand and Vietnam accord full diplomatic status to the PLO.

Chances of rescinding the resolution could rest with the newly democratizing nations of Eastern Europe, along with Uruguay, Mexico, Brazil and Venezuela, which have indicated they now oppose the 1975 resolution.

A change in the attitude of the Soviet Union would be crucial. Although Moscow has indicated a desire to improve relations with Israel, it has stopped short of supporting an overturn of the resolution.