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PRESSURE MOUNTS ON U.S. TO PREVENT ARAFAT FROM ATTENDING U.N. SESSION

By Allison Kaplan

UNITED NATIONS, May 22 (JTA) -- Pressure mounted Tuesday on the U.S. State Department to prevent Yasir Arafat from entering the United States to take part in a Security Council debate on the current unrest in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The Security Council held closed consultations throughout the day, as plans for the formal debate awaited a U.S. decision on whether the Palestine Liberation Organization leader would be granted an entry visa.

But by evening, the United Nations had received no word from Washington about whether a visa would be granted.

The 22 Arab nations of the world body requested the Security Council meeting to discuss the violence in the administered territories in the aftermath of the shooting Sunday of seven Palestinian workers by a 21-year-old Israeli man who had been dishonorably discharged from the army.

The Arab states requested that Arafat be allowed to take part in the session.

The State Department contacted the PLO in Tunis early Tuesday and reportedly asked Arafat not to formally apply for a visa, according to sources here.

But by that time, the PLO had already requested a visa through the United Nations.

In Washington, however, State Department spokeswoman Margaret Tutwiler implied Tuesday that the United States did not consider that request a formal application.

"We're hearing reports that a formal application will be made," Tutwiler told reporters at her noon briefing. "But as of this briefing, we have not received anything."

Senators Lobby Administration

A number of U.S. senators, including Connie Mack (R-Fla.) and Phil Gramm (R-Texas) contacted high-level administration officials to push for a denial of any application from Arafat.

An aide to Mack said that news of the Arafat request had come too quickly to mount a group lobbying effort. "I think senators are acting individually, because there has not been time for something organized," the aide said.

There was similar pressure on the administration from organized American Jewry, as a number of groups contacted top administration officials to register their opposition to admitting Arafat.

The National Jewish Community Relations Advisory Council "mobilized communities to express opposition to the issuance of the visa," said Martin Raffel, the umbrella group's Israel Task Force director.

Jewish organizations applauded the Reagan administration's decision to deny Arafat a visa to address the U.N. General Assembly in 1988. The General Assembly then moved its session to the European headquarters of the United Nations in Geneva to hear the PLO chairman speak.

The Arab nations have said that they will press to move the Security Council session to Geneva if Arafat is again denied a visa.

"Granting a visa to admit Arafat would fly in the face of American policy," said Seymour Reich, chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations. Reich said such a move would "appear to reward those who are engaged in violence and rioting" in the administered territories.

Henry Siegman, executive director of the American Jewish Congress, said Arafat should not be rewarded for "deliberately seeking to inflame Arab passions" by blaming the Rishon le-Zion attack on the Israeli government.

"It is a clear, blatant lie to say that this killing was the result of any deliberate plot by the Israeli government," he said.

FEW HURT AS ISRAELI ARABS RIOT IN AFTERMATH OF SUNDAY KILLINGS

By Gil Sedan and David Landau

JERUSALEM, May 22 (JTA) -- With more than a million Palestinians under curfew in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, violent reaction to the slaying Sunday of seven Palestinian laborers by a lone Jewish gunman spread this week to parts of central and northern Israel.

It reached a peak Monday, when youths throwing rocks and bottles clashed with police in the streets of Nazareth, Taiba, Kfar Sava and other Arab population centers within Israel's pre-1967 borders.

Police fired tear gas to disperse rioting youths in downtown Nazareth, Israel's largest Arab city.

But the situation has been brought under control, commanders of the Israel Defense Force and the national police reported to the Knesset on Tuesday.

Although there were injuries on both sides, there were no fatalities, a fact attributed to police restraint, which was widely praised by the Knesset members.

Police Chief Ya'acov Terner said he stressed in his orders that shooting was to be avoided unless no other option existed.

As it turned out, no shots were fired directly at the young demonstrators, and in only one instance a policeman fired into the air when he was surrounded by rock-throwing youths, Terner reported.

"These are Israeli citizens," the police chief was quoted as saying. "The police exercised maximum restraint. The fact is that more policemen were injured in the disturbances than protesters."

By contrast, at least 11 Palestinians died in clashes with security forces in the West Bank and Gaza Strip on Sunday and Monday, and two more were reported killed Tuesday in Gaza.

As many as 700 Palestinians were reported wounded, but discrepancies existed between the figures provided by the IDF and those reported by Palestinian sources.

Several incidents were reported in Jerusalem on Tuesday.

A Molotov cocktail was thrown into a house in the Jewish Quarter of the Old City, causing damage but no injuries. Police fired tear gas and wielded batons to disperse an Arab demonstration outside the East Jerusalem YMCA.

**NEWS ANALYSIS:
VIOLENT REACTION TO KILLINGS
POSES PROBLEMS ON THREE FRONTS**
By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, May 22 (JTA) -- The 29-month-old intifada, which lately had seemed to be winding down out of sheer exhaustion, was galvanized into new fury this week, after a dishonorably discharged Israeli soldier gunned down a group of Palestinian laborers near Rishon le-Zion, south of Tel Aviv.

The unprovoked shooting early Sunday morning, in which seven Palestinians died and at least 10 were wounded, has confronted Israel with alarming situations on three fronts.

To begin with, the reignited intifada swiftly escalated to the levels of its earliest and most violent days, requiring the sudden massive deployment of Israel Defense Force troops.

To make matters worse, the rioting swept like wildfire from the administered territories into Israel proper, where stone-throwing youths took to the streets and Israel's 700,000 Arab citizens went on a general strike.

And finally, Jordan was unexpectedly caught in the vortex when violence linked to the Rishon le-Zion slayings erupted among Palestinians, who comprise 70 percent of the Hashemite kingdom's population.

Although Jordan remains technically at war with Israel, Israelis rely heavily on the stability of King Hussein's regime to keep the eastern border quiet.

The IDF was well prepared for renewed large-scale disturbances in the territories.

This time, however, it was not the local intifada leadership trying to fire up wavering spirits. The masses took to the streets spontaneously in anger, frustration and hatred.

For the most part, Israelis seemed to understand the reason for the outburst of hostilities.

Palestinians Exploiting Situation

Acting Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir and Foreign Minister Moshe Arens condemned the Sunday killings, but tended to play down the significance of the rioting. Shamir predicted it would end "within hours or days."

Indeed, most experts agreed that the present wave of violence would subside soon. But the situation is likely to remain explosive, and the Palestinian leadership will do everything it can to exploit it for political gains, they said.

In East Jerusalem, local Palestinian leaders began a weeklong hunger strike to focus world attention on the Palestinians' plight.

They succeeded to a degree, judging by the angry reception President Chaim Herzog got in Stockholm during his state visit to Sweden and Finland this week.

A similar backlash greeted Labor Party leader Shimon Peres in Cairo for a meeting of the Socialist International.

Faisal Husseini, a leading Palestinian activist, urged the U.N. Security Council to convene immediately to place "occupied Palestine" under international protection and to establish an international commission to investigate the Rishon le-Zion murders.

But for many Israelis, the most immediate concern was the reaction of Arab citizens within Israel.

Ehud Ya'ari, co-author of "Intifada," a new best seller about the Palestinian uprising, warned

that Israel's Arab population could be swept into its own intifada, "more dangerous and bloody than what is happening in the territories."

Shmuel Toledano, who was Arab affairs adviser to the prime minister from 1966 to 1977, said, "No one should be surprised over what happened" in Israel's Arab community.

"One should be more surprised how Israel's Arabs succeeded in two years (of the intifada) to overcome their emotions," he said.

"The murder in Rishon le-Zion was the trigger which brought out in the open feelings of rage and bitterness which had accumulated for years," he said.

Disturbing Events In Jordan

The events in Jordan were also disturbing for Israeli officials.

Last week, Jordanian soldiers halted a "peace march" staged by Palestinians near the Allenby Bridge, which links Jordan with the West Bank.

More than 100 people were hospitalized after the soldiers fired tear gas at the crowd.

On Monday, a Palestinian gunman crying vengeance for the Arabs slain at Rishon le-Zion inexplicably fired on a bus in Amman, wounding eight French tourists.

More than 7,000 Jordanians took to the streets to protest the killings in Israel.

There are hard-liners in Israel, like Ariel Sharon, who believe the Arab-Israeli conflict can be solved by proclaiming Jordan a Palestinian state, since most of its population is of Palestinian origin.

But most Israelis fear the fall of Hussein would, in fact, make matters much worse for Israel. Jordan conceivably could become a new staging ground for terrorist attacks against Israel.

**BEWILDERED FATHER OF THE KILLER
EXPRESSES SORROW OVER SON'S DEED**
By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, May 22 (JTA) -- Chaim Popper, father of the 21-year-old man who confessed to gunning down Palestinian workers Sunday near Rishon le-Zion, expressed sorrow and bewilderment Tuesday at the "inexplicable, crazed act" of his son Ami.

Sitting red-eyed in a darkened room of the family's modest two-story house in Rishon le-Zion, Chaim Popper sent his family's condolences to the families of the seven Palestinian men killed in the assault and expressed hope for the speedy recovery of those injured in the shooting spree.

The father said he had been aware of his son's problems in the army, where he had served several sentences in the stockade for absence without leave and disciplinary infractions.

In the end, Ami received a dishonorable discharge, after serving half the normal three-year stint of duty.

But Popper said he had been unaware until Sunday of Ami's claim that he had been sexually assaulted by an Arab at the age of 13. "That has been a new trauma for me and the family," the father told Israel Radio.

His son, he said, had never shown any extreme tendencies toward either end of the political spectrum. Ami was only interested in having a good time, he said.

At the end of the radio interview, Chaim Popper said sadly: "Sons are sometimes guilty of sins, but they always remain your son."

GREECE ESTABLISHES TIES TO ISRAEL, FIRST TIME SINCE ISRAEL'S FOUNDING

By Jean Cohen

ATHENS, May 22 (JTA) -- Greece, fulfilling a promise by its new prime minister, has established full diplomatic relations with Israel.

The announcement was made Monday morning by Prime Minister Constantine Mitsotakis at a Cabinet meeting, and was formalized later in the day with the signing of a joint statement by Greece and Israel at European Community headquarters in Brussels.

Greece thereby became the last of the 12 E.C. member states to extend de jure, or legal, recognition to Israel.

Greece was the only European country that in 1947 opposed the U.N. plan for the partition of Palestine and voted with the Arabs. Greece still holds strong ties to Arab nations.

In an attempt to maintain an evenhanded policy toward Israel and the Arab states, Greece simultaneously upgraded the status of the Palestine Liberation Organization in Athens.

In addition, the announcement of improved diplomatic relations with Israel included a strong condemnation of Israel's continued presence in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The announcement also was accompanied by an affirmation of Greece's "traditional policy of friendship and solidarity with the Arab world."

Since the 1950s, Greece has recognized the existence of the Jewish state on a de facto basis, and low-level diplomatic relations have existed between the two nations.

Mitsotakis noted that his government's decision to establish full ties with Israel had been announced before the April 8 elections that brought his conservative New Democratic Party to power, and was therefore "approved by the Greek people when it voted for us."

He further noted that all E.C. governments and those of Eastern Europe "are rapidly recognizing Israel, one after the other." He cited Bulgaria as the latest example.

"Greece may now play the role I think it should play in the Middle East region, without harboring any prejudice against one or the other side," Mitsotakis said.

Concern Over Territories

The Greek government expressed "deep concern over the deterioration of the situation in the occupied territories" and referred directly to the latest rioting touched off when a lone Jewish gunman killed seven Palestinian laborers and wounded 10 Monday near Rishon le-Zion.

Nevertheless, the establishment of full relations with Greece was the achievement of a long-sought diplomatic goal.

The agreement, which was signed at E.C. headquarters in Brussels, stipulated that the diplomatic missions of the two countries in Athens and Tel Aviv respectively would be elevated to the status of embassies, and the present chiefs of mission would be raised in rank to ambassador.

The Israeli ambassador to Greece is Moshe Gilboa, who has long held ambassadorial rank in the Israeli foreign service but could until now function in Athens only on the consular level.

Gilboa was present in Brussels when the joint statement was signed at the office of the Greek representative to the E.C.

The signatories were Reuven Merhav, director-general of the Israeli Foreign Ministry, and

Panayiotis Economou, secretary-general of the Greek Foreign Ministry.

The Brussels venue was maintained "for reasons of convenience," Merhav told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency.

The joint statement said that "in accordance with the principle of maintaining friendly relations with all states, the government of the Hellenic Republic and the government of the State of Israel have decided to upgrade the current status of their diplomatic representation to that of embassies.

"Consequently, the heads of the above missions shall be regarded henceforth as the ambassadors of their countries."

In a separate statement, Economou said: "Greece reiterates its longstanding position not to recognize any territorial acquisition by the threat or the use of force, and reaffirms that this is particularly applicable to the territories occupied by Israel since 1967.

"Furthermore," the statement continued, "Greece is opposed to any unilateral change in the status of the city of Jerusalem.

"In this context, Greece condemns the Israeli settlement policy and practices in the occupied territories, which constitute a serious obstacle to achieving a comprehensive, just and lasting peace in the Middle East."

(JTA correspondent Yossi Lempkowitz in Brussels contributed to this report.)

GERMAN TECHNOLOGY HELPING LIBYA BUILD BALLISTIC MISSILE, TV CLAIMS

By David Kantor

BONN, May 22 (JTA) -- German technology and technicians are helping Libya build a ballistic missile that could hit Israel, according to "Report," a program broadcast Tuesday evening on West German state television.

The missile is derived from an Argentine model called Condor II, developed and built by a major West German weapons company.

According to "Report," an unspecified number of German technicians are employed on the Libyan missile project, code-named Alpha-8. The project is under way at three locations in Libya, the broadcast said.

The information comes on the heels of further reports that West German firms have been involved in supplying Libya with technology to build and maintain chemical weapons plants. Most recently, two companies were implicated in the transfer of a computer system for a new underground chemical weapons plant at Sabha, in southeast Libya.

A West German businessman is being tried for having supplied Libya with the technology for construction of a chemical weapons plant at Raba, near the capital, Tripoli, in the North.

The German government claimed it was instrumental in preventing German firms from helping Libya build a second poison gas factory.

The factory manufacturing the ballistic missile is also located near Tripoli. There is a development center at Misratah, about 37 miles east of Tripoli, and a launching pad is being built in the Karjat desert.

The original Condor missile was developed in cooperation with the Munich-based arms manufacturer Messerschmidt-Bolkow-Blohm, which was acquired last fall by Daimler-Benz, manufacturer of the luxury Mercedes Benz and one of the world's largest producers of military hardware.

**BEHIND THE HEADLINES:
DIVERSITY OF CONSERVATIVE MOVEMENT
HAS PRECIPITATED AN IDENTITY CRISIS**

By Elena Neuman

KIAMESHA LAKE, N.Y. (JTA) -- Conservative Judaism has been called a movement of both tradition and change, a midpoint between Orthodoxy and Reform Judaism, and an example of unity that allows for diversity.

But as the Conservative movement has strived to be all these things simultaneously, it has left many confused about what the movement stands for and where it is headed.

In fact, the very identity and future of Conservative Judaism was at the core of discussions during the recent 90th meeting of the Rabbinical Assembly, Conservative Judaism's 1,300-member central body of rabbis.

"On this 90th year of the Rabbinical Assembly, we are struggling with the forces of disension, doubt and dismay. Critical observers have opined that our movement is in disarray," Rabbi Irwin Groner, the newly elected president of the assembly, said in an address to more than 600 rabbis gathered at the Concord Hotel here.

"We are challenged by an assertive and triumphalist Orthodoxy on our right and by a vigorous, growing Reform movement on our left," he said. "We are dissatisfied with the state of our movement, we fall short in our own eyes, we are pessimistic about our future."

Groner attributed this perceived malaise to the centrist position of the movement. Stressing the importance of halachah and tradition, while also affirming the value of adaptations to modernity, Conservative Judaism has often defined itself by what it is not.

'Somewhere In Between'

As Rabbi David Nelson of Temple Beth Shalom in Oak Park, Mich., put it: "There is a knowledge of who we are: We're not Reform or Orthodox; we buffet somewhere in between."

Conservative rabbis point to the movement's membership of over 1.5 million congregational members -- making it possibly the largest branch of Judaism in the United States and Canada -- as testament to the success of Conservative Judaism's centrist position.

"Our strength is that we can serve a whole range of thought, which is where people are at," said Nelson.

But many Conservative rabbis today feel that such diversity of thought and halachic observance has been a mixed blessing, leaving congregants confused as to where the movement stands on ideological and spiritual issues.

"If you don't adapt, you ultimately dry up. But if you fall for every fad, you stand for nothing," observed Rabbi Arnold Goodman, a past president of the Rabbinical Assembly and religious leader of Ahavath Achim Congregation in Atlanta.

Rabbi Neil Gilman, associate professor of philosophy at the Jewish Theological Seminary of America, criticized the movement in general, and JTS in particular, for its emphasis on thought and scholarship, at the expense of spirituality and theology.

According to Gilman, JTS has trained generations of Conservative rabbis to be academicians -- scholars untrained to fulfil their role as spiritual leaders and therefore unable to transmit that spirituality to their congregants.

With this in mind, the seminary has unveiled

a new academic curriculum to emphasize the spiritual aspects of Judaism.

The rabbinical seminar, for example, will have students listening to each other's personal position papers and diary entries on deep religious and philosophical questions.

'A Thirst For Faith'

"We have to learn how to be passionate believers," Rabbi Joel Rembaum of Temple Beth Am in Los Angeles said during a plenary session on the contemporary rabbinate. "We have succeeded in touching the intellect of our congregants, but not the heart."

Rabbi Robert Abramson, director of education at United Synagogue of America, concurred. "We're now seeing an articulation of a thirst for faith. We're seeing renewals of religion all over," he said.

Indeed, rabbis from the four corners of the United States are all telling similar stories of young, unobservant Jews returning to Judaism in search of a spiritual experience.

"Our people complain that we don't speak enough about our feelings about God. And that's a valid criticism. We've neglected the subject, because these are areas where everyone is unsure. It's hard to talk about," said Nelson, the rabbi from Michigan.

"The problem is that we have lost the initiative in creating new forms of Jewish experience," said Rabbi Alex Graubart of Congregation Beth Shalom in San Francisco. "We have lost the ability to reach our best lay people, who are rejecting formalism in worship to develop chavrutot," or non-traditional worship groups.

Conservative Judaism evolved in the latter half of the 19th century as a form of halachic or traditional Judaism, closely related to Orthodoxy, but that allowed some modern innovations.

These innovations included the introduction of organ and family pews, the omission of a few portions of the liturgy and the interpolation of English prayers. Halachic requirements, like kashrut or not traveling on the Sabbath, originally were not altered.

People Don't Know What To Expect

Now Conservative Jews may drive to shul for Saturday services; most Conservative synagogues allow men and women to sit together; and women have become Conservative rabbis and cantors.

"When a person joins a Conservative synagogue, he doesn't know what to expect anymore," acknowledged Rembaum of Los Angeles.

Two years ago, in an attempt to establish a formal ideological focus for the movement, a committee of Conservative rabbis and lay people compiled "Emet Ve-Emunah," (Truth and Faith), the first collective statement of principles of Conservative Judaism.

But in fact, "Emet Ve-Emunah" is more a compendium of the various positions taken in Conservative Judaism on such issues as God, revelation, halachah and evil.

"I wasn't personally greatly helped by the pamphlet, and it hasn't had any circulation among my congregants," admitted Nelson of Michigan.

But if the Conservative movement has failed so far to define itself successfully, it nevertheless remains one of American Judaism's most popular and populous movements.

As Goodman of Atlanta put it, "We're not as successful as we'd like to be, but we're not the failure that everyone thinks we are either."