

JEWISH LEADERS CONVEY THEIR OUTRAGE TO U.S. ENVOY OVER U.N. RESOLUTION

By Aliza Marcus

NEW YORK, Oct. 18 (JTA) -- American Jewish leaders met Thursday with the U.S. envoy to the United Nations to express their anger and outrage over U.S. backing for last week's Security Council resolution condemning the killing of 21 Arabs on Jerusalem's Temple Mount by Israeli police.

"Not many kind words were shared" with Ambassador Thomas Pickering, said Seymour Reich, chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, which represents 46 national Jewish groups.

"This was certainly a heated and charged meeting, and I think we sent a message to 1600 Pennsylvania Ave. that Israel is being treated unfairly and according to a double standard," Reich said at a news conference following the session.

The meeting was attended by 75 members of the organization and reportedly was one of the most confrontational in years, with the Jewish community leaders expressing their shock and indignation over the sudden U.S. shift against America's strongest ally in the Middle East.

According to Reich, Pickering implied U.S. support for the resolution stemmed from the political necessity of maintaining its coalition with Arab countries against Iraq in the Persian Gulf crisis.

But Reich said Pickering also seemed to suggest that the use of live ammunition by the Israeli police and the location of the confrontation on one of the holiest Moslem sites led the United States to support the resolution.

"When we heard this explanation, we couldn't understand," the Jewish leader said. "Israel has an unblemished record in protecting holy places, and we are sure there will be cases in the future when live ammunition no doubt will be used," he said.

Secretary-General Delays Decision

In Washington, Secretary of State James Baker came under similar fire at a hearing of the House Foreign Affairs Committee. Several members of the panel criticized the Bush administration for supporting the U.N. resolution condemning Israel.

Rep. Lawrence Smith (D-Fla.) called the U.N. resolution "unbalanced."

Baker retorted that the Israeli response to the Arab rioting had been "unbalanced, and the resolution condemned the response."

"We think that killing 21 people and wounding 150 through live fire simply was inexcusable," he said.

But Rep. Gary Ackerman (D-N.Y.) said criticizing Israel before it had completed its own investigation was like issuing a sentence before the trial.

At the United Nations, meanwhile, Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar apparently has decided to wait before deciding whether to send a mission to Israel to investigate the Oct. 8 killings.

Such a mission was authorized in the resolution condemning Israel for the killings, which was

adopted by the Security Council on Oct. 12. Last Sunday, the Israeli Cabinet issued a statement saying it would not cooperate with the U.N. investigation.

In response, Perez de Cuellar asked Israel to clarify its intentions by Thursday. Having received no response, the secretary-general requested a meeting Thursday evening with Israel's acting U.N. representative, Ambassador Johanan Bein.

During the meeting, Israel was asked to provide the ways and means for the secretary-general to follow through on the resolution's demands, according to Yuval Rotem, a spokesman at the Israeli Mission to the United Nations.

"We agreed to cooperate on ways to assist the secretary-general to complete his report," Rotem said.

Jewish leaders said officials of Israel, the United States and the United Nations are currently engaged in discussions aimed at exploring whether Israel's own internal investigation, expected to be completed by early next week, could possibly satisfy the resolution's call for a U.N. investigation of the killings.

During the meeting between Pickering and the Jewish leaders, the U.S. ambassador "indicated to us that discussions were on the way in an attempt to satisfy the needs of the resolution and put the issue behind us," said Reich.

"In our judgment," Reich said in a statement, the Israeli investigation should "meet the needs of Secretary-General Perez de Cuellar in fulfilling his mandate, so that the U.N. Security Council can get back to the real business at hand: dealing with the danger posed by Saddam Hussein."

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

ISRAEL WILL BUILD IN EAST JERUSALEM, BUT NOT WITH U.S. FUNDS, SAYS LEVY

JERUSALEM, Oct. 18 (JTA) -- Israel made clear Thursday that while it wants to mend its frayed relations with the United States, it will not be deterred from building housing for immigrants in East Jerusalem or anywhere it pleases.

At the same time, Israel reaffirmed that it would not use loan money guaranteed by the United States to build housing beyond Israel's pre-1967 borders.

The government's position was stated succinctly in letters from Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir to President Bush and from Foreign Minister David Levy to Secretary of State James Baker.

Shamir stated that although the United States has the right to designate how Israel uses American aid, it cannot dictate Israeli policy.

Levy's letter to Baker, which was shown to the news media here Thursday, was a "clarification" of his earlier commitment to the Americans to refrain from settling immigrants beyond the "Green Line," the imaginary boundary between Israel and the territories it conquered in 1967.

The sincerity of that commitment was called into question earlier this week when a Cabinet committee approved a plan by Housing Minister Ariel Sharon to build 17,000 new housing units for Soviet immigrants in Jerusalem, all but 2,000 of them in the Arab-populated eastern section of the

capital, was not under Israeli control before 1967.

Levy's letter recalled his talks with Baker last month at the State Department and the United Nations, as well as the Oct. 2 letter he sent outlining Israeli assurances on the use of some \$400 million in loans that would be guaranteed by the United States.

No Pledge To Refrain From Building

"You are well aware," he wrote this week, that in the earlier letter "there is no undertaking, either direct or indirect, to refrain from construction within Jerusalem -- or anywhere else, including Judea, Samaria and Gaza."

Levy noted that this was fully and unequivocally expressed at their Sept. 5 State Department meeting, in which he explained to the secretary that his government was elected on the basis of certain ideological foundations that will not be changed.

The ideological stance of Levy's Likud party and its coalition partners further to the right is unlimited Jewish settlement in the administered territories and no territorial compromise for peace.

Levy reminded Baker that in a letter of Sept. 21, the secretary affirmed he had listened carefully to Levy's comments in Washington and acknowledged that Levy had "placed particular emphasis" on Israel's refusal to abandon its principles.

Levy stated in his latest letter that he and Baker had "agreed that the funds deriving from the loans guaranteed by the United States will be used in keeping with that commitment given by the government of Israel year by year, which says that uses of the grant shall be restricted to the geographic areas which were subject to the government of Israel prior to the June 5, 1967 borders."

Levy stressed, however, that this commitment never had any bearing on the status of Jerusalem, which was annexed and is Israel's undivided capital.

JEWISH GROUPS DENOUNCE ARAB GROUP FOR BLACKLISTING THOSE HELPING OLIM By Debra Nussbaum

NEW YORK, Oct. 18 (JTA) -- The National Conference on Soviet Jewry has denounced an Arab group's latest threats as "ill-advised, illegal and unwarranted."

Following a Damascus meeting today, the boycott group, the Arab Bureau for the Boycott of Israel, which is part of the Arab League, announced that it would blacklist airlines and shipping companies carrying Jewish immigrants to Israel.

NCSJ Chairwoman Shoshana Cardin urged "all carriers, and the nations they represent, to resist this attack, which has no validity in international law, and to make it clear to the Arab Bureau, the perpetrator of this attempt at pressure and intimidation, that their tactics will not be effective."

Simcha Dinitz, chairman of the Executive of the Jewish Agency for Israel, which oversees immigration, noted from Jerusalem, "We've heard these threats in the past from time to time. This is nothing new.

"The threats are not justified, and they have no economic power. We are confident that they won't have an effect on the exodus of Soviet Jews on the return to their homeland, and

no effect on the cooperation that Israel has with companies and governments abroad."

Rabbi Haskel Lookstein, chairman of the Greater New York Coalition for Soviet Jewry, characterized the Arab Bureau threat as "outright blackmail.

"It is clear that Israel's enemies are attempting to exploit the tensions in the Middle East, and are also trying to take advantage of the economic straits in which many companies find themselves," he said in a statement.

The Arab Bureau, since its founding in 1951, has attempted to force companies to end their relationships with Israel, in an effort to isolate the Jewish state.

But it has not been effective. One notable example is that some Arab Gulf states have ignored the bureau's decree banning products made by the Coca-Cola Company.

THIRTY PALESTINIANS WOUNDED IN GAZA SCUFFLE WITH POLICE

JERUSALEM, Oct. 18 (JTA) -- At least 30 Palestinians were hospitalized for wounds Thursday after stoning Israel Defense Force troops in a refugee camp in Rafah in the southern Gaza Strip.

Arab sources put the number of hospitalized at 34. Other reports said 55 Arabs were wounded.

The IDF said only plastic bullets were used in the Rafah confrontation and that more than half the injured were soon released from the hospital and the others sustained only slight wounds.

According to a preliminary investigation ordered by the regional commander, the troops complied with regulations.

The incident occurred in the Shabura quarter of the refugee camp, where the IDF established a lookout post on the roof of a building and topped it with an Israeli flag.

Although all IDF posts fly flags, this one triggered unrest because tempers are still running high over the Temple Mount shootings Oct. 8, when Israeli border police fatally shot 21 Arabs and wounded 150 during a riot.

Palestinian youths charging from all directions Thursday brought the IDF post under a hail of stones. Arab witnesses said the soldiers were forced to retreat.

Reinforcements were summoned and employed various means to disperse the rioters, IDF sources said. The sources did not specify the means, apart from plastic bullets.

No serious disturbances were reported elsewhere in the administered territories, although military sources cautioned that tensions were still high enough to ignite a new wave of violence.

An Arab general strike that had been in force in the Gaza Strip and large parts of the West Bank during the week began gradually to dissipate.

Meanwhile, the police appointed Judge David Heshin as an investigative judge to examine the events of the Temple Mount incident. His first move was to order police to question the families of the 21 Arabs who died.

The appointment of the judge was considered significant inasmuch as he has power to take legal measures against persons suspected of illegal conduct.

The government's investigative team in contrast has no legal powers and can only gather information and submit non-binding recommendations.

JEWISH GROUPS SUBMIT PETITION CALLING FOR REPEAL OF U.N. VOTE

By Aliza Marcus

UNITED NATIONS, Oct. 18 (JTA) -- Almost 15 years after the United Nations General Assembly passed a resolution equating Zionism with racism, the first official step toward its repeal was taken by Jewish non-governmental agencies affiliated with the United Nations.

A petition submitted Wednesday to Assembly President Guido de Marco, Malta's foreign minister, says the controversial resolution "maligned the Jewish people by equating its liberation movement, Zionism, with racism and racial discrimination."

The petition, which will be sent on to member states to call for the resolution's repeal in the General Assembly, says "the time has come for the U.N. to cleanse itself of this grotesque libel."

But Israeli officials said they would not want it taken to a vote until a comfortable majority was assured in the General Assembly. Several nations that abstained or voted in favor of the resolution in 1975 have indicated their original vote no longer holds true, and thus the resolution might be able to pass with a slim majority.

"We would like to repeal it as soon as possible but we are now trying to prepare the ground. Until we are sure we have a majority, we shouldn't risk another defeat in the General Assembly," said Aaron Yakov, an official at the Israeli mission to the United Nations.

Harris Schoenberg, director of U.N. Affairs for B'nai B'rith International and chairman of the Jewish U.N. caucus, said Wednesday's petition was timed to coincide with the 15th anniversary of the adoption of the resolution by the third committee of the United Nations. The final vote took place Nov. 10, 1975, in the General Assembly.

"I think people realize now a terrible mistake was done and it's time to repeal it within the context of the United Nations as part of the United Nation's move toward being a place of greater cooperation rather than confrontation," said Schoenberg.

For years, Jewish and Israeli groups have wanted the United Nations to repeal the "Zionism equals racism," but the movement took on greater strength last December when Vice President Dan Quayle announced the start of a specific campaign for its repeal.

However, the Gulf crisis and the United Nation's focus on forcing Iraq to withdraw from Kuwait, which it invaded Aug. 2, makes chances of any repeal this session doubtful, Jewish leaders said.

"But I can tell you that the U.N. Secretary-General told us that within the limits of his position, he would be as helpful as possible on this issue," said Elan Steinberg, executive director of the World Jewish Congress.

MOTORCYCLE BANK ROBBER CAUGHT ENDING SPREE OF 22 BANK HOLDUPS

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Oct. 18 (JTA) -- The police announced that they finally nabbed the "motorcycle bandit" who robbed 22 banks in the Tel Aviv area during the past 18 months, and whose modus operandi included firing one shot into the air after successfully completing a heist. No one was ever hurt.

The desperado was arrested Thursday at his home, a ranch-style villa in the Tel Ganim section of Ramat Gan, an upper-middle-class suburb of Tel Aviv.

Police obtained a court order barring publication of the suspect's name or photograph, but news sources say he is the 37-year-old son of a director of a major company who lives with his wife and two children in a luxurious home.

The picture of affluence may dissipate the popular image of a modern Robin Hood that somehow became attached to the bank thief, although there was no evidence that he shared his loot with the poor.

The image was one of dash and daring. According to police, the suspect rode a red Suzuki motorcycle on which he made spectacular getaways after robbing a bank. He netted an estimated \$400,000 from his 22 bank heists.

Invariably, he wore a black cyclist's helmet which concealed most of his face. Female tellers who handed him the cash at gunpoint remembered he had "nice blue eyes" and was always polite.

More recently, the thief rode a black bike leading police to think he had done a paint job. But indeed the suspect owned two, and a black Motoguzzi was found in his garage with the red Suzuki.

It was perhaps his fame that was his undoing.

At about 11 a.m. local time Thursday, a passerby telephoned police that he saw a man park a black motorcycle with a covered license plate in the parking lot of the Bank Leumi branch in Givataim. The informant said the cyclist was wearing a black helmet.

A nearby police patrol car was alerted and blocked the entrance to the bank. The suspect, realizing he was trapped, raced to his bike and roared away, nearly knocking over the cop.

The chase that ensued might have been staged for prime time television, as the cyclist whizzed through traffic as patrol cars tried to corner him.

They were guided by police helicopters, but the fleeing man eluded them. He was finally spotted by a helicopter pilot driving into his garage and tossing away a plastic bag.

Police arrived soon afterwards, handcuffed the man and led him away. The plastic bag was found to contain a change of clothing and a pistol carried by the bank robber.

MAYOR PROPOSES LICENSING BEGGARS

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Oct. 18 (JTA) -- Tel Aviv Mayor Shlomo Lahat has proposed that the City Council issue licenses to beggars to keep down solicitation in the streets.

The new bylaw, which the council is to debate next month, would enable the municipality to prevent anyone it considers a "public nuisance" from collecting money from the public. The council would also retain the right to designate where each beggar can work.

Most beggars in Tel Aviv gather around the central bus station and the Great Synagogue on Allenby Road.

It is not known how the City Council plans to deal with the dozens of beggars who gather round the entrances to cemeteries, with their hands outstretched under official stone-engraved signs quoting the traditional verse: "Charity Averts Death."

DEATH MACHINES BUILDER AND HOLOCAUST REVISIONIST TO BE ARRAIGNED ON FRAUD

By Eric Radack
The Journal

SWAMPSCOTT, Mass., Oct. 17 (JTA) -- Fred Leuchter, a self-proclaimed scientific authority whose published report stating that "there were no execution gas chambers at Auschwitz, Majdanek and Birkenau" has been most often cited by Holocaust revisionists, will have his credibility tested in Malden, Mass., District Court next week, when he is arraigned on charges that he fraudulently practices engineering.

Leuchter is scheduled to be arraigned Oct. 23 on charges that he fraudulently practices engineering, claiming expertise in that profession although he never attended an engineering school or took a licensing examination.

In the case of Leuchter, a lifelong resident of Malden whose only academic credential is a bachelor's degree in history from Boston University, that shabby impersonation has had sinister consequences.

It has given false credence to claims by assorted anti-Semites, cranks and pseudo-historians of the far right that the Holocaust never occurred and is a myth concocted by Jews to extort money and sympathy from the West.

According to Chip Berlet, an analyst with the Cambridge-based Political Research Associates, Leuchter is "dangerous" because he is being touted as a researcher who uses "scientific objectivity to disprove the Holocaust."

Hired By Propagandist

The bespectacled 46-year-old "expert" was hired by neo-Nazi propagandist Ernst Zundel, the German-born Toronto printer tried under Canada's anti-hate laws for publishing and distributing the Holocaust revisionist book, "Did Six Million Really Die?"

With \$35,000 provided by Zundel, Leuchter traveled to Poland where he claims to have inspected three former concentration camps.

The result of that trip was "The Leuchter Report: The End of a Myth," which states with an air of unassailable authority that "there were no execution gas chambers at Auschwitz, Majdanek and Birkenau."

Leuchter has a disarming personality at odds with his grisly business. He is chief executive officer of the only company in the United States that specializes in the development and construction of execution machinery for states that have capital punishment.

Leuchter provides gallows at \$85,000 each; electric chairs for \$35,000; and computerized lethal injection machines which he sells for \$30,000.

Leuchter has sold lethal injection machines to New Jersey, Delaware, Illinois and Missouri, while his electrocution "systems" have been purchased by Indiana, South Carolina, Tennessee and Alabama.

Faced with outraged reaction to his report by elected officials and Jewish and other groups, Leuchter's pre-eminence in the execution field may be on the wane.

Last month Illinois voided a \$26,000 contract for a lethal injection machine.

The state acted after an expose of Leuchter's Holocaust revisionism by Chicago's WMAQ-TV triggered a lobbying campaign by survivor groups and their friends with the state Depart-

ment of Corrections to break the contract.

In July, the assistant attorney general of Alabama sent a memorandum to all capital punishment states, warning that Leuchter's views are "unorthodox," and questioned his credentials.

Massachusetts began its investigation of Leuchter after being contacted last April by Holocaust Survivors and Friends in Pursuit of Justice, which made a detailed investigation of Leuchter's professional claims.

The trial, expected to open in mid-fall, will be handled by the office of District Attorney Scott Harshbarger.

A conviction would harm Leuchter's reputation more than his pocketbook.

Under the state's Criminal Code Section 112, "falsely impersonating a professional engineer" carries the penalty of a \$100 to \$500 fine and/or a three-month prison sentence.

Leuchter's professional competence is closely tied to his avocation, which is denying the Holocaust.

'Nazi Propagandist'

The "Leuchter Report" gained international notoriety when it was reprinted in Britain with a foreword by historian David Irving, who has been described in parliamentary circles as a "Nazi propagandist and longtime Hitler apologist."

The House of Commons condemned it on June 24, 1989 as "evil calumny" and the "work of Hitler's heirs."

Attorney Eliza Lewis of the Boston law firm Sugarman, Rogers, Barshak and Cohen is acting as pro bono consultant to the Holocaust Survivors and Friends group.

Lewis believes that "victim impact statements" from survivors will be an important factor in the outcome of the trial, helping the judge, and possibly a jury, understand the impact highly-publicized actions of a Holocaust-denier can have on the survivors of Nazi persecution.

The Paris-based Beate Klarsfeld Foundation is a full partner with Holocaust Survivors and Friends in Pursuit of Justice in bringing the Leuchter case to the attention of the state Board of Registration for engineers.

Proof Of Gas Chambers

The two organizations are publishing a study, "Demolishing Holocaust Denial: The End of the Leuchter Report," written by Jean-Claude Pressac, due to be released this month. Pressac had previously written "Auschwitz: Technique and Operation of the Gas Chamber," which gave detailed proof of the existence and operations of the gas chambers.

Shapiro believes Nazi-hunters Beate and Serge Klarsfeld may come to Boston to testify in the Leuchter case.

What may be disclosed when the case goes to trial are the financial relationships, if any, between Leuchter and several anti-Semitic, white supremacist groups including Aryan Nations, David Duke's National Association for the Advancement of White People, and the Liberty Lobby, all of which have sold and distributed "The Leuchter Report."

Meanwhile, Leuchter's execution business is suffering.

The state of Illinois canceled its contract for technical assistance with the execution of Charles Walker after state Rep. Ellis Levin said it would be "an affront to the Jewish community and to all groups who lost people to the Nazis."