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JEWISH GROUPS PROTEST U.S. PAMPHLET ADVISING TROOPS ON 'SENSITIVE SUBJECTS'
By Howard Rosenberg

WASHINGTON, Oct. 25 (JTA) -- The Defense Department is disregarding democratic values by barring U.S. troops in Saudi Arabia from making pro-Israel or anti-Arab remarks, Jewish groups are charging.

The American Jewish Committee and the Simon Wiesenthal Center wrote letters Thursday to Defense Secretary Dick Cheney, in response to a report in the November issue of Harper's magazine. Harper's reprinted a chapter from "Customs and Culture," a troop-information pamphlet distributed by the U.S. Central Command to all U.S. armed forces in Saudi Arabia.

A Pentagon spokesman confirmed the pamphlet's existence, but had no immediate response to objections from Jewish circles.

First among the "sensitive subjects" listed that "should be avoided or handled carefully" are "articles and stories showing U.S.-Israeli ties and friendship."

Other taboo subjects are "anti-Arab demonstrations or sentiments in the United States," "the Jewish lobby" and "U.S. intelligence given to Israel."

U.S. personnel are also instructed to not show "films or news clips featuring pro-Zionist actors and actresses (e.g., Barbra Streisand, Liz Taylor)."

"Quite frankly, we are shocked at many of the references in the published list," charged Sholom Comay, AJCommittee president, and David Harris, its new executive vice president.

"No one can be under the illusion that our presence in Saudi Arabia is intended to protect a fellow democracy," Comay and Harris wrote, dismissing the kingdom and its neighbors as "current allies" of the United States.

But "surely, we ought not to ask our soldiers to submerge entirely those values of tolerance, pluralism and open-mindedness that have made the U.S. a unique democratic society," the letter read.

The Wiesenthal Center wrote Cheney, "It is one thing for the Saudis to have rules governing their own citizens. It is quite another thing for the United States to violate its own principles and beliefs just to kowtow to a racist Saudi policy."

"If this is what the administration means by a new world order, then perhaps we were better off with the old one," wrote Rabbi Marvin Hier, dean of the center, and Rabbi Abraham Cooper, associate dean.

ISRAEL, U.S. GROUPS AGAIN DISAPPOINTED BY U.N. RESOLUTION BLAMING ISRAEL
By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Oct. 25 (JTA) -- For the second time in 12 days, Israel as well as Jewish organizations in the United States have expressed profound disappointment with a U.S. vote supporting a U.N. Security Council resolution.

The latest resolution, adopted unanimously Wednesday night, deplors Israel's rejection of an Oct. 12 Security Council resolution that called on

Israel to accept a fact-finding mission into the Oct. 8 fatal shootings on the Temple Mount. Wednesday's vote urged the Jewish state to reconsider.

The latest resolution expressed "alarm" at Israel's rejection of the earlier Security Council motion, which was backed by the United States.

The Israeli Cabinet flatly rejected that resolution and refused to receive or cooperate with a U.N. delegation.

Despite an implied threat of U.N. sanctions if Israel continued refusing to cooperate, officials here said there was no sign Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir would soften his position or reopen the issue in the Cabinet.

Inquiry Expected By Weekend

Their anger was directed mainly at the United States, which only rarely in the past has joined in a U.N. rebuke of Israel.

Officials pointed out that the report of Israel's own independent committee of inquiry into the killings is expected before the weekend. They maintained that the Security Council could have been persuaded to wait under threat of a U.S. veto.

There has been speculation that with publication of the report, which has been prepared by a three-member panel headed by a former chief of Mossad, a way might be found to bridge the gap between Jerusalem and the U.N. secretary-general's mandate.

According to that view, the Israeli report could form the basis of the United Nation's account, which the secretary-general is required to submit to the Security Council. The Israeli account might even pave the way for some form of U.N. mission or special emissary, it is believed.

That assumption is understood to have been contained in a personal letter President Bush reportedly sent to Shamir before the Security Council's second vote, begging him to reconsider.

The prime minister's close aid, Yossi Ben-Aharon, sharply attacked the United States in an interview published here Thursday.

Coalition Needs Washington

"We are not prepared to pay the price to maintain the unity of the coalition that the United States has set up against Iraq," Ben-Aharon said. "In our view, the Arab states in that coalition need Washington and not the other way around."

Meanwhile, American Jewish organizations have lined up behind Israel.

"Today's resolution of censure makes manifest once again the double standard that the United Nations employs in dealing with Israel," Seymour Reich, chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, said Wednesday.

Others who voiced their support of Israel were the American Jewish Committee, Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, the Jewish Community Relations Council of New York, the Institute for Public Affairs of the Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations of America and New York City Councilman Noach Dear.

(JTA staff writer Aliza Marcus at the United Nations contributed to this report.)

TEMPLE MOUNT CASUALTY COUNT REDUCED BY ARAB RIGHTS GROUP

JERUSALEM, Oct. 25 (JTA) -- The exact number of Arabs killed by Israeli security forces in the Temple Mount rioting Oct. 8 remains uncertain, 17 days after the incident precipitated the worst wave of Arab-Jewish violence in Jerusalem in 23 years.

Al Haq, the Palestine Human Rights Information Center, announced Thursday that it has revised its figure of fatalities downward from 21 to 17.

The center, run by Faisal Husseini's Arab Studies Institute, listed an 18th victim, whom it said was shot by a person in civilian clothes near the Church of the Holy Sepulcher on Oct. 8. That person died of his wounds Wednesday.

But Jerusalem police spokesman Aharon Elchiany said the authorities investigating the riot were sticking to their original figure of 19 Arab fatalities at the hands of the police.

Initially, Arab sources had claimed 21 casualties, while Israelis said there were 19. The media had variously reported "at least 19" and "as many as 24 casualties." Reports most frequently claimed 21 Arabs had lost their lives in the incident.

The government-appointed committee that is investigating the volatile episode is expected to complete its report with non-binding recommendations Friday. There is speculation that the three-man panel, headed by a former chief of Mossad, will recommend the dismissal of several senior police officers as a consequence of the fatal shootings.

Meanwhile, Judge David Heshin, whom the police appointed an investigative judge in the affair, has upheld a request by the father of one of the victims to participate fully in the probe.

The father, who suspects his son was killed by police although he had not participated in the riot, will be given full access to the material and will be allowed to participate in the questioning of witnesses.

CONGRESS, DECIDING ON FOREIGN AID, COULD RULE OUT ANY PLO CONTACT

By Howard Rosenberg

WASHINGTON, Oct. 25 (JTA) -- House and Senate negotiators were expected late Thursday or Friday to decide the fate of a proposal to relieve Egypt's \$6.7 billion in U.S. debts.

They were also expected to consider a sweeping ban on U.S. contacts with the Palestine Liberation Organization that would prevent the spending of U.S. funds to "support, enhance, develop or otherwise sustain contacts with the PLO or any of its constituent parts, persons, entities under its control or influence."

The Bush administration strongly supports the debt-relief measure, but a pro-Israel activist speculated that the administration may be more willing to agree to terminate talks with the PLO, even though it believes it would impinge on presidential conduct of foreign policy.

The activist said the administration, in its desire to keep Egypt happy in the Arab coalition against Iraq, has "a much bigger fish to fry" with Egypt than with Arab states wanting the United States to talk to the PLO.

President Bush suspended the U.S. dialogue with the PLO on June 20, after the PLO refused to punish executive committee member Mohammed

(Abul) Abbas, head of the Palestine Liberation Front, for attempting to attack Tel Aviv's beach-front on Shavuot, May 30.

Both proposals are contained in the Senate version of the 1991 foreign aid appropriations bill. The Senate gave initial approval to the bill Wednesday, by a 76-23 vote.

It is now in the hands of a House-Senate conference committee, which began deliberations at noon Thursday.

Both measures were proposed too late to be included in the House version of the foreign aid bill, which was approved June 27 by a 308-117 vote.

President Bush proposed the debt-relief measure after Egypt's weak economy was drained further by its support of the economic sanctions against Iraq for its invasion of Kuwait.

E.C. MINISTERS AGREE TO CONTINUE SYRIA SANCTIONS FOR TERROR TIES

By Yossi Lempkowitz

BRUSSELS, Oct. 25 (JTA) -- The 12 European Community foreign ministers agreed this week to continue sanctions the E.C. imposed on Syria four years ago because of its involvement in international terrorism.

Diplomatic sources here credited the decision to a firm stand Monday taken by Britain's Foreign Minister Douglas Hurd at a meeting of the ministers in Luxembourg.

Although several member states had favored lifting the penalties to reward Damascus for its support of Western efforts to reverse Iraq's conquest of Kuwait, Hurd insisted the time was not yet ripe for such a move.

"The original obstacle was connected with state support for terrorism. I would like to get that obstacle out of the way but it has not happened yet," Hurd reportedly told his colleagues.

The sanctions were applied in 1986 at Britain's initiative, after London accused Syria of being involved in an aborted attempt to blow up an El Al airliner at Heathrow Airport.

They included a ban on arms sales to Syria, suspension of high-level contacts with the Syrians and close monitoring of Syrian diplomatic personnel and Syrian airline employees.

Some diplomatic observers said the tough stand of Britain was not the only reason the sanctions were retained.

The E.C. ministers were said to be angered by recent events in Lebanon, where Syrian troops played a major part in ousting dissident Gen. Michel Aoun from his East Beirut stronghold.

According to reports, Christians were massacred after the Syrians took control, including long-time Christian leader Dany Chamoun.

ISRAELI PLANES BOMB TERROR BASES

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Oct. 25 (JTA) -- Israeli air force jets bombed terrorist targets in Lebanon on Wednesday night and returned safely to their bases, a military spokesman announced.

The raid was on terrorist installations in the Rashidieh area, 10 miles north of the Israeli border, which has been used for launching rocket attacks on Israel.

Israeli sources said Katyusha rockets were fired twice from that area in the past two weeks, landing in the southern Lebanon security zone.

BRITISH JEWS DEMANDING NEW LAWS, PRODDED BY UTILITY'S ISRAEL SNUB

London Jewish Chronicle

LONDON, Oct. 25 (JTA) -- Angered by the biggest state-owned electric company's refusal to do business with Israel, British Jewry leaders are demanding tough new laws to prevent British firms from succumbing to the Arab League's boycott.

The furor arose because British Electricity International, the overseas consulting firm of National Power, rejected an offer to work with the state-owned Israel Electric Corp. on grounds that it might "prejudice" its position in the Arab countries.

It was the first time a state-owned British firm has submitted to the boycott.

"Our decision whether or not to compete for work in Israel or Lebanon or Syria or any other country is founded upon assessment of our commercial interests," British Electric Managing Director John Anderson said this week. He refused to elaborate.

Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd, who just returned from Israel, told Parliament on Wednesday that the government deplored the Arab boycott. But he refused to answer a question about National Power.

"How specific British enterprises respond to the boycott is not a matter for me," he said in reply to a question by Labor MP Greville Janner.

The Israel Electric Corp. approached National Power last April for consulting services.

Operated In 70 Countries

British Electric's regional director for Europe and the Middle East, K. Bernard, replied that the firm operated in 70 countries worldwide, including many Arab countries.

"We have a longstanding relationship with these countries and it would prejudice the position of BEI and National Power were we to also work with your company," Bernard wrote.

Israel Electric's secretary, Pinchas Miara, fired off an angry letter. "Is BEI on its knees before the Arab states? Did you not blush when you signed your letter, which we consider a disgrace to your company?" he asked.

No reply has been forthcoming.

Speaking from Jerusalem, the chairman of the British-Israel Chamber of Commerce Anti-Boycott Committee, Martin Savitt, said National Power told him it had assessed its business interests in Israel and intended to stick to its guns in light of its commercial interests.

National Power Chairman Sir Trevor Holdsworth was unavailable for comment. But a spokeswoman for the company said BEI's decision was based on "its commercial interests and it does not support the Arab boycott."

Asked if Bernard's letter did not imply a political decision, the spokeswoman replied, "That's your interpretation."

The Board of Deputies of British Jews is pressing for the introduction of new anti-boycott laws similar to those in the United States.

Meanwhile, Manny Klausner, chairman of the Board's Israel Committee, said British Jews "should not deal" with companies which boycotted Israel.

Asked if he would advise British Jews not to buy shares in National Power, which is soon to be privatized, Klausner replied, "That's something we should consider."

ISRAELI COURT GIVES OK TO PATIENT'S RIGHT TO DIE

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Oct. 25 (JTA) -- A Tel Aviv court ruled Thursday that a "very senior physician" could remove a life-support system upon the wishes of a terminally ill patient, and that the physician involved would not face legal consequences, even if the patient were unconscious or not in control of his faculties when the actual need arose.

The decision favored Benny Eyal, a 50-year-old patient who is in the advanced stages of multiple sclerosis, a degenerative disease which is incurable.

A very senior physician would mean the head of a department or hospital director. In this case, the physician might be Dr. Nachman Wilensky, head of the Yad Eliahu nursing home where Eyal is confined.

Wilensky told Israel Radio that he has informed the patient of the court's decision and that he would act accordingly. Eyal has begged to be allowed to die in dignity and peace rather than attached to machines and in distress.

His request was supported by his wife, who has thanked the court for its understanding of her husband's suffering. He is almost completely paralyzed and can barely speak or eat.

According to legal sources, while the court's decision refers only to Eyal's case, it can be used as a precedent in future cases where a mentally competent patient asks not to be linked to life-sustaining machinery.

Judge Goren likened his landmark decision to "plowing the first furrow in virgin soil."

It does not, however, cover cases where the relatives of a terminally ill person request that the patient already attached to a life-support system be removed from it. Legally, that would be actively abetting a suicide.

SOVIET JEWS STAGE RENT PROTEST

JERUSALEM, Oct. 25 (JTA) -- A group of Soviet immigrants on Thursday stormed the offices of Simcha Dinitz, the chairman of the Jewish Agency Executive, to protest what they called the high rents at the absorption centers in which they have been living for months, some of them for years.

The protest was timed to coincide with the meeting of the Jewish Agency Board of Governors, which discusses budgetary matters.

Dinitz was out of his office at the time, touring housing projects in southern Israel with board members and Construction and Housing Minister Ariel Sharon.

Uri Gordon, head of the Jewish Agency's Immigration Department, responding to the demonstrators' protest, said rents at the absorption centers were still low compared to private market rentals.

He accused Natan Sharansky's Zionist Forum of initiating the noisy demonstration "to promote his own interests."

Sharansky, the former prisoner of Zion, was freed in February 1986 after nine years in prisons and labor camps and allowed to go to Israel, where he rejoined his wife, Avital. Since his aliyah, Sharansky has become a dauntless activist for Soviet Jews in Israel, and a founder of the Soviet Jewry Zionist Forum, which advocates Soviet Jews' rights in Israel.

RECONCILIATION CONCERT IN KRAKOW BRINGS JEWS AND CATHOLICS TOGETHER

By Gabrielle Glaser

KRAKOW, Poland, Oct. 25 (JTA) -- Jews and Catholics felt their eyes well with tears Wednesday at a special concert held here in a long-unused synagogue, but some voiced pain that high church officials were absent from the "reconciliation event" for two faiths long at odds in Poland.

"There is a gap between the worlds in which we speak and the worlds in which we live," said Rabbi Ronald Sobel of Temple Emanu-El in New York. He was referring to the ongoing gulf between Judaism and Catholicism in this country that is the birthplace of Pope John Paul II and was a center of world Judaism until World War II.

The three-hour concert, by the Krakow Philharmonic Orchestra under the baton of American Jewish conductor Gilbert Levine, was sponsored by the United Jewish Annual in an attempt to promote interfaith relations and counter the recent resurgence of anti-Semitism in Poland and other European countries.

The concert was a highlight of the UJA Young Leadership Cabinet's Morasha (Heritage) Mission, which included a four-day visit to Poland, followed by a program in Israel.

More than 250 UJA mission participants were joined at the concert by Krakow Mayor Jacek Wozniakowski, U.S. Ambassador Thomas W. Simons Jr. and Israeli Ambassador Meron Gordon.

Conductor Levine said several high-ranking church officials had been invited, including Cardinal Franciszek Macharski, the archbishop of Krakow. But all of them sent regrets. The church was represented by a local priest.

A letter from Macharski was read during the concert saying, "We are both people who lived side by side in the same land." But Jews, the letter said, "were driven from our towns into ghettos and then to death in gas chambers. This was done in our country, maybe to bring ignominy to our land."

Pope Sends Message Of Peace

The letter, read by Rev. Stanislaw Musial, a Polish church liaison to the Jewish community, quoted the pope as saying: "We are children of the same God, and I offer you peace. Shalom."

Levine said he had discussed the concert beforehand at the Vatican with the pope -- who formerly served as Krakow's archbishop -- and was "delighted" by the pontiff's enthusiastic support for the project.

The program opened with the national anthems of Poland, the United States and Israel, followed by a performance of Max Bruch's work "Kol Nidre." That piece was performed by 18-year-old Matt Haimovitz, an Israeli-born cellist now living in the United States. The concert also included the works of Beethoven and Dvorak.

"Being here and listening to the music of our people is a way to tell the world that we go on living," said Irene Weingarten of Houston, a participant on the UJA mission.

The dark apricot walls and gold filigree arches and columns of Temple Postenowa reflected five decades of neglect, but the concert's audience of 400 people sharing the small space with the orchestra was moved by the music.

In front of the temple ark stood a replica of a giant tree with dead branches, but some with green fabric buds and leaves symbolizing the living and growing Jewish culture.

"This is rejuvenating and wonderful," said Millie Gitter, women's campaign director for the Jewish Federation of Greater New Orleans. "To think that this synagogue has been sleeping for 50 years and is now waking up to our music is fantastic. We are alive and well in Poland as American Jews. I want the world to know that," she said.

Emily Zimmern of Charlotte, N.C., co-chairwoman of the UJA mission, said: "This concert is a symbol that while some may seek to destroy Jews, none can destroy the Jewish people."

Shul Not Used Since The Nazis

Before the concert, a new brass Star of David was put on top of the synagogue, replacing one torn down by the Gestapo in November 1939.

The 100-year old Reform temple has not been used regularly since the Nazis arrived, although some preliminary efforts have been made to preserve the building in Krakow's Kazimierz section. The neighborhood had been populated by Jews since the late 1300s but is now bereft of their presence.

The chief of Krakow's tiny and mostly elderly Jewish congregation, Czeslaw Jakobowicz, said he found the event "sad but nice."

"You know, we all lived together, Catholics and Jews, in this society for hundreds of years," he said. "There's no reason it can't be like it used to be."

In recent years, Catholic-Jewish relations in Poland have been strained by the presence of the Carmelite nuns at the Auschwitz concentration camp, 36 miles from Krakow, where 1.35 million Jews were murdered by the Nazis. The nuns are eventually to be relocated to a nearby interfaith prayer center now being built.

This year has also witnessed a resurgence of anti-Semitism in Poland and elsewhere in newly democratic Eastern Europe. Neo-Nazi slogans and anti-Jewish slurs have appeared in brochures, scrawled on bus stops and even the memorial at Umschlagplatz, the site in Warsaw where hundreds of thousands of Jews were sent to their deaths in concentration camps.

The trend is somewhat bizarre, as only a tiny fraction of Poland's prewar Jewish population of 3.5 million remains in the country. The community is now said to number 10,000.

'Mixed Sadness And Anger'

But Boston attorney Stuart Rossman, who has been elected chairman of the UJA Young Leadership Cabinet for the coming term, cautioned against over-generalizing the image of Poland as an anti-Semitic nation.

"We have to start breaking down barriers," Rossman said. "Between us there is a lot of mixed sadness and anger, and I think this concert should make us all proud."

Before the concert, the UJA group spent the day touring Auschwitz and Birkenau. From Poland, the group went on to Israel.

"Poland and even the death camps show up where our roots and history lie," said Rossman. "Israel showed us our future."

Dr. Owen Perlman of Ann Arbor, Mich., a UJA mission co-chairman, said the trip and concert represented "not just a step backwards, but also a promotion for the future. We are the last generation to bear witness to survivors and their lives in Central Europe," he said. "It is our obligation to keep the link and memory alive for them and for generations to come."