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ISRAELI AUTHORITIES CONCERNED ABOUT VIGILANTISM BY SETTLERS

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Dec. 17 (JTA) — Israeli authorities are concerned about the growing vigilantism by Jewish settlers in the West Bank, which has erupted in response to recent terrorist attacks by Arabs.

Settlers who rampaged through Arab towns this week, causing extensive property damage, have been admonished by Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, Defense Minister Moshe Arens and other government officials not to take the law into their own hands.

Vigilante bands have been active in Hebron, Halhoul and Hebron, where settlers smashed windows of Arab homes.

The settlers justify their actions, as they have been doing for years, by accusing the Israel Defense Force of lax security measures and letting out of the hands of terrorists.

The army, which denies the allegation, maintains that it is doing everything it can, arguing that the acts of violence are the work of a minuscule minority.

Gen. Dorron Yaron, commander of the military administration in the West Bank, met some Jewish settlers who are part of the settler activist movement. He urged them not to become involved in illegal acts and to leave the maintenance of law and order to the competent authorities.

Yaron told Israel Radio on Monday that "extremist groups" representing a minority of the settlers were responsible for violence and said that the IDF was in full control of the situation.

The Yaron report was based on a leaflet distributed by a rabbi at one of the settlement blocs in the West Bank urging the Israel Defense Force to violate the law and not to confront the Arab rioters.

Nevertheless, Yaron said the IDF officer enumerated the latest measures taken to protect terrorist targets and the numerous successes scored against terrorist groups.

550 Arabs Arrested Recently

The arrests of Arabs along the main highways in the West Bank has been restricted to security personnel. The Israeli police, or Border Patrol, was ordered and inadvertently suspended from the operation. Yaron said that since Oct. 1, the date of the last two-month security forces have arrested 550 Arabs.

Yaron has suspected the leadership of Fatah, the main branch of the Palestine Liberation Organization, the radical Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine; the Islamic fundamentalist Hamas movement; and the extremist Islamic Jihad.

In addition, the officer reported, the General Security Services, known as Shin Bet, has arrested the IDF and the police have to uncover 100 terrorist cells responsible for 200 attacks against Israeli soldiers and civilians, the officer said.

He observed that while the PLO ostensibly rejects the Arab-Israeli peace talks now taking place in Washington, armed Al Fatah members are operating in the West Bank.

Angry continued to be the mood among Israelis, including many Jewishness, where there is a growing sense of fear of Arab-occupied buildings, claiming legal ownership.

Although Israel seems to be the onset, where about 130 Arab protesters marched Monday, a sit-in strike is being staged in the courts.

Magistrate's Order Overruled

A Jerusalem magistrate decided Monday that one of the evicted Arab families, which, they could return to their flat for the time being. But the Israeli government immediately filed an appeal. Judge acting on an appeal by a Jewish group, ordered the family to leave the premises.

The Attorney General, Yosef Harish, is pondering what further action to take.

Meanwhile, the Jewish group seem is brewing over a statement released by the Attorney General's Office, which has been criticized for its acknowledgment that Jewish settlements in the occupied territories are illegal.

Settlers and their supporters in the Knesset were enraged by the statement and demanded to so appeal by the Peace Now movement asking the Supreme Court to order the dismantling of settlement illegal.

The statement offered by Assistant Attorney General Ya'ir Hilt Ariel and Attorney General Yosef Harish, sought to show that the settlements were illegal under Article 49 of the Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949, with regard to the rights of inhabitants of occupied territories, contained in Article 55 of The Hague Convention.

Ariel said that the settlements do not cause damage to the land, which the state is obligated to preserve, and that the land is honored the rule not to make "permanent changes" in occupied territories.

Ariel said the Palestinians continue to enjoy the products of the land even it is lacks the ownership.

Finally, the prosecutor conceded that "international law will permit the use of the settlements in the territories."

Yuval Saria, a Knesset member of the Jewish Citizens Rights Movement, praised the response.

Knesset member Ya'ir Tsaban of Shinui member Yitzhak Levy said he was "shocked" that the government has decided to deny the Knesset the right to ownership of the territory.

Tsaban said he will request a special meeting with Shamir to discuss the matter. Meanwhile, the statement is allowed to stand, supporters of Peace Now, Shinui and Israeli would not be able to participate in the government.

NEWS ANALYSIS:
REPEAL VOTE DOES NOT MEAN ISRAEL AND U.N. NOW IN LOVE

By Larry Yudelson

UNITED NATIONS, Dec. 17 (JTA) — The overwhelming vote to repeal the U.N. Resolution 3379 does not mean that Israel has suddenly become a darling of the world body.

And the cool feeling is mutual.

Israel's ambassador to Israel's racism for the United Nations itself, in cleansing itself of the stain that so shamefully stained it, in a resolution

President Chaim Herzog, who, as U.N. ambassador in 1975, unceremoniously tore up a copy of the resolution after its passage.

In the U.N. resolutions condemning Israel passed hastily in the General Assembly just before Christmas, the Israeli government and Israeli diplomats are described as a chief part in the United Nations list between the extreme of Mendes-France's "contemptible and business-as-usual condemnation. And while the atmosphere at the United Nations has indeed improved, progress is slow.

The change in Israel's status at the United Nations stems from the same factors which made possible the repeal of the notorious U.N. Zionism Bloc and the fracturing of Arab solidarity in the wake of the Sadat peace drive.

"A Lovely Call From Sharon"

Israel's "unexpected victory, Israeli sources, was high-pressure American diplomacy, particularly by during the last two weeks.

It is a level of diplomacy not likely to recur in normal times, a diplomacy of extreme arm twisting the peace negotiations.

Israel's "surprise" was the cordiality of President Bush's statement that he "would welcome a call from Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir" thanking the United States for its efforts.

The Iran, Iraq, Libya and Syria resolution — or a twist anti-anti-Israel — resolution could pass if Israel was not given a "lovely call."

The more of U.S. diplomacy, the more for the repeal, "it was the first time in U.N. history they voted for a resolution that called for recognition for Amber Nation, the Israeli representative to the Arabs Assembly commented. The resolution was first introduced 16 years ago.

"They have crossed a psychological barrier," he said.

Additionally, the vote demonstrated just how much the Arab position has become.

Israel's Ambassador Yehuda Blum noted the United Nations vote was "a lovely call." Yet Nolm. "There was a time when the Arab bloc could count on about 100 votes in the U.N. Today they could count on the resolution That era has passed.

Israel, the Arab bloc, Israel's allies, could not reach consensus even on their opposition of Israel, as evidenced by the abstentions of Kuwait, Lebanon, Oman, Morocco and Tunisia elected not to cast votes Blum said.

But while the 1975 vote was seen as a "victory" for the Arab bloc, Israel, which considerably following the oil embargo, it in fact effective, Israel's allies have lost the U.N. Blum Nolm.

At U.S. Sen. Daniel Patrick Moynihan (D-New York) repeat the Arab bloc "Israel Israel" in September. Reaction to Moynihan's speech was Nolm, he said, "Israel is the manufacturer.

An Expanded U.N. Role

Moynihan, who as U.S. envoy to the United Nations in 1975 led the unsuccessful fight against the resolution, repeated the charges of Israel and Soviet anti-Zionism.

He contended that policy may have resulted out of fear that Jewish ethnic pride in the wake of the Holocaust, and the fear of Arab oil embargo Jewish ethnic groups in the United States.

At the United Nations, Soviet opposition to Israel, Moynihan said, "Israel's existence was so difficult that no human rights.

It is perhaps fitting, then, that the Soviet Union seems unlikely to outlast Resolution 3379 by more than a month.

Gone that even though the dispute in the Middle East was even

Israeli Foreign Minister David Levy made that point after casting his country's repeal vote. He emphasized that Monday's move does not mean the United States is "abandoning its central role in the current Middle East peace process.

And when Israel's Ambassador to the United Nations, Thomas Pickering, was asked if the vote meant Israel is "abandoning its central role," he said: "I don't think you can automatically transfer it to the Arab bloc."

Iran noted that the Arab bloc in the General Assembly has passed resolution "completely at variance with the Arab government's stated calling for an international peace conference and recognition of Israel's right to exist, Pakistan Ambassador Organization.

Nevertheless, the Monday's resolution condemning Israel's annexation of Jerusalem passed with 152 votes against, Israel voting alone. Only Bolivia and three Caribbean nations abstained.

The vote was overwhelming was passed despite American and Western opposition. It declared the Israeli action "null and void and demanded that it be rescinded, and called on the Israeli government to refrain from the territories and the creation of a Palestinian state in the occupied territories, including East Jerusalem.

The vote was 93-27, with 37 abstentions.

(JTA correspondents David Friedman in Washington and David Landau in Jerusalem contributed to this report.)

LOAN GUARANTEES ARE TROUBLE, PRESS SAYS AND WORSE FOR ISRAELI

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Israel, Dec. 17 (JTA) — Israel was warned this week by one of its staunchest supporters that the Reagan Administration's proposed U.S. guarantees covering $10 billion in loans to Israel are "trouble and worse" for Israel.

According to Sen. Daniel Inouye (D-Hawaii), many of Israel's Senate and Congressional allies think the loan guarantees to Israel's suspension of settlement activity in the occupied territories.

Inouye, who arrived in Israel on Sunday for a three-day visit, discussed the issue in conversation with Shimon Peres, leader of the opposition Labor Party.

Peres said the Reagan Administration is forthcoming, enabling Israel to secure commercial loans at favorable rates, but the loans are much harder in Israel, especially for new olim.

Inouye said, claims the defense appropriations subcommittee, said he and other U.S. lawmakers have "pressured the military officer in obtain the guarantees.

Inouye said, the senator blasted President Bush for delaying action on the guarantees.

Additionally, Inouye said, the Senate Appropriations Committee dinner in Los Angeles on Sunday, Israel's Ambassador Meir Rosenne said, "Israel is the major cause of Israel's economic ills.

Israel, he said, "is paying high credit rate and that is taking away the Israeli economy. Israel is "extend the end of Friday.

EXPLOSION OF SOVIET JEWS ASSESS STRIKING IN ISRAEL

By Yossi Lemberkovic and Henrietta Berg

AMSTERDAM, Dec. 17 (JTA) - The exodus of a group of Soviet Jews arrivals from the Netherlands on Monday has raised eyebrows here, as it was the first time a contingent of Soviet Jews arrived here without grant aid or foreigners asking for it.

Even more out of character was the vigor of the problem raid on a hostel for asylum-seekers in Eindhoven, Netherlands, and the speed with which they were ousted from the country.

Eight days, with the exception of Monday, take the shelter at 4 am. By 9 a.m. 43 Soviet men, women and children were on a Lufthansa flight to Tel Aviv.

The raid was hospitalized with an injured back after leaping from a second-floor window of the hostel. Another broke his little wife and two were allowed to remain in Holland for now.

The family of three, a pregnant mother, claiming they had not yet received a final decision on their asylum application.

The rest were those who were taken when the police arrived.

Most immigrants who were returned to Israel are among some 200 Soviet emigres who had arrived in Holland in the past two weeks and in the Netherlands during the past year seeking refuge in Israel.

But according to Dutch Justice Minister Aart Koets, "Most immigrants from Soviet conditions required to be granted refugee status on humanitarian grounds."

"I acted under the terms of our laws," Koets said today. "Israel is considered is not a country whose inhabitants have any reason to flee because of political persecution, unlike that "Soviet citizens who say that every Jew is become in the country."

Koets said that "Israel has many Soviet Jews who immigrated to Israel cannot find work."

"Harsh' Welcomed Back In Israel

But some of these returnees had claimed they suffered discrimination in Israel.

They said that because their spouses were not Jewish, their children were not recognized as Israeli citizens, that they had difficulty finding work and they suffered discrimination as members of Russian Orthodox Church.

Those expelled ranged in age from 8 months to 78 years.

Israel's ambassador to the Netherlands, Michael Ben-Yair said reports that the group had been "harsh" treated were false.

"They are Israeli citizens and are free to return to Israel and come back to us," the envoy said.

Ben-Yair, on the expulsion, "It's a Dutch action," he said.

According to Bawly, these people had problems in Israel with jobs and housing. "But those problems do not give Israelis reason to seek political asylum in Holland," he said.

According to Bawly, Israel's further expulsion are likely as increasing numbers of refugees enter Netherlands from Romania, Czechoslovakia and unstable political conditions in Eastern Europe and Soviet Union.

A group of Vietnamese who had been living in Czechoslovakia applied for political asylum here if were returned to Czechoslovakia.

JUSTICE DEPT. AND ISRAELI COURT REVIEW NEW EVIDENCE ON DEMJANJUK

By Howard Rosenberg

WASHINGTON, Dec. 17 (JTA) - The Justice Department today filed a motion in Israeli court to obtain copies of Soviet investigations of the Treblinka death camp in Ukraine, the defense of John Demjanjuk, the accused Nazi.

Demjanjuk was sentenced to death by an Israeli court in 1988 for war crimes committed at the Treblinka death camp in eastern Poland, where he was a guard, and has been continuously brutal guard known as "Ivan the Terrible."

The documents, which were given by ABC News, the Justice Department said the matter "was a high priority" and would be the most careful attention. Upon completion of the review, the documents will be turned over to appropriate Israeli Court.

Israel's High Court of Justice is scheduled to hear the new evidence on Dec. 23.

Demjanjuk's defense attorney in question, recently acquired from sources in the Soviet Union, said he will oppose the motion.

Much of the evidence sought by the court filed in the case of Fedor Fedorenko, a former a Soviet army sergeant who, like Ivan, ordered executed a year later for having committed war crimes in Ukraine.

Among the new material are affidavits by 21 convicted Nazi collaborators, including one of whom identify Ivan the Terrible as having been a Ukrainian named Demjanjuk.

The name Demjanjuk does not appear in any of the 21 affidavits, but prosecutors have noted that Demjanjuk, in entering the United States under a false name, concealed his service in a unit made name on one of his visa applications.

The Ukrainian Nationalist Union, established a month before the Nazi invasion of Ukraine, Yoram Sheftel, Demjanjuk's lawyer in Israel, testified that the Ukrainian nationalist movement his mother's maiden name at the time and wrote Demjanjuk because it is a common Ukrainian name.

Reliability Of Evidence In Doubt

Demjanjuk's conviction at trial as "Ivan the Terrible," the man who operated the gas chambers at Treblinka, where nearly 900,000 Jews died.

Demjanjuk, 71, a retired Cleveland autoworker, stood trial in Israel after being extradited from the United States in 1986 to face charges of U.S. citizenship in 1952.

Prosecutors asset also found in 1988 that Demjanjuk had been a guard at a camp in Poland, where a few hundred thousand Jews died.

Elan Steinberg, executive director of the World Jewish Congress, criticized the Demjanjuk defense attorney on Soviet evidence to "twist their case," casting doubt on the general reliability of Soviet evidence.

Steinberg said that on Monday, prosecutors will present "overwhelming evidence" Demjanjuk is on a list of concentration camp guards.

Steinberg said the Soviet government official confirmed the existence of new incriminating evidence, but would not give specifications.

Demjanjuk's defense team has defined the Soviet evidence as "worthless" because it was obtained after the Nazis surrendered and before Demjanjuk's extradition on his time as a prisoner of war.

CATHOLIC BISHOPS ASK SYRIAN AFFIRMING JEWISH EMIGRATION

By Polly Stroud

ROME, Dec. 17 (JTA) — A synod of Catholic bishops called to plan the re-evangelization of the region has proposed a resolution that would stock unease at the Vatican last Friday with a reference to Christians who are contributors to European culture.

The statement, issued at the close of the gathering attended by bishops from all over Eastern and Western Europe, was clearly aimed at easing the strains with Jews that arose from Pope John Paul's emphasis on "the Judeo-Christian roots of Europe" which he called the synod last month.

The document, which mentions Christians as a minority Jewish leader pointed out, pays lip service to "respect and affirm the principle of religious and cultural pluralism" in the emerging democracies of Europe.

The congress' request was made in a letter to Cardinal Carlo Maria Martini, the archbishop of the Italian capital from Czechoslovakia, a week before the synod opened on Nov. 28.

It second-guessed what the bishops were out of their way to address Jewish concerns while mentioning Christians in a minority context.

Orthodox leaders charged, among other things, that the document ignores the Jews seeking converts among them. They were angered by the plan to dispatch missionaries to Romania, Croatia over Orthodox Serbia in the Yugoslav civil war.

Eastern Church leaders in Romia, Romania, Croatia and Greece declined invitations to send observers to the synod.

A "New Spring" for Religion

The document issued in Rome pledged to "work for this new spring" in Eastern Europe's relations.

They made over their abhorrence of resurgent anti-Semitism in Germany, Poland and other countries of Eastern Europe.

Their statement observed that "European culture has grown out of Christianity."

The fact that the Christian faith goes back to the very foundation of Europe does not imply that Europe and Christianity are one and the same thing."

The church has a "special relationship with the Jews, the people of God's covenant."

The document also mentions "the construction of a new order in Europe and in the world in which nations and peoples live as true elder brothers," the Jewish people whose faith and culture is so "deeply rooted in the tradition in Europe," the statement said.

It added that "with the terrible Holocaust of our century, for which the church feels a profound grief, new attempts have to be made to acknowledge Judaism more profoundly, rejecting all forms of anti-Semitism and all racial hatred that is the Gospel's enemy."

The bishops said the church "certainly does not forget the Old Testament and the Hebrew people short" and seeks to "promote relations mutually based on the principles of the church's preaching and educational work."

The bishops noted that "the ways taken at different levels between Christians and Jews could have "great significance in Europe's future."

CANADIAN PARLIAMENTARIANS LAUNCH COMMITTEE FOR SYRIAN JEWS

By Brian Blomfield

TORONTO (JTA) — A group of Canadian legislators, rallying to a cause swiftly moving up the agenda of Jewish life, has established the Parliamentary Group for Syrian Jewry to advocate freedom for the Syrian Jews.

The group, formed Dec. 3 in Ottawa, is chaired by Conservative MP. Bill Alexander. John Fraser, speaker of the federal House of Commons, is honorary chairman.

"Advocacy on behalf of Syrian Jewry will become one of the most important issues of the Commons at this parliamentary group," said Alexander, who is also president of the Canada-Israel Parliamentary Group, according to the Canadian Jewish Congress.

A CJC delegation was in Ottawa to meet with the group's founding executive at the official inaugural.

The group was to meet this week with officials from the Canadian Foreign Ministry Affairs to discuss the issue of Syrian Jewry. Representations will also be made to the Syrian embassy in Washington, who is also accredited to Canada.

Ian Scott, Canadian Minister of Foreign Affairs, one of the group's vice chairman, said in a letter to the Canadian Jewish Congress that the group "will do everything in our power in the past been an outspoken critic of Israel's settlement policy and a supporter of Palestinian national aspirations.

The group intends to launch a high-profile campaign for Shabbat Zachor, the annual day of commemoration for Syrian Jews, which falls this year on March 14.

Support From Jewish Leaders

The Syrian Jew crisis has struck in record time. The plight of Syrian Jews has become increasingly more attention from Jewish and other international leaders.

Some 4,500 Jews in Syria are effectively being held hostage by President Hafez el-Assad's dictator Hafez Assad.

They are not segregated in ghettos and, in violation of Article 13 of the U.N. Universal Declaration of Human Rights, are not allowed to emigrate. Half from abroad is consessed and their communal property is confiscated.

The Syrian secret police, many of whom are former concentration camp Nazi collaborators, keep a close watch on the activities of the community.

Jews are imprisoned and tortured without trial or disclosed charges and there have been reports of "mock executions" of Jewish murder against community members.

Rabbi Israel Singer, World Congress, through its Jews in Arab Lands Committee and National Task Force for Syrian Jews, has received support from Secretary of State for External Affairs Barbara McDougall.

Canada's ambassador to Syria, Martin Collins, has visited Jewish prisoners in Damascus and Aleppo, and Canada has offered to be responsible for clemency for the men, who had spent three to five years without formal charges being laid and were sentenced in May to an additional six and a half years in jail.

Rabbi Bulka feels that "with the help of a high-profile parliamentary committee, the issue will be given more attention than ever before."