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ISRAEL WALKS OUT OF REFUGEE TALKS TO PROTEST PALESTINIAN DELEGATE

By Bram D. Eisenthal

OTTAWA, Nov. 11 (JTA) -- Israel has walked out of the multilateral peace talks on Middle East refugees here because of its objections to the affiliations of the head of the Palestinian delegation.

"We are very sorry that conditions were not created for Israel's participation," said Israeli delegation head Shlomo Ben-Ami on Wednesday.

He said Israel came to the multilateral talks on the basis of an understanding, reached through Egyptian mediation last month, that the talks would exclude members of the Palestine Liberation Organization's so-called parliament in exile, the Palestine National Council.

But the Palestinians came to Ottawa with a member of the Palestine National Council, Mohammad Hallaj, at their head.

"We are very, very sorry to discover that the Palestinian delegation did not abide by this understanding," said Ben-Ami. "However, I should say that Israel continues to be committed to the importance of the multilateral track in the overall framework of the peace process," he added.

The collapse of the talks was another setback to the Middle East peace process. Bilateral talks in Washington have been slowed by increased violence along the Israeli-Lebanese border and by the transition to a new U.S. administration.

Israelis Boycotted Previous Round

The previous round of refugee talks held here last May was boycotted by Israel because then-Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir objected to the participation of Palestinians from outside the administered territories.

Hallaj, who heads a research institute on Palestinian affairs in Washington, attended the May talks.

But Israel's new government, under Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, said it was willing to talk with diaspora Palestinians as long as they were not members of the PLO or bodies associated with it, such as the PNC.

Canadian government spokesman Rodney Moore said "Israel has decided not to attend and we understand the factors underlying that decision."

After last-minute diplomatic efforts by Canada, the United States and Egypt failed, the conference opened after a delay of more than three hours without Israeli participation. Thirty-eight nations are in attendance.

As of Wednesday afternoon, it appeared that the Israeli delegation was preparing to leave Ottawa. A spokesman said the Israelis were unlikely to change their position.

The Israeli withdrawal was in contrast to the settlement of a similar crisis at last month's opening in Paris of the multilateral talks on Middle East economic development.

At that time, the head of the Palestinian delegation, also a member of the Palestine National Council, developed a case of diplomatic flu, enabling the talks to go ahead with Israeli participation.

ISRAEL ASSERTS THAT INCREASED VIOLENCE WILL NOT DISRUPT TALKS IN WASHINGTON

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Nov. 11 (JTA) -- Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin conferred with Cabinet ministers late into Tuesday night about how to respond to the increased Hezbollah violence from southern Lebanon.

But officials made clear the attacks by Hezbollah, the Iranian-backed terrorist group, would not be allowed to disrupt the peace talks in Washington.

"Neither we nor the Arabs want to put the future of the talks in the hands of the Hezbollah," said Foreign Minister Shimon Peres.

A similar view was voiced by Deputy Defense Minister Mordechai Gur. Answering questions from the Knesset on Wednesday, he said the pace of talks in Washington was "irrelevant" to a decision by the government "whether, when and how" to strike at the Iranian-backed group.

Israeli leaders singled out Syria as a key to curbing Hezbollah, which lobbed heavy-caliber Katyusha rockets into northern Israel for two successive nights earlier this week, forcing residents from Nahariya, on the coast, to Kiryat Shmona, in the Galilee panhandle, into shelters.

Peres said Damascus had it in its power to adopt "effective measures" to restrain the terrorists who operate in Syrian-controlled territory.

A respite in shelling kept the border area quiet Tuesday night. But Israelis in the north spent a third night in the shelters and anti-blast rooms in anticipation of a possible renewal of hostile activities as Israeli tanks and troops massed on the border.

Analysts say Hezbollah has in practice adopted a new "red line" in its confrontation with Israel. The group reserves the right to retaliate for any Israeli attack on its bases.

Israeli air strikes on its outposts deep within Lebanon, after almost routine terrorist attacks on a South Lebanese Army base in the Israeli-controlled security zone in southern Lebanon, is viewed by the terrorists as an Israeli deviation from the rules of the game.

Since the end of October, Hezbollah has placed roadside bombs in the security zone on an almost daily basis, targeted at Israeli troops and their allies in the South Lebanese Army.

The group also regularly directs fire at the security zone. The fire is sometimes returned by the Israelis and their Lebanese allies.

(Contributing to this report was JTA correspondent David Landau in Jerusalem.)

NEWS ANALYSIS:**JORDAN RESISTING ARAB PRESSURE TO GO SLOW ON PEACE WITH ISRAEL**

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Nov. 11 (JTA) -- Jordan's King Hussein appears to be resisting pressure from Syria and the Palestine Liberation Organization to go slow on a peace settlement with Israel.

But the resolve of the Hashemite monarch, facing decisions from the perspective of his own uncertain health, will be sharply tested by challenges from within the Arab world.

The Syrians and the Palestinians are not happy at his unexpectedly overtaking them in negotiations with Israel.

And the monarch is facing the opposition of Islamic fundamentalists who oppose any agreement with the Jewish state.

Nevertheless, the signs this week were favorable, with both Jordan and Israel expressing optimism as talks resumed in Washington.

Hussein's chief negotiator, Abdel Salim a-Majali, told reporters after an opening round that the talks were "almost at the final stage" of an agenda setting the stage for an eventual peace treaty. The head of the Israeli team, Elyakim Rubinstein, reinforced an upbeat view, saying the two sides were "on the verge of finalizing" an agenda.

And in Amman, Hussein himself said "things are certainly moving, hopefully in the right direction."

In an interview with The New York Times, the Hashemite monarch said the Labor Party victory in Israel's June elections was "probably a major turning point" in bringing about a shift in relations between the two countries after more than four decades of war.

The agenda goes far beyond a mere list of talking points to provide an outline of a future peace treaty and normalization of relations between the two countries.

Jerusalem, for its part, has indicated that a border dispute with Jordan over a 128-square-mile area in southern Israel does not represent an insuperable obstacle to agreement.

Room To Discuss Jordan's Claims

Officials indicated there is room to discuss Jordan's claim of steady Israeli encroachment, during the 1950s and 1960s, on lands along the Arava border south of the Dead Sea.

But they said they hoped an arrangement would be worked out enabling the kibbutzim and moshavim now farming much of this land to continue doing so. Rubinstein toured the area and met with farmers there before returning over the weekend to the talks in Washington.

The Syrians, together with their Lebanese proteges, seemed this week to be slowing down the pace of their own negotiations with Israel. The reason was no doubt partly due to rising tensions along the Israeli-Lebanese border. But uncertainty over the future course of U.S. policy also played a role.

Itamar Rabinovich, chief Israeli negotiator at the talks with Syria, said Tuesday he did not rule out a slowdown until after Jan. 20, when the team of President-elect Clinton formally takes over.

The Palestinians are not only suspicious that Jordan or Syria may leave them behind in talks with Israel; they are prey to their own hard-line elements in Tunis, Damascus and elsewhere.

If the Jordanians do stay on course and finalize the agenda, it will certainly be a demonstration of leadership and resoluteness on the part of the king.

It will also reflect the impact of the multilateral track of negotiations proceeding on a parallel course to those at the bilateral level.

Most of the multilateral talks have proceeded so far in a fairly desultory fashion, but issues pertaining to the Israeli-Jordanian border region have attracted a good deal of serious international interest.

Particular attention has been paid to a plan to link the Red Sea and the Dead Sea in a canal

that would supply hydroelectric power to both countries and replenish the drastically diminished resources of the Dead Sea itself.

An Italian delegation visiting Israel last week expressed its country's readiness, indeed eagerness, to fund a feasibility study for this ambitious project.

LEADING RABBI FACES SHARP CRITICISM OVER PROPOSAL TO ALLOW CIVIL MARRIAGE By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Nov. 11 (JTA) -- A proposal by one of Israel's best-known rabbis to permit civil marriage has drawn a predictable flurry of criticism from most representatives of the Orthodox and haredi, or fervently Orthodox, establishments.

Rabbi Shear Yashuv Cohen, Ashkenazic chief rabbi of Haifa and a likely candidate in the national Chief Rabbinate election next year, suggested the idea in an interview with Amudim, the periodical of the Religious Kibbutz Movement.

He confirmed it during a radio interview by phone from Prague this week, in which he stressed that civil marriage is wrong according to halacha, or Jewish law.

But instituting it for those who wish it might help to prevent worse halachic tragedies, resulting from couples' failure to dissolve their halachic marriages by halachic divorce.

Cohen made it clear he was raising the idea for further discussion by the Chief Rabbinate Council, the "Cabinet" of rabbis that functions as an advisory body for the two chief rabbis.

Israeli law provides for only religious marriage in Israel: Jewish marriage (exclusively by Orthodox rabbis) for Jews; Moslem for Moslems and Christian for Christians. The issue is a constant cause of controversy in the Orthodox-secular debate that runs through Israeli society.

The two chief rabbis of Israel, Mordechai Eliahu and Avraham Shapira, quickly distanced themselves from Cohen's proposal, while Knesset member Avraham Ravitz, of the United Torah Party, termed it "shocking."

The proposal was also strongly opposed by Cohen's Sephardic colleague in Haifa, Rabbi Eliahu Bakshi-Doron (who is likely to be a candidate for Sephardic chief rabbi of Israel in next year's election) and by the secretary of the Chief Rabbinate, Rabbi Eitan Eisman, who said the Chief Rabbinate Council had never considered it.

Haredi circles linked Cohen's move to his electoral ambitions.

EICHMANN TRIAL TRANSLATED TO ENGLISH By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Nov. 11 (JTA) -- After 31 years, the task of translating into English the protocols of the trial of Adolf Eichmann has finally been completed.

The first volume of the compilation was submitted last Friday by retired Supreme Court Justice Moshe Landau, who presided at the Eichmann trial.

He gave the text to Justice Minister David Libai and the previous head of that ministry, Dan Meridor.

The English-translation project includes five volumes of protocols, attorney claims and verdicts, as well as seven volumes of documents which were submitted as evidence during the trial in Jerusalem, which took place from April to December 1961.

GERMANY IS INVESTIGATING SOLDIERS FOR TAKING PART IN RACIST VIOLENCE

By David Kantor

BONN, Nov. 11 (JTA) -- Three German soldiers have been arrested for complicity in manslaughter and another 21 are being investigated in connection with neo-Nazi violence, racist propaganda and off-duty attacks on foreigners in this country.

On Wednesday, the Bundeswehr, the German armed forces, confirmed reports of the arrests of the three soldiers, who were being held in custody in different German towns. Their identities were not revealed.

The Defense Ministry said the three were skinheads who had been drafted and were fighting among themselves.

In addition, the armed forces confirmed that seven other soldiers had been arrested for less serious crimes, including arson attacks on hostels for refugees, desecrations of Jewish cemeteries or memorials and displaying Nazi symbols.

A Defense Ministry spokesman said soldiers were being investigated in connection with nine attacks on refugee hostels throughout Germany within the past 10 months.

The two dozen cases were mentioned in a letter released Wednesday from the commander in chief of Germany's ground forces, Lt. Gen. Helge Hansen, to thousands of officers, asking them to pay special attention to the problem of right-wing extremism.

The letter pointed out that the number of known neo-Nazi cases was relatively small when measured against the 400,000 soldiers who make up the Bundeswehr.

But Hansen said that each single case was too much for the Bundeswehr to take, and that educational and other means should be applied promptly to fix the problem.

BAVARIAN LEADER PROMISES JEWS HELL FIGHT AGAINST EXTREMISTS

By Igal Avidan

BERLIN, Nov. 11 (JTA) -- The Bavarian prime minister, who refused to take part in a mass demonstration against neo-Nazis in Berlin on Sunday, has promised representatives from the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Council that he is, nevertheless, determined to fight right-wing extremists.

In an official ceremony in Munich on Saturday, Max Streibel also promised Miles Lerman, chairman of the council's Committee for International Affairs, that he will pay an official visit to the site of the Dachau concentration camp.

In an interview with the Jewish Telegraphic Agency, Lerman said he had complained to Streibel that Bavarian authorities inadequately support the museum at Dachau.

Lerman reminded Streibel of the recent desecration of a Jewish cemetery in Munich. He said that if German citizens do not vehemently defend their democracy from right-wing extremists, "racism will spread like the plague."

In a speech at the Berlin Jewish Community Center to commemorate the 54th anniversary of Kristallnacht, Lerman said American Jews are worried about the recent racist attacks against foreigners in Germany, which are perpetrated "as if they were attacking Jews."

He called on all German towns to organize mass demonstrations like that which drew some

350,000 people in Berlin, "as this is the only answer for hooligans and neo-Nazis, and proof that Germany will not degenerate to racism and hatred."

Lerman is leading a 35-member delegation on a 10-day visit to Germany that included a visit to the Buchenwald concentration camp on the Kristallnacht anniversary. The delegation includes Holocaust survivors and the liberators of the camp, members of an all-black former U.S. Army regiment.

The delegates on the trip are collecting soil from concentration camps and World War II battlefields in Germany, Holland, Belgium and France. The soil will be placed in the Hall of Remembrance in the Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, which is scheduled to open officially in April 1993.

THE GROUND IS BROKEN IN BERLIN FOR LONG-AWAITED JEWISH MUSEUM

By Igal Avidan

BERLIN, Nov. 11 (JTA) -- More than two decades after it was first proposed, the cornerstone for a Jewish museum in Berlin was finally laid there on Nov. 9, the 54th anniversary of Kristallnacht.

The museum, which is shaped like a lightning bolt, is really an extension of the Berlin Museum designed to house a Jewish collection. It was designed by an acclaimed American Jewish architect, Daniel Libeskind, who won an international competition for the museum's design in June 1989.

The Polish-born Libeskind, whose parents lost many relatives in the Holocaust, said last year, "Even though I am not German, I am really from here. It is as if I have worked on this project my whole life."

At the groundbreaking ceremony, Berlin Mayor Eberhard Diepgen recalled the fact that the Jewish Museum is one of the very few new public projects that Berlin is still financing despite its tight budget.

The museum was a hot item of dispute only last year.

In August 1991, Berlin municipal officials approved an outlay of some \$1.7 million for "further planning" of the museum.

The municipality's expenditure for the museum was far short of the originally planned allocation of about \$8 million.

It is believed the project will cost a total of nearly \$69 million. It was originally scheduled for completion by 1995 but is now slated for 1998.

The museum is going up against a backdrop of constant attacks by right-wing extremists against foreigners, asylum hostels, Jews and Jewish sites. Diepgen pointed out that Germany will not tolerate any extremist violence or anti-Semitism.

The minister for cultural affairs, Ulrich Roloff-Momin, said that the museum cannot be separated from current events.

"If we do not learn from history -- and museums are the appropriate place for this -- it is as if the victims of the (Nazi) terror have died another senseless death," he said.

The director of the Berlin Museum, Rolf Bothe, said he was recently asked whether it is proper for such a museum to also serve as a memorial. "The answer is simple," he said. "As long as concentration camps such as Sachsenhausen are set on fire, it is justified for the new museum to also serve as a memorial."

JEWISH PHILANTHROPY IN CRISIS, ACCORDING TO VETERAN OBSERVER

By Larry Yudelson

NEW YORK, Nov. 11 (JTA) -- Shortly after the Chronicle of Philanthropy declared the United Jewish Appeal the top philanthropy in America, a veteran Jewish communal activist has issued a warning against euphoria.

"Jewish philanthropy is in trouble," writes Gerald Bubis in the December issue of Moment magazine. "And the worst is yet to come."

While Jews have more money than ever before, they are giving proportionately less to Jewish federations, writes Bubis, founding dean of the School of Jewish Communal Service at the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion.

And the younger a Jew is, the less he or she gives, and the less likely he or she is to share the attachment to Israel which has long been the basis of the federation campaign.

Awareness of this connection between Jewish identity and the federation bottom line is only now beginning to percolate in the Jewish community. The clearest acknowledgment to date comes this week in New York, as Jewish continuity dominates the discussions of the 3,000 delegates gathered at the Council of Jewish Federations General Assembly.

In both 1990 and 1991, the nearly 200 federations across America raised more than \$1 billion.

But, says Bubis, the health of the federation system should not be judged by how many dollars were raised this year compared to last, but by how many dollars were not being given to the Jewish philanthropic system.

Crisis Not Yet Appreciated

"The crisis is not yet appreciated for what it is: the small number of Jews who are giving the significant number of dollars," Bubis told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency in a recent interview.

The problem, he said, is that the federation system is dependent on a small number of very wealthy donors. He writes that 0.5 percent of Jewish households account for half of the money raised by federations. And while more and more Jews are entering the ranks of the super-rich, fewer and fewer are committing themselves to the Jewish community.

In 1986, Bubis notes, more than 100 of the 400 richest Americans listed by Forbes magazine -- each worth at least \$160 million -- were Jews.

Comparatively few of them, however, place the Jewish community as their highest priority.

"There are a significant number of very, very wealthy Jews, who are not answering the call," said Bubis.

"In 1923, the New York Federation raised \$5 million. If you go back to how many Jews there were at (that) time and the wealth of the Jews at that time, I would make the case that, as a proportion of available wealth, more money was raised in 1923 in New York City than in 1991."

In part, this stems from the increased competition by non-Jewish charities for Jewish dollars. Museums and symphonies that once shunned Jews now court them as board members.

Bubis cites the media mogul Walter Annenberg as an example. The same week he gave \$15 million to launch Operation Exodus ("God bless that he did," said Bubis), he also announced a \$40 million gift to the United Negro College Fund.

This, for Bubis, raises the question of the role Annenberg's children -- and those of other

major givers -- will play in the Jewish community of the future. He is not optimistic.

"I'm saying that the grandchildren of Walter Annenberg are, with all likelihood, lost to Jewish life, since it's not a matter of significance for Annenberg whether anything be put into place to ensure Jewish continuity here," said Bubis in the interview.

The community is becoming increasingly dependent on the very rich at a time when middle-income Jews are finding it increasingly more difficult to give to charity for a number of reasons.

Most notably, Bubis cites the skyrocketing costs of Jewish education.

'Jewish Intensive Is Jewish Expensive'

"Once you finish paying for nursery school, camping, memberships, you have no discretionary money left over to give to federation," said Bubis. "Jewish intensive is Jewish expensive."

Few of the arguments Bubis makes are new to the federation community. Most stem from the results of the 1990 National Jewish Population Study.

But at least one leading federation professional disputes the notion that a crisis exists.

"We have outside testimony we're doing well," said Stephen Solender, executive vice president of New York's UJA-Federation, referring to the ranking by the Chronicle of Philanthropy.

And he noted as well the ability of the federation-funded system to rescue thousands of Jews from Ethiopia and resettle hundreds of thousands of Jews from the former Soviet Union in Israel and America.

For Bubis, though, these accomplishments do not negate the fact that for nearly 20 years, with the exception of special campaigns, federation revenues have been declining or flat, when inflation is factored in.

Bubis argued in the interview that it is fair to look at the money raised by federations without including campaigns like Operation Exodus, which has helped rescue and resettle hundreds of thousands of Jews from the former Soviet Union.

"The excitement born of the historic opportunity to help Jews from Eastern Europe, Ethiopia and the former Soviet Union has enabled federations to avoid recognizing the degree to which giving has plummeted," he charged.

Operation Exodus Is Not A Solution

Operation Exodus, he said, is not a solution to long-term trends.

Solender, however, said that the basic federation campaign, which runs around \$125 million in his city, cannot be looked at in isolation.

"You have to look at all the different income streams," said Solender. He pointed as an example to the New York federation's capital campaign, which has raised \$700 million since the middle of the 1980s.

Taken this way, "the picture is more promising." And Operation Exodus, Solender said, brought in new donors for New York UJA-Federation, bringing the total to 150,000 from 110,000 in the late 1980s.

Solender said that anxiety in the federation system is to be expected, given that it must pay the bills for "the miracle" of ingathering Jewish communities in the midst of a deep recession.

"But there's a difference in saying, yes, there aren't enough dollars to go around, and saying the system is failing."