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**ISRAEL LETTING 10 DEPORTEES RETURN,
BUT IS REBUFFED ON RELIEF AID OFFER**

By David Landau and Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Dec. 29 (JTA) -- Israel is now prepared to allow the return of 415 Moslem fundamentalists it deported to Lebanon two weeks ago, but only in exchange for a guarantee of "full tranquility" in the administered territories.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin made the offer Tuesday as Israel announced that 10 of the Palestinians deported to Lebanon in error would be allowed to return to the territories.

But nine of them still face trial and imprisonment for serious crimes, Rabin said. A 10th was an outright case of mistaken identity.

Israel is determined not to let the rest return, "unless and until there is a major change and the organizations undertake to desist from terror and violence for the duration of the peace negotiations," Rabin told the ninth International Congress of Jewish Lawyers and Jurists.

The prime minister also lashed out at the Lebanese government for giving television crews access to the 415 fundamentalist deportees, while refusing to allow relief agencies to reach their encampment on a strip of land between Israeli and Lebanese army checkpoints in Lebanon.

He spoke after a United Nations envoy failed to persuade Lebanon to accept an Israeli proposal on providing humanitarian aid to the deportees.

Meeting with U.N. Undersecretary-General James Jonah, Lebanese authorities rejected Israel's offer to allow a one-time Red Cross humanitarian aid mission to get through to the deportees through Israel if Lebanon too allowed aid to arrive through its territory.

Rabin played the Beirut authorities for forcibly removing sick deportees from a local hospital. He said the Red Cross had approached him early Tuesday about three such cases.

"There may be a medical problem there," but the deportees generally are in good health, the prime minister said. "We see them doing their exercises each morning. They do not lack food."

NEWS ANALYSIS:**EXPULSIONS HAVE BOOSTED HAMAS
AND STIFFENED THE PLO'S RESOLVE**
By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Dec. 29 (JTA) -- The Islamic fundamentalist Hamas movement may have been weakened militarily by Israel's mass expulsion of its leaders, but there is little doubt it has gained politically.

Its main rival for support in the administered territories, the Palestine Liberation Organization, has been forced into backing Hamas' insistence that Israel return the 415 Moslem activists deported to Lebanon on Dec. 17.

To do less would make the PLO vulnerable to charges of betrayal and even collaboration with the Israeli authorities.

Rapprochement between the two competing groups has gone even further. Their leaders held a first-ever summit meeting in Tunis to discuss coordinated policies.

At the same time, the Palestinian leadership in the territories met this week with visiting U.N.

special envoy James Jonah to insist that Israel, at the very least, allow humanitarian aid to reach the deportees, who remain stranded in a tent encampment in southern Lebanon between Israeli and Lebanese army checkpoints.

But it is a bumpy road for Hamas. Its seemingly closer ties with the PLO have had little practical significance. Four days of meetings with the leadership in Tunis failed to persuade the PLO to order its proxies in the territories to pull out of the peace talks with Israel.

Hamas and the PLO agreed only to continue demanding that Israel return the deportees and to support an escalation of the intifada.

The two Palestinian organizations were unable to move closer than that because, in the long run, their goals are in conflict.

The PLO seeks a secular Palestinian state after territorial compromise with Israel. Hamas believes in jihad, a holy war, ending only in the destruction of Israel.

Hamas has suffered another blow. According to news reports here, its long-secret organizational infrastructure in the territories has been exposed as a result of the deportations and the arrest of over 1,000 activists that preceded it.

Aid From Iran And Saudi Arabia

Seized documents indicate that Iran and Saudi Arabia have channeled funds to Hamas leaders, helping them develop the large-scale social, cultural and religious operations considered a major contributor to the growing popularity of the fundamentalist movement in the territories.

But despite the military setback and the failure to significantly close ranks with the PLO, Hamas is believed to have grown stronger since the deportations, at least in terms of popular support.

That strength is particularly evident in the West Bank town of Hebron, a traditional stronghold of the Islamic fundamentalist movement. Seventy-eight residents of Hebron were among those expelled to Lebanon, almost a third of the total number deported from the West Bank.

Many of those expelled are teachers or staff members of the Islamic College of Hebron. Others are active in the Moslem Welfare Society, the Red Crescent or a hospital currently under construction.

Hebron residents believe the fundamentalists have their interests at heart to a much greater degree than the PLO does. They say Hamas uses much of the money it gets from Saudi Arabia and Iran to fund schools and welfare activities, while the PLO is more interested in maintaining a bloated organizational bureaucracy.

The PLO is now facing the fact that Hamas' popularity in the territories had been growing even before the deportations. The expulsions have only intensified the unhappiness of PLO supporters, who now see no option but to demonstrate support for their rivals.

At another level, PLO supporters are now expected to compete with Hamas in the religious realm and show they are more devout Moslems than the Moslem fundamentalists.

But it is the political sphere where the PLO battle for dominance over Hamas is most evident.

Bassam Id, a well-known civil rights activist

who works for the Israeli civil rights association B'tselem, said the dovish Meretz bloc, a partner in Israel's coalition government, received a green light from the PLO to support the Dec. 16 Cabinet decision to deport the Hamas activists.

New Demands At Peace Talks

Id said in interviews last week with two East Jerusalem newspapers that the PLO-supported delegation to the peace talks met with Meretz activists at the home of Knesset member Yossi Sarid and said they could "tolerate" a blow to Hamas in the wake of the killing of five Israeli servicemen for which the fundamentalist group claimed credit.

Whether true or not, such stories leave the PLO little choice but to adopt a tough stand.

If and when they return to the peace talks, Palestinian negotiators can be expected to present new demands, according to Ali Jaddah, a leader of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, one of the constituent groups of the PLO.

In hardening their position, they will ask for inclusion of official PLO negotiators and discussion of the delicate issue of Jerusalem, he said.

They also can be expected to seek discussion of Israeli territorial withdrawal from the territories at this stage rather than in three years' time, as now stipulated by the terms of the talks.

KNESSET DISCIPLINES ARAB MEMBER WHO ENGAGED IN HEATED EXCHANGE

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Dec. 29 (JTA) -- The Knesset this week reached for the most severe disciplinary action in its rules and voted by a large majority to bar Arab Hadash party member Tawfik Ziad from the next five sessions of the plenary.

Ziad was involved in a heated exchange Monday with Rehavam Ze'evi, leader of the far-right Moledet party, and Likud Knesset members, which culminated in efforts by ushers to remove him forcibly from the rostrum, at the request of the acting speaker.

A separate case involving another Hadash Knesset member, Hashem Mahmid, was deferred Tuesday by the House Committee without a vote.

Taken together, the two incidents are viewed as worrying signs of deterioration in relations between Jewish and Arab politicians.

Both Ziad's behavior in the Knesset, and statements made by Mahmid in a visit to the Gaza Strip last week, are regarded as virtually unprecedented in the annals of the Knesset.

Mahmid, an Israeli Arab, was understood to be calling on Palestinians in the territories to resort to violence in their uprising -- although he himself denies that this was the intention or import of his remarks.

A number of Likud Knesset members have demanded that he be stripped of his parliamentary immunity, so he can be prosecuted for incitement.

Ziad's punishment was determined by the House Committee late Monday night, but he exercised his right of appeal before the full plenary Tuesday.

The Hadash Knesset member claimed he was provoked by racist catcalls from the Likud benches. He denied acting disrespectfully toward the acting speaker, Esther Salamovitch of Tsomet.

But it was this aspect of his conduct that moved the entire Knesset, barring his own Hadash colleagues, to vote in favor of the maximum punishment being meted out to him.

ISRAELI POLICE ANNOUNCE SHAKE-UP IN SENIOR COMMAND

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Dec. 29 (JTA) -- In response to the escalating violence of the Palestinian uprising, the national police force has announced a major shake-up in its senior command that will involve the retirement, replacement or promotion of nearly all its top officers.

Officials said "more young blood" will enable the police command to cope more effectively with the challenges of the Palestinian intifada, rising crime and an alarming traffic accident rate.

Technical advances in police techniques also make it imperative to have new and younger minds at the helm, said Police Minister Moshe Shahal and Police Inspector General Yaacov Ternar at a news conference here this week.

Three-quarters of the 65 newly named top officers have at least one university degree. Their appointments take effect over the coming year, beginning February, and lower to 44 the average age of the police command.

In a period marked by turbulence in the territories, the massive shake-up has been widely welcomed by the country in general and by the security establishment in particular.

Retirees include those who have reached or passed the police retirement age of 55. In their ranks are all area and regional commanders, commanders of the Prison Service and border police and the police controller.

The retirements, which open the road to advancement in the junior ranks, were welcomed by the force.

Ternar himself is due to step down within a year.

DUTCH COURT DISMISSES APPEAL BY NAZI COLLABORATOR LUITJENS

By Henriette Boas

AMSTERDAM, Dec. 29 (JTA) -- A Dutch court this week dismissed an appeal by Nazi collaborator Jacob Luitjens, who was extradited from Canada last month, ruling he must serve out a 1948 sentence of life imprisonment.

Luitjens, 73, a retired botany instructor, was jailed in November on his return from Canada after waging a four-year battle against deportation. Canadian courts found he had lied about his wartime past on entering the country in 1961.

Luitjens may appeal the Dutch lower court ruling. His brother has already submitted a request for mercy to the Dutch crown.

Luitjens had sought a retrial in the Netherlands on the grounds he was not present at the original hearing where he was convicted in absentia for helping the occupying German forces capture Dutch resistance fighters during World War II.

But the same court in the northern town of Assen ruled that his request for a new trial had come too late.

The court found he had known of his conviction in 1983 but had failed to apply for a new trial within a stipulated 14-day limit.

Luitjens was arrested in 1945 for wartime activities as a member of a Dutch Nazi police unit that hunted down resistance fighters and Jews.

He escaped from a detention camp in 1947 and fled to Paraguay, before moving to Canada 14 years later.

JEWISH GROUPS LOOKING WITH HOPE TOWARD CLINTON JUSTICE DEPARTMENT

By Deborah Kalb
States News Service

WASHINGTON, Dec. 29 (JTA) -- While few Jewish organizational leaders know much about Attorney General-designate Zoe Baird, they are optimistic that the Clinton administration's Justice Department will be more sympathetic than its predecessor to Jewish concerns on civil rights and church-state issues.

After 12 years of doing battle with the Reagan and Bush administrations on a range of domestic issues, from abortion to school prayer, most Jewish groups see the incoming Justice Department as a change for the better.

"It appears we have an incoming administration sympathetic to (our) agenda," said Jess Hordes, director of the Anti-Defamation League's Washington office.

"The Jewish community has reason to be very optimistic," said Ann Lewis, a Democratic analyst who also chairs the American Jewish Congress Commission on Women's Equality.

Baird, 40, who is Jewish, was a surprise choice for attorney general and is something of an unknown quantity to Jewish groups. The Brooklyn-born attorney served in the Justice Department during the Carter years and is currently senior vice president and general counsel to the Aetna Life and Casualty Insurance Co.

One Justice Department concern where most Jewish groups see positive changes coming is the abortion rights issue.

Sammie Moshenberg, director of Washington operations for the National Council of Jewish Women, is "very enthusiastic and hopeful that the new administration will represent a real new day when it comes to women's reproductive rights and rights in general, given the president-elect's comments about overturning anti-choice laws."

While the outgoing administration's solicitor general argued on behalf of laws restricting abortion in cases before the Supreme Court, "the incoming Justice Department will not assume that role," said Moshenberg. "I would expect them to argue on the side of reproductive rights."

With the exception of some Orthodox groups, most Jewish organizations oppose restrictions on access to abortion.

No Longer An Adversary

On church-state issues, too, most Jewish groups are expecting the Clinton administration to be a friend.

While the Reagan and Bush administrations took positions that many Jewish leaders feel undermined the separation between church and state, "I would be surprised, given what Clinton has said on church-state issues, if we find the Justice Department is an adversary," said Mark Pelavin, AJCongress Washington representative.

Pelavin described the Bush Justice Department as "almost radical" in its approach to several recent Supreme Court cases, including one focusing on whether a rabbi could invoke God's name in a blessing at a high school graduation ceremony in Providence, R.I.

Many Jewish groups felt the blessing was unconstitutional, violating the separation of church and state, while the Justice Department took the other side.

But instead of asking the Supreme Court merely to examine the case on its merits, the

Justice Department asked the court to "throw out a test used for 30 years" in deciding church-state cases, Pelavin said.

The AJCongress official also noted that while President Bush favors school choice, which would allow tax dollars to be used for sending children to parochial schools, President-elect Bill Clinton opposes this.

Most Jewish groups have opposed government aid to parochial schools, even though it would benefit Jewish day schools. The exception have been Orthodox Jewish groups, which have the most to gain from such assistance.

The Orthodox groups have also differed with the majority of Jewish organizations on such issues as abortion rights and religious displays.

Not surprisingly, the Orthodox are less enthusiastic about the incoming Justice Department than other Jewish groups.

David Zwiebel, director of government affairs and general counsel for Agudath Israel of America, said that from his group's standpoint, "the Justice Department under the Bush administration was, on balance, a very favorable force for the Jewish community."

Zwiebel was pleased when, in a recent case, the Bush Justice Department took the side of Orthodox Jews who had been precluded from moving into a village in upstate New York by a group of community residents.

Agudath Israel also took the same side as the administration on abortion rights issues, supporting its unsuccessful effort to have the Supreme Court overturn the 1973 Roe vs. Wade case guaranteeing a woman's right to abortion.

But Zwiebel said Agudath Israel sees Baird as someone it "will be able to work with."

Support For Hate Crimes Bill

Agudath Israel and other Jewish organizations are pleased that Clinton has voiced support for the Religious Freedom Restoration Act, which would make it harder for the government to encroach on free exercise of religion.

The bill is designed to circumvent a 1990 Supreme Court ruling permitting Oregon to prosecute Native Americans for using the hallucinogen peyote in religious rituals. Jewish groups consider the case a dangerous precedent for laws that could restrict other ritual practices, such as kosher slaughter.

In the last Congress, the bill had about 200 co-sponsors in the House of Representatives and "significant support on the Senate side," said Hordes of ADL. With Clinton's backing, he said, the prospects of passage are "excellent."

Hordes also is encouraged that Clinton has expressed support for the ADL's "penalty-enhancement approach" to sentencing for hate crimes. Under this approach, penalties for ordinary crimes would be stepped up when they are motivated by hatred or bigotry.

The Supreme Court has agreed to review a challenge to a Wisconsin law that adopts this approach. ADL has sent letters to current Attorney General William Barr and the Clinton transition team urging support for the Wisconsin law.

The Simon Wiesenthal Center, meanwhile, is hoping the new Justice Department will state its "firm commitment" to continue investigating and prosecuting war criminals.

"We will look very hard at the new administration," to make sure there is no diminution of activity in this area, said Rabbi Abraham Cooper, the Los Angeles-based center's associate dean.

BEHIND THE HEADLINES:**CLAL RETURNS TO ITS ROOTS,
FINDING STABILITY AND FOCUS**
[Part 2 Of A Series]

By Larry Yudelson

NEW YORK, Dec. 29 (JTA) -- For CLAL, the National Jewish Center for Learning and Leadership, the Jewish community's renewed interest in Jewish renewal is a return to its own organizational roots.

It was founded as the National Jewish Conference Center in 1974, in the wake of the first concern among Jewish lay leaders over lack of Jewish identity in the community.

Its mission, as stated at the time: "to catalyze spiritual renewal in American Jewish life through innovative leadership-training programs, conducted in partnership with other national and local Jewish agencies and organizations."

That describes its present agenda almost to a tee.

But during the intervening two decades, CLAL suffered more than once from organizational whiplash, as founder Rabbi Irving "Yitz" Greenberg rapidly turned his attention from one subject to the next.

"Yitz is one of the most creative and innovative minds in American Jewish life, a serious thinker who also has a pragmatic bent to him," says Michael Berenbaum, project director of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, and a former colleague of Greenberg's.

As Greenberg himself has acknowledged, however, his administrative skills are no match for his fertile ideas.

Started With Focus On The Holocaust

"Yitz didn't want to create programs; he wanted to transform the Jewish world tomorrow," says David Elcott, CLAL's program director. "Though his philosophy was *tikkun olam* (transforming the world) one step at a time, that didn't apply to him."

At the core of Greenberg's philosophy are two revolutionizing events: the Holocaust and the rebirth of the state of Israel.

In light of those events, Greenberg came to believe that a new era in Jewish history had begun, and the old divisions between Orthodox and Reform, religious and secular, made little sense.

So out of the conviction that the Holocaust was not being appreciated as a seminal event, Greenberg and co-founder Elie Wiesel focused on commemorating and interpreting the tragedy.

In 1978, the then-National Jewish Conference Center formed Zachor: The Holocaust Resource Center. It was intended to be one of six components of the Conference Center, but the necessary funding for the rest never came through.

Berenbaum served as Zachor's associate director. And when President Jimmy Carter formed his national commission on the Holocaust, he tapped both Greenberg and Wiesel as its leaders. The commission led to the Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, set to open in April.

With the Holocaust firmly entrenched in both the communal and national consciousness, CLAL shifted its focus toward the education of Jewish lay leaders, along the way changing its name to the National Jewish Resource Center.

Elcott was hired nine years ago to expand and consolidate the organizational programming.

But by 1985, Greenberg became alarmed at

the rising tensions between Orthodoxy and the other denominations over such issues as changing Israel's Law of Return and the institution by the Reform movement of patrilineal descent.

Divisions he had seen as decreasingly relevant in light of the Holocaust threatened to become chasms, leading him to ask the question which became the title of a widely published article, "Will there be one Jewish people in the year 2000?"

To address the issue, CLAL garnered a \$1 million grant and launched a new program aimed at promoting intergroup understanding.

This new focus coincided with CLAL changing its name, for the third time, to the National Center for Learning and Leadership.

Interdenominational Issue Recedes

The name change, while reflecting a shift in the nuances of the organization's programming, more importantly enabled it to highlight its interdenominational work by creating an acronym that matches the first half of the Hebrew phrase "Clal Yisrael," referring to the totality and unity of the Jewish people.

Now, the issue of denominational unity has receded to the background. CLAL leaders say they have discovered that public discussions on the issue tended only to raise tensions.

"It's like marriage counseling," says Rabbi Steven Greenberg, a member of CLAL's faculty. "If they're not committed to it, and you drag them to two sessions where they air their grievances and that's it, it only gets worse."

"Also, people don't care. We can't sell a program on that issue," he adds.

The concern over being able to sell a program reflects the institutionalization of CLAL, its growing stability and its independence from founder Greenberg.

Greenberg, in fact, is on sabbatical in Israel this year to write a book.

The emphasis on marketing also reflects the organization's response to a debt of hundreds of thousands of dollars that is still being paid off, accumulated in an abortive effort to create a conference center along the lines envisioned by the organization's original name.

At the same time, CLAL's programming, reflecting Greenberg's ideas, is being sought by the community. Money is now available for CLAL to do what it set out to do back in 1974.

"Yitz was prescient in his call for this," says Shoshana Cardin, CLAL's incoming chairman. "Everybody is agreeing with the point that we have to reinvest in providing meaning and commitment into the enterprise."

Getting Funds From Foundations

Jewish family foundations are joining in and granting funds to CLAL to expand its work.

In the largest such grant, Charles and Andy Bronfman are giving CLAL \$1 million over several years to expand its training programs for rabbis, federation professionals and community center workers. Also supporting the new program are the Wexner Foundation, and Jack and Helen Nash.

It is a significant sum for the organization, which operated on a \$2.2 million budget in 1992.

Much as the interdenominational work enabled rabbis to realize, many for the first time, that despite their ideological and religious differences they were in many ways working for the same ends, the new programs are aimed at linking together the different Jewish professionals.