Talks *continued from page 1*

Palestinian-Jordanian confederation. As Ashrawi remarked during her closing press conference on January 16, "The Israeli delegation either did not do its homework and was therefore unprepared, or it came prepared to do nothing." As the talks came to a premature conclusion, when the Israeli delegation left Washington early, the consensus favored the latter.

Arabs Balk at Expulsion Orders; Condemn Settlements

The second round of Washington talks was delayed when Israel announced on January 2 that it would expel 12 Palestinian activists. Israeli officials said the expulsions were in response to the killing of an Israeli settler in the Gaza Strip, however, none of the Palestinians named were linked to the killing. The expulsions are in direct violation of provisions of the Fourth Geneva Convention (1949) which state, "Individual or mass forcible transfers, as well as deportation of protected persons from occupied territory to the territory of the occupying power or to that of any other country, occupied or not, are prohibited, regardless of their motive" (Article 49, Paragraph 1).

The Bush Administration immediately condemned the expulsion order stating, "The United States strongly condemns the Israeli government's decision to deport Palestinians. We have urged Israel at the highest levels to reconsider and to rescind its decision." ADC President Albert Mokhiber and other leaders of the Council of Presidents of Arab-American Organizations met with Undersecretary of State Edward Djerijian on January 3 to express support for the Administration's position. In a statement to the press Mokhiber said, "ADC calls upon the Administration to buttress its condemnation with more substantive actions, including a cut in foreign aid to Israel. Such sanctions have precedent in other regions of the world, and are actually mandated under domestic and international law given Israel's outright violation of the Geneva Conventions pertaining to the protection of civilian populations under occupation." ADC, as a member of the North American Coordinating Committee for NGO's, helped to activate its fax tree to disseminate information on the expulsions to outreach and coalition groups and to urge the United Nations to seek a reversal of the expulsion order.

On January 8, the United Nation's Security Council made an unprecedented move, with a unanimous vote on a resolution that "strongly condemns" Israel's decision to expel the 12 Palestinians. According to the January 7 edition of *The Washington Post*, U.N. diplomats said the resolution contained the "harshest" language ever adopted by the council and supported by Washington regarding Israel's expulsion policy.

During the talks, the Palestinian delegation focused attention the expulsions as well as Israel's continued illegal settlement of Palestinian land. In the midst of the January talks, Israeli settlers erected five new settler outposts in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

ADC Organizes Tour

As during the December round of talks, ADC offered its support and assistance to the Arab delegations, and coordinated a 5-city speaking tour for members of the Jordanian and Palestinian delegations. When the talks adjourned on January 16, a representative from both of the delegations traveled to Cincinnati, Detroit, Los Angeles, and Austin, Texas. A member of the Jordanian delegation traveled to Chicago.

The head of the Jordanian delegation, Dr. Abdul Salam Majali, was joined in Cincinnati by Palestinian representative Nabil Kassis. During their stay, they met with numerous leaders and representatives of the local Arab-American community who arranged a number of public events and media appearances. Meetings held with the editorial boards of the *Cincinnati Post* and the *Cincinnati Enquirer* resulted in articles in both newspapers, and close to 300 people turned out for two lectures held at the University of Cincinnati.

Palestinian representative Freih Abu-Meiden and Awn Khasawneh of the Jordanian delegation were guests of Detroit's Arab-American community. During their stay, they had a dinner meeting with Arab-American leaders, and were featured at a community dinner at St. Mary's Church. A luncheon meeting was given in their honor by the Dean of Michigan State University, followed by a lecture for students and faculty. An article appeared in the university newspaper, *The Statesman*, and Abu-Meiden and Khasawneh were also interviewed by *Detroit News* reporter Tarek Hamada.

Visiting Los Angeles were Jordanian delegate Dr. Fayez Tarawneh and Palestinian representative Sami Keilani. In addition to meeting with community leaders in Los Angeles, the team was interviewed on the popular Michael Jackson radio talk show and on KPFK Radio. They were also interviewed by KTTV-Fox Television News, and appeared on Arab American Television. A lecture was arranged at the University of California in Los Angeles (UCLA), and Tarawneh and Keilani attended a luncheon meeting with more than a dozen UCLA professors. A lecture and reception for the delegates was held at the Saddle Back Inn on January 17, and drew close to 250 people.

Appearing in Austin, Texas was Palestinian delegate Samir Abdullah and Dr. Muhammad Alwan, professor of Law at the University of Texas Law School and adviser to the Jordanian delegation. During their stay, the team was interviewed by syndicated talk show hostess Olive Graham and attended a luncheon at the local mosque. Close to 200 people attended a lecture hosted by the University of Texas Law School, and an article appeared in the university newspaper, *The Daily Texan*.

Jordanian delegate Dr. Jawad Anani traveled to Chicago, where he was honored with a community reception that drew 100 people. During his stay he was interviewed on WVON Radio and WBEZ Radio, and appeared at a very successful press conference at the Michigan Avenue Marriott.

Thanks to generous contributors from Cleveland, ADC sponsored an advertising campaign in the Washington, D.C. subway system throughout December and early January. The ads, which underscored the necessity for peace in the Middle East, depicted a traditional nativity scene and bore the message "Peace in the Land of Peace: Let Palestine Be Free." They urged riders to call Congress to voice their support for Palestinian national rights. The ads were posted throughout the first and second rounds of peace talks. ■

Legal Briefs

Arab-American Exonerated in Pan Am 103

The recent indictment of two Libyan nationals in the 1988 bombing of Pan Am Flight 103 marked the end of a three-year nightmare for a Michigan Arab-American family.

On November 14, the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) notified Nazir Jaafar that his son had been officially and publicly cleared of any involvement in the bombing of Pan Am Flight 103. Khaled Jaafar, who was returning home to Dearborn, Michigan on Flight 103 following a family visit to the Middle East, was among the 259 passengers and crew members who perished on that flight as it exploded over Lockerbie, Scotland.

Due to his ethnicity and travel schedule, many in the media speculated that Jaafar was somehow involved in the bombing. The first report implicating Jaafar singled him out solely because of his name. National television networks and respected newspapers followed suit, although there was no evidence to substantiate such claims. As a result, the Jaafar family was subjected to intense harassment by the media. The family's business suffered, and younger Jaafar children were afraid to go to school, fearing harassment from classmates.

According to former ADC Detroit Regional Organizer Terry Ahwal, who was in close contact with the Jaafar family throughout the ordeal, "The media convicted him, with absolutely no evidence. It was incredibly painful for the family to suffer the loss of their son, let alone have his memory subjected to a character assassination." ADC assisted the family in monitoring media coverage of the bombing.

In a letter to Nazir Jaafar, Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI) Director William Sessions wrote, "Now that the indictment is being announced, I wanted to personally convey a statement from the FBI to you that there is no evidence that Khaled had any role, either wittingly or unwittingly, in the bombing of Pan Am Flight 103. Unfortunately, your son, like all other passengers on this flight was the victim of a terrible and despicable criminal act. Please accept my personal assurance that the FBI will continue this investigation until all facts are learned, and all those responsible are brought to justice."

TPS Extended and Expanded for Lebanon

On January 24, 1992, the Attorney General announced that Temporary Protected Status (TPS), scheduled to expire on March 27, 1992, would be extended until March 28, 1993 for Lebanon and Liberia, but not for Kuwait. TPS is a special immigration program that allows persons from designated countries to stay and work legally in the United States for a temporary period. The TPS program does not lead to a green card.

Technical corrections to the Immigration Act of 1990, signed into law by President Bush on December 12, 1991, expanded the coverage of TPS from "nationals" of a designated state to nationals and "alien[s] having no nationality who...last habitually resided in...a designated state." This means that Palestinians holding travel documents, such as the Egyptian, Lebanese and Syrian *laissez-passers*, who came to the United States directly from Lebanon after a long-term residence there, may qualify for TPS.

INS will presume that Palestinians from Lebanon who hold a Jordanian passport are nationals of Jordan ineligible for TPS. However, such persons may be able, with the help of an immigration attorney, to prove they are stateless under an important decision of the Board of Immigration Appeals, In re Rumman. (See *ADC Times*, January-February 1991). Palestinians from Lebanon who would like to register for TPS should contact an immigration attorney *prior* to registering.

Only nationals and stateless habitual residents of Lebanon who have been continuously physically present in the United States since March 27, 1991 (except for brief absences) are eligible for TPS. According to the INS, 6,761 Lebanese nationals and stateless residents have registered for TPS.

ADC President Albert Mokhiber hailed the extension of TPS: "We are extremely appreciative for the decision by Attorney General Barr today extending TPS another year for Lebanese nationals and residents. . . . It is our sincere hope and desire that the conditions in Lebanon will continue to improve over the coming year wherein TPS will no longer be necessary."

Stateless Palestinian residents of Kuwait, who became eligible for TPS on December 12, 1991, should not register for TPS unless advised to do so by an immigration attorney. TPS will end for both them and for nationals of Kuwait on March 27, 1992. Mokhiber called upon the Bush administration to make special provisions to accommodate stateless residents of Kuwait.

Eligible nationals of Lebanon who have not yet registered for TPS have until March 27, 1992 to do so. Those nationals who have already registered for TPS and want their TPS extended *must* re-register, however, as *ADC Times* went to press, the date by which they must re-register was unclear. Stateless habitual residents of Lebanon who would like TPS have been granted a special additional six month period to register for TPS, and must do so by September 28, 1992.

Details about the TPS program are available from the ADC Legal Services Department.

Pan Am's Wings Clipped

Facing a mountain of debt and a bleak financial future, Pan Am World Airways, Inc. ceased operations on December 4, 1991, just days after Delta Airlines pulled out of a deal that would have infused Pan Am with tens of millions of dollars in interim financing. Pan am is currently in the process of liquidating its assets and arranging to pay its creditors.

ADC sued Pan Am earlier this year, alleging that Pan Am security agents are subjecting Arabs and Arab-Americans to heightened security measures, including questioning and body and lug-