

Shlomo Avineri on After the War

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Nusseibeh's detention cut in half

JON IMMANUEL
Jerusalem Post Reporter

The Defense Ministry yesterday agreed to reduce the detention of Palestinian activist Sari Nusseibeh from six to three months. Nusseibeh was arrested last Tuesday on suspicion of spying for Iraq.

Jerusalem District Court President Vardimus Zeiler suggested the reduction after seeing the summary and conclusion of the secret police file on Nusseibeh.

Security sources said that the government accepted the court's recommendation, because the emergency detention without trial was meant to prevent the 41-year-old philosophy professor from maintaining wartime contact with PLO officials in the pay of Iraqi intelligence. Since the authorities accepted Judge Zeiler's view that the war

in the Gulf should be over in three months, it was agreed that a six-month detention was unnecessary.

Nusseibeh's British-born wife, Lucy, ridiculed the authorities' reasoning. She said the reduction in the jail term clearly showed there was insufficient evidence against her husband. "It is absurd to arrest a spy in time of war for only three months... The authorities are trying to silence the moderate, gentle voice of my husband."

Nusseibeh's lawyer, Jonathan Kuttab, said that the judge had made clear that "if it were not for the condition of actual warfare, it is possible that he would not have accepted the state's position at all."

Amnesty International has expressed reservations about Nusseibeh's arrest, calling for his release or public trial so that he could defend

himself.

The security sources said that during Nusseibeh's three-month detention they would examine the possibility of putting him on trial without endangering their own intelligence sources.

Nusseibeh himself told the court: "I have no doubt that the real reason for my arrest was my public standing and my Palestinian views in favor of achieving peace with Israel through recognition of the rights of the Palestinian people."

He did not challenge the basis of the detention order itself, saying that since he was not permitted to see the evidence against him "it is impossible for me to refute the hidden allegations." These have not been made public, but are believed to have involved revealing locations of Iraqi Scud missile hits.

launched

The allied bombardment of Iraqi ground forces and installations may indeed last for an additional several weeks before the planned allied ground offensive begins, Dep. Chief of General Staff Maj-Gen. Ehud Barak said last night.

According to Barak, the aerial assault will continue until allied commanders feel that Iraqi forces have

in other words, Barak continued the allies still have a long way to go before achieving significant damage to Iraqi ground strength in Kuwait.

Allied war plans are comprehensive and well thought out, however and are being pursued systematically, he said. "The damage to Iraqi forces is mounting, and will continue to build up."

Maj.-Gen. (Res) Amos Yaron responding to the *Los Angeles*

Defense Ministry allocated extra NIS 243m. for crisis

ALISA ODENHEIMER
Jerusalem Post Reporter

Just three months after voting the defense establishment a NIS 400m. budget increase due to the Gulf crisis, the cabinet yesterday approved an additional NIS 243m. to pay for the state of alert.

Defense Ministry officials were quick to say that the money would only cover some of the additional costs incurred in the November through January period, leaving the door open for additional funding

come to an agreement on the matter. Sources in the Finance Ministry said that Arens had originally asked for an additional NIS 300 million in funds, but had finally agreed to settle for less.

A Finance Ministry spokesman insisted that the increase would not bring about a larger budget deficit, and claimed that the funding would come from cuts in other budget items.

A senior ministry official said that it may be that some ministries have

More Americans now favor nuking