

the hope that these countries would stop these practices in response to international concern; and

WHEREAS ALA reaffirmed its commitment to Article 19 in 1991 by quoting it in Policy #57.4: "Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression; this right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media regardless of frontiers;" and

WHEREAS the Article 19 International Center on Censorship's 1991 World Report on Information, Freedom and Censorship (co-published by ALA) documents the following

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Social Responsibilities Round Table of the American Library Association endorse H.R.1300 and S.2320, the Universal Health Care Act; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this resolution be sent to Rep. Russo, Sen. Wellstone, and the library press.

(NB: Passed by ALA membership and Council.)

On the Seville Statement:

BE IT RESOLVED that the Social Responsibilities Round Table of the American Library Association add its name to the list of endorsing organizations and encourage ALA to do likewise.

On Omar al-Safi:

BE IT RESOLVED that the Social Responsibilities Round Table of the American Library Association protest the deportation of Omar al-Safi from his homeland. Al-Safi, a librarian at Bir Zeit University in the Israeli-occupied West Bank, is being subjected to an "administrative

TASK FORCE REPORTS

Alternatives in Print

The "Food for Thought Buffet," held Friday evening in San Francisco was attended by about 400 people. This informal gathering and exhibit by alternative and small press publishers gave librarians an opportunity to meet and chat with the almost fifty publishers who attended. **Jackie Eubanks, Dan Hodge, Nancy Gruber** and other AXP members made the event work, and AIP is considering making this an annual event.

Civil Rights

Work continues on the "Civil Rights Action Kit for Librarians," a major project of the Task Force in the recent past. It is hoped that the kit will be completed before

the newsletter, and will be appointed editor

Refugees, Migrants, and the Homeless

At a start up meeting in San Francisco, plans were made to begin to network with other ALA groups and to plan events and meetings for upcoming meetings in New Orleans and Miami. The Co-Chairs, **Julie Hersberger** and **Sherrill Weaver-Wozniak**, prepared testimony which was presented at an open hearing before the Task Force on Preparation of Guidelines Regarding Patron Behavior and Library Usage. Their testimony particularly commented on the language used which links homelessness with problem patron behavior, asking that that language be deleted.

ALA GOES ON RECORD AGAINST ISRAELI CENSORSHIP

After a two and a half year struggle, the efforts of SRRT's International Human Rights Task Force (IHRTF) have finally succeeded in putting ALA officially on record against Israeli censorship and human rights violations in the Occupied Territories and in Israel itself. ALA membership and ALA Council each passed two resolutions by large majorities, one on the deportation of Omar Al-Safi, and the main resolution, a protest against Israel's stringent censorship policies (the text of both resolutions appears elsewhere in this newsletter).

Regular readers of this newsletter have some familiarity with events which led up to the San Francisco meeting. A report summarizing these events appeared in the March 1992 SRRT Newsletter, as did the text of the draft resolution passed by Action Council at Midwinter 1992. Considerable pressure had been applied by those inside and outside ALA, both on the IHRTF, the originator of the resolution, and personally on its Chair, particularly during and after last year's ALA Annual Conference in Atlanta.

After receiving endorsement in spirit of the revised resolution at Midwinter, intensive negotiations within the IHRTF finally produced a resolution for San Francisco which was believed could win broad support, while retaining mention of the twenty-five year occupation. There also seemed to be a growing groundswell of support for such a

resolution in reaction to the ALA leadership's efforts the previous year to avoid criticizing Israel. Action Council easily adopted the revised resolution - as well as the Omar Al-Safi resolution - and closed ranks behind its presentation to the ALA membership in reaction to the

IHRTF member **Al Kagan** presented the main resolution on Israeli censorship at the second membership meeting on July 1, and in very reasoned tones spoke to its issues. Sever once again participated and tried to justify Israeli censorship by referring to its permanent state of war with the Arab countries. A highly dramatic moment in the debate came when Schwartz, not an ALA member, asked to address the meeting. She made an impassioned plea for the membership to pass the resolution and put pressure on her government to end these censorship practices. Incoming SRRT Action Council Coordinator, **Stephen Stillwell**, spoke in support of the resolution, as did SRRT members **David Williams, Elaine Harger, Mark Rosenzweig**, and others. The resolution passed by a wide majority.

When the resolution was presented to Council, it was hard to be optimistic given that body's stance a year ago. The Omar Al-Safi resolution passed easily, however, and when the main resolution was considered, councillor after councillor rose to speak in its support. The resolution was passed without significant dissent.

What happened to change things? A number of possible factors have to be considered. First, for two and a half years the IHRTF distributed information and background material on these issues, leaving little doubt about the fact of Israeli censorship policies. The Task Force sponsored programs challenging the Israeli government defenders to public debate and provoking controversy within ALA. Attempts by ALA leadership to exempt Israel from any criticism actually seems to have worked against them, generating concern among many members who may not have otherwise felt strongly about the issue. The Bush administration's face-

personal use. The books published by these presses should be considered for purchase based on the press's reputation (as

publication of Women's Voices in the Southern Oral History Program Collection, edited by Kathryn L. Nasstrom. The guide to the collection contains abstracts of over 300 oral history interviews with southern

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A fiche copy of each volume comes with the print version. The fiche are clear and legible, although some of the photographs lose a little in being viewed as negatives. The fiche contains the indices.

- **Stephen J. Stillwell, jr.**, Harvard University, Cambridge MA.

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