

**SURVIVORS JOIN WITH DIGNITARIES  
IN DEDICATING HOLOCAUST MUSEUM**

By Deborah Kalb  
States News Service

WASHINGTON, April 22 (JTA) -- Thousands gathered here Thursday under blustery, rainy skies to dedicate the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum, which President Clinton said would "bind one of the darkest lessons in history to the hopeful soul of America."

Holocaust survivors joined Clinton, Vice President Al Gore, Israeli President Chaim Herzog and a number of European heads of state in a solemn, moving ceremony on the grounds of the museum, an American memorial to the horrors of the Nazi era that will open to the public Monday.

Clinton, Gore, Herzog and the other speakers sat on a raised dais just outside the museum's front doors, as a row of military flags behind them flapped stiffly in the breeze. Below the dais was written the phrase, "For the dead and the living, we must bear witness."

In his remarks, Clinton recalled the suffering inflicted on European Jews during the Nazi era.

"They who were among their nation's most patriotic citizens, whose extinction served no military purpose nor offered any political gain, they who threatened no one, were slaughtered by an efficient, unrelenting bureaucracy, dedicated solely to a radical evil with a curiously antiseptic title, the Final Solution," the president said.

He was but one of a variety of speakers who addressed the crowd by evoking bleak memories of the concentration camps and more hopeful recollections of those who helped shelter or liberate Holocaust victims.

Nobel laureate Elie Wiesel, the founding chairman of the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Council, which built the museum, included in his speech a passionate plea that more be done to help the people currently suffering in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

"We must do something to stop the bloodshed in that country," Wiesel said.

**Boos For Croatian President**

Clinton, too, mentioned Bosnia, along with other violent parts of the world, as examples of what can happen when hatred triumphs.

"Ethnic cleansing in the former Yugoslavia," he said, "is but the most brutal and blatant and ever-present manifestation of what we see also with the oppression of the Kurds in Iraq, the abusive treatment of the Bahai in Iran, the endless race-based violence in South Africa."

"We must find in our diversity our common humanity," the president said.

The ceremony was memorable for the number of foreign heads of state and other dignitaries present to honor the memory of those who died in the Holocaust. Also present were members of Congress and Jewish community leaders.

The foreign dignitaries attending the ceremony included leaders of Albania, Bulgaria, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Moldova, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia.

As the leaders were introduced, Croatian President Franjo Tudjman received some boos from the audience.

The museum's decision to invite Tudjman to

the dedication created controversy this week, because the Croatian leader has written a book questioning the existence of the Holocaust and made anti-Semitic remarks in public.

But a spokeswoman for the museum suggested Wednesday that Tudjman might learn something by taking a tour of the museum.

"We are not opening the museum to preach to the choir," said Naomi Paiss, director of communications. She added that someone like Tudjman perhaps "needs education" on the subject of the Holocaust more than others, and that such educating was one of the museum's purposes.

The European leaders receiving the greatest rounds of applause were Czech President Vaclav Havel and Polish President Lech Walesa.

The only foreign leader to speak, and to sit on the podium, was Herzog. He told the crowd of his experiences as a soldier in the British Army during World War II, when he was in the first Allied division to cross Germany's western border.

"To one who has seen anything of the Holocaust, even marginally," Herzog said, "it ceases to be an abstract concept and becomes a searing actuality never to be forgotten."

**Protesters Demonstrate Nearby**

Vice President Gore, in his remarks, said that the Holocaust raises questions that are almost impossible to contemplate.

"We are reduced to a silence filled with the infinite pool of feeling that has created all the words for humility, heartbreak, helplessness and hope in all the languages of the world," he said.

One happier note was struck when Stephania and Josef Burzminski told their story. Stephania, a Polish woman, hid 13 Jews, including Josef, during the war. All 13 were saved, and after the war, Stephania and Josef were married.

ABC News anchor Ted Koppel, the son of refugees from the Holocaust, served as master of ceremonies for the event.

He read from CBS News pioneer Edward Murrow's "Broadcast From Buchenwald," describing the horrors of the newly liberated concentration camp.

Holocaust Memorial Council Vice Chairman William Lowenberg, a survivor of Dachau, presented Dachau liberator Robert Jecklin with a photograph of his own family, to commemorate the generations that were saved. The two men embraced on the podium.

Toward the end of the ceremony, Clinton, Wiesel and Holocaust Memorial Council Chairman Harvey Meyerhoff joined in lighting an eternal flame, following which there was a moment of silence.

The ceremony was marred not only by the inclement weather but by a protest against the museum's creation, staged just outside the area where the dedication was taking place.

Throughout the ceremony, the audience could hear protesters chanting and calling out over a loudspeaker such epithets as "We don't buy the Holocaust lie" and "ADL go to hell."

The few dozen demonstrators carried signs with slogans reading "160 million German Americans demand the truth," and "America . . . Jews are your enemies . . . Cockroaches and parasites . . . Wake up America."

**BEHIND THE HEADLINES:  
DEDICATION OF HOLOCAUST MUSEUM  
CAPS LONG STRUGGLE OVER ITS ROLE**  
By Ellen Bernstein

WASHINGTON (JTA) -- The new U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum, a federally chartered, privately funded museum standing almost in the shadow of the Washington Monument, confers a broad base of legitimacy -- a government's imprimatur -- on the memory of Hitler's slaughter of European Jews.

But the sense of accomplishment among survivors, Holocaust educators and many Americans -- Jew and gentile -- whose family members were victims of Nazi fanaticism, comes at a price.

The 13 years of planning for the museum were rife with false starts, emotionally charged infighting and fund-raising woes.

The problems, museum officials believe, are behind them, as well as the controversy stemming from the status conferred on the museum as an American institution.

But some difficulties remain.

A pointed example of the often awkward but necessary attempt to skew what is essentially a Jewish story to an American context was played out just two weeks ago in the ill-timed but expected dismissal of museum Chairman Meyerhoff and Vice Chairman William Lowenberg, effective May 1.

Both men were Reagan appointees.

Meyerhoff, whose property development expertise is credited with making the museum a reality, was reportedly asked to resign because of a clash with White House officials over his refusal to extend an invitation to Israeli President Herzog to speak at the dedication.

Museum communications director Naomi Paiss denied in The Washington Post that Meyerhoff refused to invite Herzog. She did acknowledge that Meyerhoff felt strongly that an American president should open the museum.

The ideological pressure that led to Meyerhoff's demise may be just political -- Meyerhoff, a staunch Republican, is a wealthy real estate developer, prominent Baltimore philanthropist and longtime contributor to the GOP.

**'Unforgettable Lessons In Democracy'**

But Meyerhoff, who is not a survivor and was named the founding vice chairman of the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Council, made no secret of trying to downplay Jewish aspects of the Holocaust to make certain the museum would be an American institution.

"He wanted the memory of the Holocaust to be expansive because he saw a universal significance to the Holocaust," said Christopher Leighton, executive director of the Institute of Christian-Jewish Studies in Baltimore.

"He antagonized influential Jews and survivors who wanted to lift up and celebrate the uniqueness of the Holocaust."

Indeed, the creators of the museum have gone to great ideological lengths to give the museum an identity as American as the country's founding documents.

"What better place to have this museum than on the Mall," said Joseph Brodecki, national director of the museum's fund-raising campaign, which just topped \$160 million.

"The museum offers unforgettable lessons in democracy, the fragility of democracy and human rights. It will provide a necessary contrast to the

Mall's monuments that celebrate America's values, that shows what happens when society fails to live by these values."

A major transition is under way at the museum as it becomes a federal museum under the auspices of the Smithsonian Institution.

Employees are moving onto the federal payroll and the bulk of the day-to-day costs are being assumed by the federal government. Some \$21 million is budgeted for the current fiscal year.

The public-private partnership that created the museum began with the formation of the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Council in 1980.

Following the initial impetus of President Carter, the 55-member council was created by a unanimous act of Congress with the support of his successor, President Reagan.

The government authorized the transfer of 1.9 acres of federal land for the museum site, but stipulated that all funds to construct the facility be raised privately.

**Opposition From Rabbis And Donors**

Elic Wiesel was the founding chairman of the council. During his tenure, the museum's progress was marred by several false starts and disagreements over the internal and external design of the museum.

In 1987, he abruptly resigned as chairman because he felt that survivors had lost control of the council's museum project to businessmen who contributed large sums to the enterprise. Meyerhoff's family contributed the largest gift in the campaign -- \$6 million.

Wiesel said at the time that he felt incompatible with Meyerhoff, who, as an experienced property developer, took a leading role on the committee that supervised the planning and construction of the museum.

By 1988, when Joseph Brodecki, a Jewish federation campaign director in Milwaukee, took over the museum's national campaign, there was only \$30 million in the coffers.

Construction of the proposed \$147 million museum was slated to start in the summer of 1989.

Brodecki said he first struggled to convince potential donors of the relevance of the Holocaust to today's world. He also clashed with some local Jewish leaders who feared that the Holocaust Museum campaign would siphon money from Operation Exodus, the campaign to resettle Soviet and Ethiopian immigrants in Israel.

Some rabbinical leaders, who now grudgingly support the museum as a fait accompli, felt that the money would be better spent within the Jewish community on education.

"The best way to honor the memory of the victims of the Holocaust is for Jews to live as Jews," said one Washington-area rabbi, who would not let museum campaigners solicit in his congregation.

Brodecki, the child of survivors, established fund-raising offices in Chicago, Washington, Palm Beach, Fla., Los Angeles and Philadelphia. His campaign workers solicited Jewish communities, synagogues, non-Jewish philanthropists, corporations and foundations.

The campaign is expected to reach its goal of \$168 million, Brodecki said.

The "Campaign to Remember" has surpassed 200,000 donors, whose gifts, said Brodecki, ranged from the millions down to pennies from schoolchildren.

## WITH PEACE TALKS SET TO RECONVENE, VIOLENCE FLARES ON NORTHERN BORDER

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, April 22 (JTA) -- As all parties to the Middle East peace talks agreed to return to the negotiating table, violence increased along the Lebanese border with a series of Katyusha rocket salvos raining down on the border area and the Galilee panhandle.

There were no deaths in Israel, as residents of the area spent Wednesday night in shelters and reinforced blastproof rooms.

But a 67-year-old woman was lightly wounded by flying glass and a 17-year-old girl treated for shock.

And damage was reported to buildings, crops and electrical and water installations.

The northern Israel residents who took to their shelters were following an alert issued by the security authorities at nightfall, after the first Katyushas landed during daylight hours.

The rockets were answered by heavy bombardments of Hezbollah and other terrorist bases north of Israel's security zone by Israel Defense Force and South Lebanon Army gunners.

The IDF response included a missile attack by assault helicopters.

Two Lebanese civilians were reported killed in the attack and nine wounded.

## EGYPTIAN ADVISER VISITS ISRAEL AND VOICES HOPE ON PEACE TALKS

By Cynthia Mann

JERUSALEM, April 22 (JTA) -- Egyptian presidential adviser Osama el-Baz left meetings with Israeli leaders Thursday saying he was more hopeful than before that progress could be achieved in the Middle East peace talks.

The meetings with Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres came a day after the Arab parties to the talks announced their decision to return to the negotiating table for a ninth round with Israel.

El-Baz, a top adviser to Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, said he believed there was hope for concrete and meaningful progress in the coming weeks.

"We all have more confidence and more hope in the process," he said.

El-Baz made the comments after delivering what he said was a message from Mubarak to Rabin on the peace process, and receiving a message from Rabin to bring back to Cairo. He declined to spell out what the messages were.

Peres called the meeting "a good opportunity to map the possibilities" for progress in the negotiations and to "smooth" the way.

For his part, Rabin greeted the Arabs' decision to resume talks by saying Israel would do all it could to promote peace, but would not undermine the safety of its citizens.

In this vein, he said his government had "no plans to resort to further deportations," in evident deference to pressure from the U.S. brokers to the peace process.

But he stopped short of ruling deportations out in the future. Indeed, he defended the legality of the December expulsion of 415 Moslem extremists, which he said had dealt a "major blow" to the Islamic fundamentalist Hamas movement.

The prime minister also called on the Palestinians to make a "good-faith effort to maintain calm and avoid violence against Israel."

## PALESTINIANS ARE DEEPLY DIVIDED OVER DECISION TO RETURN TO TALKS

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, April 22 (JTA) -- There is deep division in Palestinian ranks over the decision to resume peace talks with Israel next week.

One indication of that disunity was a rare public warning against civil strife issued Thursday by the Palestine Liberation Organization's mainstream Al Fatah faction.

In the first statement of its kind since the peace talks began in October 1991, Fatah warned those opposing the new round of negotiations that it would deal "with an iron fist" against whoever dares to harm members of the Palestinian delegation or their families.

The warning, contained in pamphlets distributed throughout the administered territories, was issued following repeated threats received by members of the delegation prior to the decision to resume negotiations with Israel.

Four masked men had threatened the lives of the family of Saeb Erekat of Jericho, and similar threats were made against Faisal Hussein, now the official head of the Palestinian delegation.

But the divisions in the Palestinian camp are not merely between the moderates and the rejectionists, but among the moderates themselves as well.

Significantly, the announcement that the Palestinians would return to the talks was made not by the negotiating delegation but by PLO leader Yasir Arafat.

Arafat reportedly decided to back a return to the talks after Saudi Foreign Minister Saud al-Faisal pledged that the Persian Gulf states would resume financial aid to the PLO that had been cut off since it backed Iraq's invasion of Kuwait.

### 'Real Achievements' Badly Needed

Haidar Abdel-Shafi, who had chaired the Palestinian delegation until Hussein assumed the post, said in a radio interview Thursday that the PLO had agreed to Palestinian participation in the new round of peace talks, in order "to preserve Arab unity."

But Abdel-Shafi, who had opposed returning to the talks until Israel made more concessions, warned that the Palestinians would suspend the talks if their demands were not met during the round of negotiations that begins on Tuesday.

Ziad Abu-Ziad, an adviser to the Palestinian delegation, said Thursday that developments on the first day of the resumed talks would be crucial to the Palestinians, who need "real achievements" to win over public opinion in the territories.

The opposition to the talks includes the Moslem fundamentalist groups and the rejectionist front secular organizations, led by George Habash, leader of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine.

The mainstream elements in the Palestinian political community are emphasizing the strength of the opposition to the peace talks in the territories, hoping to impress Israeli public opinion that Israeli concessions are needed fast.

"The opposition is there," said Abu-Ziad, who is aligned with Fatah, "and the achievements of the peace process within the very near future will decide whether this opposition will put an end to the peace process or will start to de-escalate and give rise to more support for the peace process."

## CEMETERY, TEMPLE VANDALIZED IN THE SUBURBS NORTH OF BOSTON

By Heidi B. Perlman  
The Jewish Advocate

BOSTON, April 22 (JTA) -- On what would have been Adolf Hitler's 104th birthday, a Jewish cemetery and a temple were vandalized early Wednesday morning in separate suburbs north of Boston.

More than 100 gravestones in a section of the Everett (Mass.) Jewish Cemeteries were overturned, and many were spray-painted with swastikas, the emblem of Nazi Germany.

The Everett High School and a Vietnamese-owned convenience store were also defaced, with racist slogans, such as "Niggers are Apes" and "Gooks Get Out."

Further north in the town of Peabody, Temple Ner Tamid was covered with anti-Semitic graffiti, swastikas and the word "Jude," which is German for "Jew."

Police could not immediately determine whether the various incidents were connected.

In the Everett Cemeteries, the perpetrators' ultimate message was impossible to miss. It was spray-painted clearly on the side of one building, which read: "Happy Birthday, Adolph" (sic).

According to Dorothy and Eugene Green, the caretakers of the cemetery, the damage was discovered at approximately 4 a.m. Wednesday, during a routine "pass-through" by the Everett police. The Greens were contacted at 5:30 a.m., and by 6 a.m., the police had begun searching for clues.

Stanley Kaplan, president of the Jewish Cemetery Association of Massachusetts, said that out of the 30 burial grounds contained within the Everett Jewish Cemeteries, the ones damaged were the Berson Cemetery and the Dorchester Hebrew Helping Hand Cemetery.

The timing of the incidents, occurring during a week of Holocaust observances culminating in the dedication Thursday of the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, has left little doubt the cemetery desecration was an act of anti-Semitism.

"From the damage I've seen and from the date and from what's going on and from the hate symbols, this is definitely a deliberate act," said one Everett policeman, ruling out the possibility of this being a random act committed by youths.

"Everything is connected," said Cantor Sam Pessaroff of Peabody's Temple Ner Tamid. "It was planned to happen on Hitler's birthday, to show that these feelings are still around. People are leaving our temple in tears. I can't even describe the way we feel."

### 'It's Just Wrong'

Pessaroff said the temple has decided to leave the graffiti up for an undecided amount of time, so people will be forced to view it.

"You have to see it in person to get the true effect," he said. "I mean you can read about it in the paper and watch it on the news, but only when you see it for yourself does the real anger come out. We're frightened."

The school department in Everett has already begun planning an educational program to begin next week, when the students return from spring break, to "relieve any tensions between the students," said Frederick Forestiere, superintendent of schools.

If the vandals were Everett students, then

"it's no more than a handful of them," said Forestiere, adding, "We've never seen anything like this before."

A liquor bottle found on the cemetery grounds and whatever fingerprints could be obtained from the overturned gravestones were the only immediate clues the police had at their disposal.

But the police already have a general idea of possible suspects, according to Police Chief James Bonnell.

"Obviously we're looking for at least three, probably more, but no more than 10," said Bonnell. "You have to have at least that much of a group for the strength needed to turn over this type of stone."

Bonnell said the police do not believe the vandalism was spontaneous, but that it was also not an act that was carefully planned out over time. He said the police were determined to make an arrest as soon as possible.

But to people with family buried within the walls of the desecrated cemeteries, the police response was hardly a consolation.

"I feel horrible," said Michael Schlafman, whose father, aunt and cousins are buried there. "I mean, these poor people didn't hurt anyone, and they're already gone. What good does it do? It's a terrible thing, and it just doesn't stop. It just goes on and on and on."

Larry Rosenfield heard about the damage to the cemeteries on the early morning news and rushed there instead of going to his office Wednesday morning. Though he found his relatives' graves untouched, it did little to calm him.

"I don't feel any more at ease about the situation that took place just because (my family's graves) were left alone," he said. "When you come to your final place, you expect peace and rest, and instead you find vandalism? It's just wrong."

## ISRAELI-DESIGNED SATELLITE WILL BE LAUNCHED BY RUSSIA

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, April 21 (JTA) -- An Israeli satellite designed and developed by students at the Technion-Israel Institute of Technology will be launched by the Russian space industry in the next two years, under a cooperative agreement signed this week in Haifa.

The Technion has already started to design the satellite in cooperation with several Israeli companies, including Israel Aircraft Industries.

The Russians will build the rocket needed to launch the satellite and will launch it in Russia.

The project will mark the first time a foreign concern will launch an Israeli satellite.

According to Technion officials, the micro-satellite, weighing 115 pounds, will be one of only three student satellites in the world.

Labeled the Gurwin-1-Techsats, it is slated to include Technion-designed communications equipment and a video surveying camera.

An official of the Israel Space Agency, which is also involved in the project, said the satellite would also be used to carry out experiments, including ozone measurements.

"This is the first of a series of satellites that the Technion will design and launch into space, providing our students with real hands-on experience and preparing human resources for Israel's future space technology industry," said Technion President Zehev Tadmor.