

**VETERANS AND SURVIVORS MARK D-DAY,  
THE BEGINNING OF THE END OF WWII**  
By Steven Weiss

WASHINGTON, June 6 (JTA) -- The U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum commemorated the 50th anniversary of D-day on Monday by dedicating its plaza on Raoul Wallenberg Place to Dwight Eisenhower and the Allied forces who stormed the beaches of Normandy in 1944.

In a ceremony held just a few hours before the national commemoration of D-day at Arlington National Cemetery, the museum honored Eisenhower, the former president and general who commanded the Allied forces during the legendary invasion of Nazi-occupied Europe and who later led the liberation of the Nazi concentration camps.

Under the blue-gray sky of a pleasant spring day, more than 650 veterans of D-day and of the liberation of Nazi concentration camps joined Holocaust survivors, guests, and passers-by to remember Eisenhower.

"It is not an exaggeration to say that the fate of the world and the future of freedom were at stake on D-day," Miles Lerman, chairman of the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Council, told the somber crowd.

The success of the Normandy invasion, considered to be the beginning of the end of World War II, was due largely to Eisenhower, Lerman said.

The audience included more than a dozen members of the Jewish War Veterans who had fought in World War II. One such veteran, Rabbi Judah Nadich, praised Eisenhower for his concern for Europe's Jewish population.

**'May His Memory Remain For A Blessing'**

Nadich, the 82-year-old rabbi emeritus of Park Avenue Synagogue in New York, said that as an adviser on Jewish affairs to Eisenhower, he received tremendous support from the general on his proposals to care for Jews just liberated from Nazi concentration camps.

"May his memory remain for a blessing," Nadich said in a tribute in Hebrew to Eisenhower.

Speakers addressed the crowd in front of a mural on the plaza which bears a quote by the general on what he found upon entering the Ohrdruf labor camp in central Germany in April 1945: "The things I saw beggar description," reads the inscription.

"The visual evidence and the verbal testimony of starvation, cruelty and bestiality were so overpowering. . . I made the visit deliberately, in order to be in a position to give first-hand evidence of these things if ever, in the future, there develops a tendency to charge these allegations to propaganda."

Eisenhower's granddaughter, Anne Eisenhower Flottl, told onlookers that his participation in World War II was Eisenhower's greatest accomplishment.

"He said should history remember him at all, it should remember him for his achievements in World War II," Flottl said.

Eisenhower, elected president in 1952, served for two terms.

Ambassador Paul Nitze, former secretary of the navy, summarized the purpose of the dedication in his keynote address.

"Let all who visit here remember those who fell in battle against injustice, whether they died on the beaches of Normandy or in the ghettos and camps of occupied Europe," Nitze said.

**Holocaust Survivors, Vets Share Memories**

Following the ceremony, veterans and Holocaust survivors talked about their experiences and about the war that brought them together.

Morris Baker, a Polish Jew liberated from Dachau in May 1945 by American troops, said that even though prisoners in the camp knew the Allied forces were close, there was little feeling of safety until the troops arrived.

"It didn't matter how close the Americans were -- the Nazis could have killed us at any time," he said. "Not until the American forces arrived did we feel safe."

Baker said he and other prisoners could see the shock registered on the soldiers' faces as the troops discovered the conditions at the camp.

Standing just a few feet from Baker were Wallace Whelan and William Gay, two veterans who helped liberate Baker and others from Dachau.

Gay, of College Park, Maryland, said the first thing he remembers about entering the Dachau camp was the smell.

Whelan, of Silver Spring, Maryland, said he first remembers seeing a whipping post with barbed wire wrapped around it. "We couldn't believe it. There was no way to believe it."

Later in the morning at the national commemoration of D-day at Arlington National Cemetery, many from the audience at the museum joined several hundred observers gathered to celebrate the Allied forces' success at Normandy.

Vice President Al Gore highlighted the ceremony, which featured speeches by Deputy Secretary of Defense John Deutch and Sen. Strom Thurmond (R-S.C.), a veteran who participated in the Normandy invasion.

"We gather here to remember the sacrifices made and the work done by the people who remained here at home," Gore said.

"To stand here is to be reminded of how many sacrifices there were by people whose names we will never know, whom we cannot thank, yet who by their deaths preserved freedom for all of us," the vice president said.

"The story of D-day makes clear that we are all capable of sacrificing for others, capable of doing our part to make this our great country greater still, and to spread peace and democracy throughout this world," Gore said.

The ceremony concluded with a live broadcast of President Clinton's speech to officials and veterans at the American Normandy Cemetery in Colleville-Sur-Mer, France.

"Let us never forget, when they were young, these men saved the world," Clinton said in his speech.

# CENTRISTS JOIN TO LAUNCH NEW GROUP THAT SEEKS LIMITS ON GIVING UP LAND By Dvorah Getzler

JERUSALEM, June 5 (JTA) -- Labor Party hard-liners launched a new group this week that will seek to limit the amount of land Israel will cede to its Arab neighbors as part of any peace package.

The group, calling itself The Third Way, held its founding congress here on Sunday, which was the 27th anniversary of the start of the 1967 Six-Day War.

The group took its name in an effort to provide an alternative both to dovish elements favoring a return of all or most of the land captured in the 1967 war, and to hawkish leaders who vow not to return one inch of land to neighboring Arab countries.

In addition to right-wing Labor Party members, the group includes some Likud members, former senior officers of the Israel Defense Force and Gonen Segev, the leader of the Ye'ud faction, which split away from Rafael Eitan's nationalist Tsomet Party in February.

The new group, which attracted some 1,000 people to its opening session, supports the peace process and is ready to agree to territorial compromise.

But its members are emphasizing Israel's security interests, saying that Israel must retain control of the Golan Heights and the territory in the Jordan Valley north of Jericho.

In a half-page advertisement that appeared in the Israeli daily Ha'aretz on Sunday, the group also described itself as opposing Israeli rule over another people.

Among those at the opening session were Agriculture Minister Yakov Tsur and Deputy Defense Minister Mordechai Gur.

"We are not going back to the 1967 borders and there will not be a Palestinian state. Let that be clear," Gur told the congress.

"There are those who would try to convince us otherwise, but we insist: Jerusalem shall not become the capital of Palestine," he added.

# ARAFAT TO VISIT JERICHO NEXT WEEK; PALESTINIAN POLICE KEEP EYE ON MOSQUES By Dvorah Getzler

JERUSALEM, June 6 (JTA) -- Palestine Liberation Organization Chairman Yasser Arafat will visit the West Bank town of Jericho next week, according to Palestinian officials.

Preceded by an advance group of bodyguards who are already in Jericho, Arafat is scheduled to spend four days there before leaving for the Gaza Strip for a two-day visit.

Palestinian police officials have meanwhile ordered the imams, or Muslim religious leaders, to stop inciting their congregations against the newly established police force.

From now on, the police officials said, they will be keeping a watchful eye on the mosques and their clergy.

The imams have also been ordered to cease using the mosques for political activities, with police stating that the sanctity of the Palestinian religious centers should be respected.

The ruling, issued in Gaza on Monday, reflects the growing tension between the Islamic

fundamentalist Hamas movement, which staunchly opposes the Israeli-Palestinian peace initiative, and the police, who are aligned with the mainstream PLO.

Last week, Hamas officials issued what amounted to a declaration of war against Maj. Gen. Nasser Yusef, the commander of security forces in Gaza and Jericho.

Hamas, the declaration said, would not meet two demands issued by Yusef: that the group surrender its weapons to the police and hand over those who were involved in the killing two weeks ago of two people suspected of collaborating with Israel.

Palestinian sources believe the latest police measures regarding the imams will stir up yet further opposition from Hamas.

This week, Maj. Gen. Abdel Razik al-Majaida was named the new police chief of the Gaza Strip.

He arrived Sunday at Rafah, at the southern tip of Gaza, along with some 150 PLO personnel formerly based in Tunis who are expected to assume administrative posts in Gaza.

# ISRAEL AND EU TO SIGN NEW TRADE ACCORD BY THE END OF THIS YEAR, SAYS ISRAELI By Joseph Kopel

BRUSSELS, June 6 (JTA) -- An updated trade and economic agreement between Israel and the European Union is expected to be completed by the end of the year, according to Michael Harish, Israel's minister of commerce and industry.

Speaking last week at the end of a two-day visit to Brussels, Harish said that since January representatives of Israel and the European Executive Commission have been discussing the new agreement, which will update Israel's 1975 free-trade accord with the EU.

"At that time (1975), the Iron Curtain still existed. But today the Eastern European markets are accessible. This situation requires the adaptation of our accord with the Europeans," Harish told journalists.

Europe is Israel's main trade partner. Last year, more than 60 percent of Israeli imports were from European countries, and more than 38 percent of Israel's exports were to the 12 EU member states.

In recent years, Israel has tried to elevate its trading status with the EU to gain better access to the European market.

Israel wants the new accord to include the telecommunications and services sectors, and is eager to participate in European research and development programs.

Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres is expected to meet his EU counterparts in Luxembourg on June 13 for the annual meeting of the EU-Israel Cooperation Council.

They are expected to review the state of the talks on updating their accord and discuss the granting of EU funds to support the newly created Palestinian autonomous entities in the Gaza Strip and Jericho.

Harish was in Brussels for talks with several European and Belgian senior officials, including Sir Leon Brittan, vice president of the European Executive Commission, and Belgian Foreign Minister Willy Claes.

## JORDAN AS A DESTINATION FOR JEWISH TOURISTS? IT COULD HAPPEN WITHIN WEEKS

By Michele Chabin

AMMAN, Jordan, June 6 (JTA) -- To Israelis, the gleaming white capital of Jordan seems as far away and inaccessible as Timbuktu.

But in reality, Amman is an hour's drive from Jerusalem -- for those who are able to get there.

Since 1948, Jordan has denied entry to all Israelis and all but a handful of Diaspora Jews wishing to visit the country. For decades, those few Jews who were able to sneak in with "clean" passports (those without Israeli stamps) risked imprisonment.

Now, thanks to warming relations between Israel and Jordan, visits by Diaspora Jews could be just weeks away.

And, according to a close adviser to King Hussein, Israelis will be welcome as soon as the two countries sign a peace treaty, possibly within two years.

Last week, David Clayman, Israel director of the American Jewish Congress, traveled here to explore the possibility of bringing Diaspora Jewish tourists to the country as an add-on to AJCongress tours of Israel.

Some 300,000 Jews have visited Israel on AJCongress tours over the past 30 years.

Throughout Clayman's three-day visit, key government officials and travel professionals expressed keen interest in opening their country to Jewish tourists, Israeli stamps and all, he said.

One official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, assured Clayman that the "clean" passport rule "is not an explicit policy," and noted that Jordan began to permit tourists with Israeli stamps to enter, albeit unofficially, several months ago.

Clayman, who had first visited Jordan in 1986 as a member of an AJCongress delegation invited by King Hussein, called last week's visit "very important."

"Everyone in Jordan, bar none, was interested in having us bring tour groups from Israel," he said.

### Culmination Of Months Of Quiet Talks

Last week's visit culminated months of quiet negotiations between the AJCongress and Khalil Adwan, a Jordanian travel agent and unofficial emissary of the Hashemite government.

Since there are no communication links between Israel and Jordan, the American Embassy in Amman served as intermediary, facilitating a meeting between Clayman and Adwan in Jerusalem in late March to discuss the feasibility of Jewish tourism to Jordan.

Sitting in the lobby of the Intercontinental Hotel in Amman, whose clientele includes Western businessmen and Arab sheiks, Clayman said last week, "I made it very clear from the start that AJCongress would not even consider adding Jordan to its itinerary unless the Jordanians allowed tourists with Israeli stamps to cross into Jordan and permitted 'double crossings,' " meaning that tourists can leave and return to Israel over the Allenby Bridge.

Behind closed doors, officials assured Clayman that the king will agree to these demands, perhaps as soon as next week.

"It is in the interest of the Jordanian government to enable Jews to visit," Clayman said. "The tourist industry is important to the Jordanians, yet it is minimal at best. They realize that Jordan is not on the American tourist map at all, and they want to tap into that market.

"Another motivation -- and this is only conjecture -- is that the Jordanians see American Jews as an important channel for influencing U.S. policy and public opinion," he said.

"They may want us to present their case to the American administration. They may be thinking that if we come and see their problems firsthand, we could be helpful in presenting their case both to the administration in Washington and the government in Jerusalem."

Nonetheless, Clayman added, "there is a real measure of sincerity in the Jordanians' desire to see this terrible conflict end, to open the doors with Israel."

Adwan, the Jordanian emissary, couldn't agree more. Born in the Old City of Jerusalem, where he lived until the age of 16, he is eager to promote tourism on both sides of the border.

"I've always thought about tourism and open borders, but it wasn't until the signing of the peace agreement in September that I began to take the idea seriously," Adwan said.

A frequent visitor to Israel, Adwan readily admitted that "Israel has more to offer tourists than Jordan does.

"But I see Israel and Jordan as a package, combining the beauty of, say, Jerusalem's Old City with the wonders of Petra," he said, referring to the ancient Nabatean city.

"That means that Jewish tourists will want to come to Jordan, and that Christian and Moslem Arabs will want to visit Israel. This will happen when there is a genuine peace."

### Both Sides Must Put Aside Prejudices

Already, Adwan said, "things are improving. Crossing the Allenby Bridge used to be a humiliating experience. The Israelis would do a strip search and open up every single piece of luggage. Recently, they've introduced an X-ray machine and simply send the luggage through that."

Clayman, who said he encountered surly Israeli border police during his own trek across the Allenby Bridge, near Jericho, agreed that Israeli border guards "must learn to treat people with more respect, period."

For tourism to succeed, Clayman said, both sides must put aside their prejudices. "This is an Arab country with no history or experience with Jews. Even with all the rancor between Jews and Palestinians in the territories, there is as much binding us as separating us."

As a beginning, he said, "the Jordanian press should stop publishing anti-Semitic articles and cartoons that depict Jews with long noses."

Jews, too, must change their perceptions for this project to work, Clayman said.

Though AJCongress expects to be the first Jewish tour group to receive an official welcome from Jordan, it does not want to be the last.

"AJCongress has worked out this arrangement, and the Jordanians are still careful and wary. They don't want to go too fast or too loud," Clayman said. "Within the near future," Clayman predicted, "many American Jewish tour groups will be visiting Jordan."

## SPAIN RELEASES FORMER NAZI REMER AFTER HIS ARREST ON GERMAN ORDER

By Susan Birnbaum

NEW YORK, June 6 (JTA) -- A Spanish judge has released Otto Remer, a former Nazi officer and neo-Nazi leader who was detained on a German extradition order in Spain last week and placed under house arrest.

Judge Baltasar Garzon based his decision to free Remer in part on the 81-year-old's poor health and on the fact that Spain does not prohibit Holocaust denial, the crime for which a German court sentenced Remer to 22 months in prison.

The judge did, however, make Remer's release conditional on his regular appearance before a Spanish court to make sure he does not leave the country.

Remer is the former commander of Adolf Hitler's Berlin headquarters.

As well-known as Remer was during the Nazi era, when he was commander of a crack Nazi guard battalion and was instrumental in breaking the plot to assassinate Hitler, he became even more notorious afterward with his high-profile promotion of racial hatred and of what has become known in Germany as the "Auschwitz lie."

It was for these crimes that he was sentenced to prison in Germany.

He was arrested in Malaga airport in southern Spain on June 1 and since has been confined to his house in Marbella, on Spain's southern coast.

Rabbi Marvin Hier, dean of the Simon Wiesenthal Center in Los Angeles, said Germany's extradition request for Remer came as a surprise and set an important precedent.

"I was very surprised that the Germans had acted in the first place, because the Germans never acted before for someone denying the Holocaust.

"There was no outstanding extradition request on him for crimes that he participated in during the war," said Hier. "The only thing they had on him was the fact that he escaped from detention."

He was also very surprised that Spain agreed to arrest Remer, given that Spain has provided safe haven to Nazi war criminals in the past.

Hier believes this cooperation and new aggressiveness to arrest and try former Nazis and even neo-Nazis is tied to the worldwide commemorations of the 50th anniversary of the Allied invasion of Normandy. "Everyone is rushing to the fore to show that their country does not tolerate Nazis," he said.

"It shows a new aggressiveness on the part of the Germans," he said. "They have recently been embarrassed in Germany by the rise of the right wing. They want to send a dramatic signal that they are not going to be soft on Nazis."

## GERMANY INVESTIGATES NEO-NAZI ACTS AMONG DRUNKEN ELITE MILITARY GUARDS

By Gil Sedan

BONN (JTA) -- German authorities are investigating allegations that soldiers in the country's most elite honor guard shouted neo-Nazi and anti-Semitic slogans on a bus near here.

Reporting an incident that took place in

mid-May, eyewitnesses said that seven soldiers who were apparently drunk began shouting anti-Semitic and xenophobic slogans on a bus on their way back to their barracks near Bonn.

The witnesses said the soldiers, dressed in civilian clothes for an evening out, shouted "Jews should be gassed" and "foreigners out."

The police are also investigating claims that the soldiers physically attacked one passenger who tried to quiet them down. When the soldiers got out of hand, the bus driver reportedly closed the doors to the bus and called the police, who held five soldiers for questioning.

Two of the soldiers got out of the bus before the police arrived, but they, too, were later brought in for questioning. The soldiers were members of Germany's most prestigious honor guard, which greets foreign heads of state.

A spokesman for prosecutors in Bonn announced that charges would be pressed against one soldier at least, and that the investigation would continue regarding the other six.

A military spokesman said that although the matter was now in the hands of the police and the state prosecution, the army would "take all the necessary disciplinary measures."

Such incidents, said the spokesman, were not representative of the German armed forces.

The incident brought swift criticism from Germany's minister of defense, Volker Ruhe.

"This will have consequences and must relentlessly be cleared up," he told German Radio.

He said there was "no place in our military for radicals, either on the left or the right."

The incident took place less than two weeks after scores of neo-Nazis rampaged through the eastern German town of Magdeburg, attacking blacks and damaging property owned by Turks.

The attack set off a wave of protests throughout Germany, with strong criticism leveled at the Magdeburg police force for having failed to cope with the situation.

## JEWISH INSTITUTE OPENS IN GERMANY

By Igal Avidan

POTSDAM, Germany, June 6 (JTA) -- Described by the leader of the Jewish community in Germany as representing a "milestone" in the field of Jewish education in Germany, the Moses Mendelssohn Center for Jewish Studies officially opened June 1 in this eastern German city of Potsdam.

Speaking at the opening ceremonies for the new center, Ignatz Bubis said that in view of the ongoing manifestations of xenophobia and anti-Semitism in Germany, it was important to promote the cultural contributions of Jews.

Also speaking at the dedication ceremony, Manfred Stolpe, the prime minister of the state of Brandenburg -- of which Potsdam is the capital -- said the new institute should develop contacts with local schools and adult education centers to "make clear that tolerance is being taught, lived and understood."

The director of the new center, Julius Schoeps, said the institute would help promote democracy in eastern Germany.

The center, an interdisciplinary institute that is part of Potsdam University, will employ a staff of 19 and will offer a public library devoted to Jewish themes.