

NEWS AT A GLANCE

■ **Angry right-wing Israelis demonstrated outside the prime minister's residence in the wake of the latest fatal terrorist attack against an Israeli Jew. Thousands more turned out for the burial of the victim, 19-year-old Ofra Felix of the West Bank settlement of Elon Moreh. [Page 2]**

■ **U.S. Secretary of Defense William Perry, on a visit to Israel, denied any discussion about U.S. peacekeeping forces on the Golan Heights in the event of an Israeli-Syrian peace agreement. He said such a discussion was "premature." Instead, Perry focused on issues of nuclear non-proliferation and a threat of Iran obtaining nuclear capabilities. [Page 3]**

■ **The U.S. State Department launched an investigation to determine if Israel is selling American technology to help China beef up its air force. Israeli officials vehemently denied the charge. [Page 3]**

■ **Three Hungarian Jewish sisters were awarded the World Chess Oscar for Women. The award represented a triumph over obstacles they had encountered early in their chess careers. The fact they were Jewish and female had prevented early recognition by official Hungarian chess circles. [Page 2]**

■ **Greek Prime Minister Andreas Papandreou flew to Damascus in a bid to advance stalled Syrian-Israeli peace negotiations. While relations between Israel and Greece have improved in recent years, Israeli officials weren't putting much stock in the Greek visit. [Page 3]**

■ **Israel has rebuffed recent Cuban efforts to restore diplomatic ties. Diplomatic sources have told the Israeli newspaper Al Hamishmar that American sensitivities were behind the Israeli government's refusal.**

■ **Another poll placed Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and his Labor Party behind the opposition Likud. Though not as bad as the controversial numbers reported by Time magazine, Israeli pollster Minah Tzemach's poll found Likud rising to 42 Knesset seats and Labor sinking to 36, if elections were held today.**

Launching a continuity campaign, Florida federation promotes youth

By Larry Yudelson

NEW YORK, Jan. 8 (JTA) — The teen-agers speak to the camera with the earnestness of true poster children making an appeal in a slick fund-raising video.

But these poster children don't hail from Moscow, Marrakech or Kiryat Malachi, a development town in Israel.

They are all Floridians, and they are promoting a special fund-raising campaign at the Jewish Federation of Greater Fort Lauderdale for "Jewish continuity" programs such as youth trips to Israel and Poland.

Appearing in the video, one of the girls says that after her recent trip to Israel, "it's all of a sudden more important to me to marry a Jewish man." With these words, she clearly is touching the hot button for would-be donors.

Nationwide, local federations and national Jewish organizations are launching programs and raising money to dramatically raise the number of Jewish youths traveling to Israel.

Trips to Israel are being widely touted as an important vehicle for enhancing Jewish identity among the youth at a time when intermarriage and assimilation have become top communal concerns.

But Fort Lauderdale has dramatically raised the stakes by launching what is believed to be the first "second-line" campaign for Jewish continuity.

The campaign asks donors to make a special gift to its Community Funds for Youth.

According to Kenneth Bierman, executive director of the Fort Lauderdale federation, the new campaign reflects the changing priorities of his and other Jewish federations: "The focus on everyone's mind today is Jewish continuity and what we need to do to get our kids to stay Jewish."

Until now, special campaigns in the Jewish community have primarily been launched to help Jews abroad.

The United Jewish Appeal launched its Operation Exodus campaign in 1990 to finance the resettlement of hundreds of thousands of Jews pouring into Israel from the former Soviet Union. Before that, its Project Renewal campaign provided funds to refurbish poor Israeli neighborhoods.

With its new continuity campaign, the Fort Lauderdale federation will test two questions heatedly debated within the philanthropic system: Can federations raise money by appealing to concerns for local needs rather than for Jews overseas? And are American Jewish philanthropists willing and able to pay for enriching American Jewish life?

Emphasis on continuity may change picture

In the ongoing debates over how to divide the federation pie between local and overseas needs, these questions have loomed large. But an increased emphasis on continuity may be changing the picture. Several recent million-dollar gifts targeted at Israel experience programs around the country provide evidence that continuity sells.

The Fort Lauderdale campaign could provide the widest test of this thesis. At the UJA-Federation of New York, the women's division has launched its own special campaign to finance Israel youth programs. That campaign, which is seeking to raise \$1 million, is more modest than the one in Fort Lauderdale, when compared to its total campaign.

The New York women's division last year raised \$20 million for the regular campaign. In contrast, Fort Lauderdale's \$3 million, three-year goal is a sizable share of its annual campaign, which last year raised \$5.7 million.

The Fort Lauderdale campaign is directly comparable to its multi-year Operation Exodus campaign to resettle Jews from the former Soviet Union in Israel, which raised more than \$4 million in Fort Lauderdale.

Noting that his own son Lee is part of the fund-raising video, promoting his March of the Living trip to Poland and Israel, Bierman, the Fort Lauderdale federation's executive director, said, "I'm very proud of the fact that my son was able to get so much out of [his trip] and feels so strongly about being Jewish."

The federation director said that the idea for the special campaign reflected the coincidence of two trends.

Reflecting a general shift in American Jewish life, his federation had

already targeted Jewish continuity in general, and youth trips to Israel in particular, as a top priority.

At the same time, Bierman said, the Operation Exodus campaign, which raised around a billion dollars nationally since its 1990 launch, was drawing to a close last year.

"When the priorities changed, and we began focusing on sending kids to Israel, we decided we would roll over Exodus dollars into this fund," said Bierman.

"There are a lot of people who have reached a plateau in their regular campaign, and if this strikes a chord with them, they might increase" their giving, he said.

So far, said Bierman, the new campaign does seem to have struck a chord, with individuals responding positively.

Launched in November with the community's major gifts dinner, the campaign will initially target "major gifts, country club communities and specific one-on-one solicitations," Bierman said.

In the spring, the campaign will solicit the general community.

At national UJA headquarters in New York, word of Fort Lauderdale's initiative was greeted cautiously.

UJA has made Israel trips for Jewish youth a theme in its fund-raising campaign this year, and "there is no question that it is a stimulus to the general campaign," said UJA Executive Vice President Rabbi Brian Lurie.

At the same time, however, UJA serves as a conduit for federation money headed overseas. While it gets roughly 45 percent of every dollar raised by Fort Lauderdale's general campaign, it won't get anything from the special continuity campaign.

"UJA nationally is committed to seeing that the '95 campaign goes up," Lurie said. "There is always a concern that running a second line will diminish the efforts of bringing the first line up."

Bierman, for his part, rejects the dichotomy between raising money for Israel and raising money for American Jewish continuity.

"We've come to the point where Israel and local meshes," he said. "The idea that we send our teen-agers [to Israel] to imbue them with Jewish spirit is a statement that we need Israel more than ever." □

Angry protesters blame Rabin for latest murder of an Israeli

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Jan. 8 (JTA) — Angry Israelis took to the streets of the capital over the weekend in the wake of the latest fatal terrorist attack against a Jewish settler.

A crowd of 2,000 right-wing demonstrators blamed Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin for the murder of Ofra Felix, a 19-year-old Israeli woman from the West Bank settlement of Elon Moreh.

Felix was killed last Friday when her car was shot at near Beit El, north of Jerusalem. Felix's brother-in-law, Amihai Remer, was wounded in the attack. But his two young daughters who were also traveling in the station wagon, escaped unharmed.

The assailants drove off and have so far eluded capture. The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, which violently opposes the Israeli-Palestinian peace initiative, took responsibility for the attack.

The group said the murder was in retaliation for last week's killing of four Palestinian activists in the West Bank by the Israel Defense Force.

Felix's death capped a week marked by ongoing tension and violence between the IDF and the Palestinians.

Among those who blamed Rabin for Felix's murder

was her father, Rabbi Menahem Felix, a founding member of Gush Emunim, the religious settlers' movement.

He said the Rabin government's peace policies had led to a deterioration of the security situation both for the settlers and other Israelis.

Demonstrators clashed with police outside the prime minister's residence in Jerusalem Saturday night.

Several hundred demonstrators staged a similar protest near Rabin's private home in Ramat Aviv, near Tel Aviv. They called for Rabin's resignation.

Thousands turned out Sunday for Felix's funeral at Elon Moreh.

The shooting incident occurred a day after the IDF commander in charge of the West Bank, Maj. Gen. Ilan Biran, vowed to conduct an all-out war against terrorists operating in the West Bank.

Biran spoke in the wake of the Jan. 4 fatal shooting by an IDF undercover unit of four Palestinians in the West Bank village of Beit Likya, located near Ramallah. Israel Radio reported that the four Palestinians were members of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine.

According to the IDF, undercover soldiers were stationed in a parked van in the village square. The four men approached in a car and one opened fire on the soldiers with a pistol. The soldiers then opened fire on the car with automatic weapons, killing all four.

But villagers from Beit Likya disputed that account, accusing the army of gunning down the four in cold blood. Hundreds of Palestinians milled around the village center on Jan. 5, a day after the exchange of gunfire, repeating their accusation to local and foreign reporters.

Palestinians from the Ramallah area proclaimed a commercial strike to protest the killings.

The incident followed another violent encounter last week, the worst between Israeli soldiers and Palestinian police since self-rule began last May. The two sides exchanged gunfire on the Gaza-Israel border on Jan. 2. Three Palestinian police died in the firefight, for which both sides blamed the other.

Each side accused the other for firing first, but a joint Israeli-Palestinian inquiry found that the Palestinian police had indeed shot first.

But some Palestinian officials nonetheless continued to deny that the police opened fire on the Israelis. They suggested that members of an unknown group fired first at the IDF, thereby provoking the deadly gun battle with the Palestinian police. □

Hungarian Jews win chess crown

By Agnes Bohm

BUDAPEST, Jan. 8 (JTA) — Three Hungarian Jewish sisters have been awarded the World Chess Oscar for Women. The International Association of Chess Writers presented the award to the Polgar sisters — Zsofi, Szuzsz and Judit — all of whom started their careers under the age of 10.

Educated in a Hungarian Jewish middle-class family, the three girls were known as the "Mozarts of the chess world" because of the young age at which they became champions.

In their 20s now, the famous Hungarian Jewish sisters have traveled around the world and triumphed against the most famous men chess champions, such as Kasparov and Karpov.

At the beginning of their career the girls encountered many obstacles from the Hungarian authorities.

According to their father and teacher, Laszlo, the fact they were Jewish and female prevented early recognition by official Hungarian chess circles. □

U.S. launches an investigation into alleged Israeli sales to China*By Matthew Dorf*

WASHINGTON, Jan. 8 (JTA) -- Did Israel sell sophisticated U.S. military technology to China?

The U.S. State Department has launched an investigation to determine if Israel is using American technology to help China beef up its air force, State Department officials have confirmed.

Israeli officials have vehemently denied the charge that they gave American technology to China for a recently completed prototype fighter jet.

During a meeting with U.S. Defense Secretary William Perry this week in Jerusalem, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin assured Perry that there was no such transaction.

Rabin told Perry that Israel honors its agreements with the United States and is sensitive to American concerns and laws.

Last week, Perry said the United States would have some "difficult words" for the government of Israel if the claims about an illegal transfer of American technology to China proved true.

The Chinese plane is based in part on a joint U.S.-Israel project, called the Lavi fighter, that was scrubbed seven years ago due to escalating costs.

Israeli officials are under investigation for passing U.S. technology from that project to the Chinese without American approval, according to a State Department official.

If investigators conclude that Israel gave U.S. technology to the Chinese without permission, the Jewish state could face economic sanctions, officials said.

This is not the first time that Israel has stood accused of passing on American military technology. In 1993 an extensive investigation vindicated Israel of charges that Patriot missiles were sold to China.

Defense officials in Washington say charges such as these are not uncommon.

"This is a gray area," one official said. "Countries frequently improve on military technology and can then sell it as their own."

(JTA Correspondent Naomi Segal in Jerusalem contributed to this report.) □

Defense Secretary Perry denies discussing U.S. troops on Golan*By Naomi Segal*

JERUSALEM, Jan. 8 (JTA) — U.S. Secretary of Defense William Perry was in Israel this week for a two-day visit, during which the danger of nuclear proliferation in the region was high on the agenda.

But the defense secretary denied that another topic widely expected to be on the table — the possible deployment of American troops as part of a future Israeli-Syrian peace accord — even came up.

"No, we did not" talk about the deployment of American troops, Perry told reporters after meeting with Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin for two hours on Sunday.

Termining such a discussion "entirely premature," Perry said, "We do not yet have a peace plan [between Israel and Syria] and we particularly don't have a plan for how peacekeeping forces might be deployed there."

Israeli-Syrian peace negotiations have been deadlocked for months over a Syrian demand that Israel relinquish the Golan in return for peace. Rabin, in turn, has been calling on Damascus to first spell out the nature of the peace it envisions with Israel, a move Syria has so far refused to do.

The possibility of stationing U.S. forces on the Golan Heights has come under increasing scrutiny over the past six months as both American and Israeli opponents of territorial compromise on the Golan and of U.S. peacekeeping missions have lobbied against any future deployment.

On the eve of Perry's departure for the region last week, a Defense Department official said that the subject was slated to be discussed. Perry arrived in Israel after holding talks in Egypt, where President Hosni Mubarak urged the American official to pressure Israel to sign the nuclear non-proliferation treaty.

But Israeli sources said they did not expect Perry to exert any pressure during this visit, even though Perry has said in the past that he would like Israel, which is widely believed to possess nuclear weapons, to sign the treaty.

During his meeting with Perry, Rabin spoke of Israeli concerns about a possible nuclear threat from Iran.

Israeli and American officials said recently that Iran is five years away from being able to produce an atomic bomb. Perry told reporters he shared Israel's concerns on the matter. "We are very much concerned about the potential that Iran might become a nuclear power," he said.

Responding to questions about a report that Russia was planning to complete work on an atomic power plant in Iran, Perry said, "We do not consider that an acceptable development, and to the extent that this [possible deal between Iran and Russia] might lead in that direction, we would be very much opposed to it."

During his visit to Egypt earlier Sunday, Perry said, "One of the most [frightening] security threats facing the world this decade is the danger that a rogue nation or terrorists will get their hands on one, five or a dozen nuclear weapons and threaten the world with them." □

Greek official visits Syria in bid to advance peace talks*By Jean Cohen*

ATHENS, Jan. 8 (JTA) — Prime Minister Andreas Papandreu flew to Damascus last week for talks with Syrian President Hafez Assad in a bid to advance stalled Syrian-Israeli peace negotiations, government sources here said.

"The purpose of the visit is to promote the Middle East peace process and bilateral relations," government spokesman Evangelos Venizelos said.

On a recent trip to the region, Greece's defense minister, Gerasimos Arsenis said Greece was prepared to act as a go-between for Syria and Israel and to participate in a multinational force of observers on the Golan Heights, in the event of an Israeli pull-out from the area.

Although officially Israeli diplomats in Greece say that "any mediation that will further the Middle East peace process is welcomed," privately nobody is holding his breath.

"The whole idea of Greece mediating any Middle East dispute looks more than ridiculous," said a veteran diplomatic observer of Israeli-Greece relations.

Meanwhile, the leader of the Greek opposition, Miltiades Evert, has scheduled a visit to Israel this week. Though invited by the Likud Party, Evert is also slated to meet with Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and other government officials.

Evert is the son of Angelos Evert, who as chief of police during the Nazi occupation of Greece, saved thousands of Jews by providing them with false identity cards. □

**PLO book on secret contacts
unleashes a major political uproar***By Naomi Segal*

JERUSALEM, Jan. 8 (JTA) — A political uproar was unleashed here this week following the publication of the memoirs of a Palestine Liberation Organization official who claimed that representatives of the PLO and the Labor Party had collaborated to defeat Likud in the 1992 Israeli elections.

In the just-published "The Road to Oslo," PLO official Mahmoud Abbas claimed that PLO representative Said Kanaan of Nablus had secretly met with a Labor Party official to discuss the defeat of the then-governing hard-line Likud bloc.

The Labor official was later identified by Israel Radio as Ephraim Sneh. Currently Israel's health minister, Sneh was then security adviser to party leader Yitzhak Rabin, who emerged victorious in the 1992 elections.

Abbas, also known as Abu Mazen, played a key behind-the-scenes role in the secret negotiations held in Oslo, Norway, that led to the signing of the Palestinian self-rule accord in Washington in September 1993.

Members of the opposition in Israel have demanded a thorough investigation into the alleged meetings, which, if true, took place prior to the repeal of an Israeli law banning contacts with the PLO.

Labor and PLO officials have denied the claims contained in the book.

Sneh said he had met Kanaan once in Herzliya, after the Labor Party primaries in 1992, but he said there was no coordination of any kind regarding the elections.

"All the allegations of coordination of the Labor Party and the PLO prior to the 1992 elections is a total lie," Sneh told Israel Radio. "I had one single meeting with the Palestinian businessman Kanaan. We had a political discussion, but nothing of it could be interpreted as strategic or tactical cooperation between the Labor Party and the PLO."

Sneh also maintained that the Labor Party had issued a directive to avoid any meetings with Palestinians in the months prior to the elections, in order to prevent "any sort of pretext for our enemies to accuse us of such things."

Sections written 'as though they were the truth'

Palestinian officials, meanwhile, said the statements in the book had been misinterpreted.

Furthermore, Dr. Ahmed Tibi, an adviser to PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat, said during a news conference that Mazen had not written the controversial passages in the book.

"When a leader of the status of Abu Mazen writes a book, he does not write everything in that book," Tibi said. "One of Abu Mazen's senior aides" had written certain sections "as though they were the truth."

The uproar led the Likud Political Forum, which convened to discuss the issue, to demand that a state board of inquiry be formed to investigate the matter.

Former Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir said the claims in Abu Mazen's book, of which excerpts were printed earlier this year, only confirmed what he had already suspected.

Shamir said there were other meetings between Labor and PLO officials, including one involving Foreign Minister Shimon Peres and some leading Palestinians.

But Shamir denied other passages in the book which claimed that Likud personalities, including Ariel Sharon and Moshe Arens, had sought meetings with Arafat.

Moshe Amirav, a former member of the Likud Central Committee, confirmed that he had met with PLO

officials when such contacts were illegal, Israel Radio reported.

Amirav said the meetings were conducted with the full knowledge of Shamir and then-Defense Minister Arens.

Shamir said he knew of no such meetings and denied that there had been contacts of any kind between the PLO and Likud representatives.

Arens made similar denials.

The book was published as both Labor and Likud are positioning themselves for the 1996 elections.

Last week, Time magazine's daily computer service cited a secret Labor Party poll which projected that Labor would be heavily defeated by Likud if elections were held now.

Rabin later called the report a lie and said no such poll had been conducted. □

**Safed's chief rabbi forbids
selling of property to Arabs***By Naomi Segal*

JERUSALEM, Jan. 8 (JTA) — The chief rabbi of Safed has issued a religious ruling forbidding residents of the city from selling or renting homes to Arabs.

Safed Chief Rabbi Shmuel Eliyahu said he revived an ancient ruling in response to what he called "questions posed by several residents."

"No one wants to live next to an Arab from Nablus or Gaza," he said. "And what you don't wish upon yourself you should not force upon your friends for a fistful of dollars."

A few thousand Arabs live in Safed, a city of some 23,000 residents in northern Israel.

One of the four centers of ancient Jewish learning, the city had an Arab majority before the 1948 War of Independence.

A city official said the municipality has no special policy for residents wishing to sell their homes and that municipal officials do not want to involve themselves in such matters.

The Association for Civil Rights in Israel said that the rabbi's ruling violates Israeli law against racial discrimination and that it will do everything it can to fight it.

For its part, the Safed Religious Council has offered legal aid to anyone charged with breaking the law for refusing to sell or rent property to Arabs. □

**Yad Vashem to honor parents
of the president of Lithuania***By David Landau*

JERUSALEM, Jan. 8 (JTA) — The parents of the president of Lithuania will soon be honored as Righteous Gentiles for their efforts to rescue Jews during World War II, officials at the Yad Vashem Holocaust Memorial here announced over the weekend.

Lithuanian President Adolphas Slezevicius' parents, Vladas and Ursula, hid five Jews in their home for three months during 1942. They even went so far as to prepare kosher food for them while they were in hiding.

When local villagers threatened to burn down the house where they were being hid, the five Jews fled to the forests. But they would return to the Slezevicius' home from time to time for a hasty meal or a night's rest.

Yad Vashem decided to honor the couple after hearing testimony from four of the people who sought shelter in the Slezevicius' home — Rachel Katzav and Shalom Katz, who live in Israel; and Chana and Feige Katz, who reside in Lithuania. □