



## NEWS AT A GLANCE

■ The Anti-Defamation League recorded 2,066 acts of anti-Semitism in the United States in 1994, more than in any of the 16 years that it has conducted its annual audit. Campus incidents increased for the seventh straight year and there were more acts of vandalism and arson against Jewish institutions and property owned by Jews than in recent years. At the same time, there were 141 arrests for anti-Semitic crimes. [Page 3]

■ Professor Shimon Shamir was reportedly named the first Israeli ambassador to Jordan. A Middle Eastern studies expert at Tel Aviv University, Shamir served as ambassador to Egypt from 1986-1989. According to Israeli news reports, Shamir was chosen for the position during a meeting between Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, ending months of disagreement between the two regarding the appointment. Jordan has already named Marwan Muasher as its ambassador to Israel.

■ Labor Knesset member Avraham Burg said Jewish education "will be the number one topic on the agenda" when he becomes chairman of the Jewish Agency and World Zionist Organization. Burg spoke after getting the nod from a special committee of the Agency's Board of Governors. The Labor Party Central Committee was expected to officially elect Burg as their candidate. Yehiel Leket, the acting chairman of the Agency, withdrew his candidacy following the Board of Governors' decision. [Page 4]

■ El Al took a major step toward privatization when the airline's new board of directors began officially operating. The new board chairman, Yossi Cheihaover, was approved by the finance minister and transportation minister after another candidate, Yossi Rosen, turned down the job, citing a conflict of interest. [Page 4]

■ A Palestinian from Gaza claimed the \$2 million prize he won in the state lottery. The sole winner in last month's drawing, he was given a special permit to collect his prize despite the closure of the territories in the wake of the suicide bombing at Beit Lid Junction.

## NEWS ANALYSIS

### As Mideast leaders persevere, Israelis ponder the options left

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Feb. 15 (JTA) — This week's Washington summit meeting of Middle East leaders, following on the heels of other high-level meetings, seemed to restore a modicum of hope to the flagging Mideast peace process.

The summit, which brought the foreign ministers from Israel, Jordan and Egypt together with a top Palestinian official, was significant not for any specific decision made, but because of the high profile taken by the U.S. administration.

Despite the current difficulties in the Israeli-Palestinian negotiations, both President Clinton and U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher stressed in their official remarks Sunday that the United States is determined to work with redoubled vigor to move the peace process forward.

Yet for all the determination being displayed by both U.S. officials and the parties themselves, nagging questions remain: What if the negotiations between Israel and the Palestinian Authority grind to a complete halt?

What if ongoing terrorism or other developments make it politically impossible for the Israeli government, or indeed the Palestinians, to make any further advances in these talks?

Sunday's summit concluded on a hopeful note with the issuing of a joint communique that pledged a "strong commitment to honoring those agreements already concluded" and "to accelerate negotiations on all tracks."

### Some reasons for optimism

Another optimistic note emerged the following day, when Israeli and Palestinian negotiators meeting in the West Bank Jericho enclave reached an agreement to hold two separate Palestinian elections — one for the president of the autonomy council and one for the council itself.

Although negotiations on Palestinian elections have been stalled for months over a number of issues — including how large the council will be and whether supporters of rejectionist groups will be allowed to vote — Monday's agreement boded well for future progress.

Another hopeful note was reportedly sounded Tuesday, when Palestinian officials suggested they might accept a staged redeployment of Israeli troops from West Bank towns.

Despite the reported progress in negotiations, however, another Israeli was murdered on Monday in a stabbing attack that took place on a highway north of Jerusalem.

Police officials suspect the murder of the taxi driver, Rafi Cohen, was the work of terrorists, giving further weight to those who believe that achieving any peace with the Palestinians may be impossible.

On Sunday, reflecting their determination to do all they can to prevent future terror attacks, the Israeli Cabinet decided to continue the closure of the territories that had been imposed in the aftermath of the Jan. 22 double suicide bombings near Netanya that claimed the lives of 21 Israelis.

While Israeli officials are aware of the devastating economic impact the closures have on the Palestinian economy, they nonetheless see it as one of the few weapons available to them to counter terrorism.

On Tuesday, Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin told the Knesset's key Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee that the Palestinian Authority has taken a number of first steps to curb terrorism, but still has not done enough.

Rabin said Palestine Liberation Organization Chairman Yasser Arafat understands that he must crack down on terror in order for the peace process to move ahead. This was the same message Rabin delivered to Arafat at a meeting last week in Gaza. Another Rabin-Arafat meeting was scheduled for Thursday.

Similarly, in Washington on Sunday, Israeli officials attempted to make it clear that continued terror attacks against Israelis could bring the peace process to the breaking point.

Israelis continue to worry whether Arafat will confront supporters of militant fundamentalist groups in a way that will have a significant bearing

on the groups' ability to launch terrorist attacks. Will he go beyond the routine detentions of suspected militants, who are freed within days of their arrest? Will he attempt to disarm Palestinian civilians, a move he has to date resisted?

Against this backdrop of a few steps forward, several back, Sunday's summit was significant in that it reflected a deliberately public reinvestment of commitment and prestige by Clinton and his top aides in the peace process.

Given the current perilous state of the process — with terrorism paralyzing the Israeli-Palestinian track, and the Israeli-Syrian track long deadlocked — the Clinton administration is reportedly under advice from some of its professional experts to deftly disengage from the peace process.

After all, these experts reason, continued commitment to a process that is gaining steadily in unpopularity among the protagonists themselves can easily be depicted as poor politics.

Yet Clinton and Christopher's decision to stay on course means, in the view of well-placed Israeli observers, that Washington is not prepared to join the chorus of media commentators in the Middle East and across the Atlantic who are already eulogizing the peace process.

But what if Washington's efforts cannot bring about a resuscitation?

Informed observers in Israel say a complete breakdown of the present talks could lead to one of two contradictory scenarios.

#### **Will the peace process crumble?**

According to one scenario, the peace process will crumble under the weight of terrorism and the Rabin government will be replaced by the hard-liners of the Likud bloc.

Under the second scenario, Israel and the Palestinians, rather than see the gains made so far dissolve in the face of terrorism, will accelerate the pace of negotiations to tackle a number of so-called "final status" issues that were originally intended to be postponed until May 1996.

The first scenario assumes an integral, causal link between a breakdown of the talks and the fall of the Rabin government — whether before its term officially ends or in the elections that must be held by November 1996.

This scenario also envisages a rightist-religious coalition coming to power in Israel in place of the present Labor-led regime.

One diplomatic assessment reaching Jerusalem recently had Syrian President Hafez Assad actually awaiting a Likud takeover in the belief that the Rabin government has exhausted its potential and that Likud, still wedded to possessing the West Bank, would be more likely to make a deal on the Golan Heights.

Likud leader Benjamin Netanyahu, in a peace plan published last week, seems to envisage pockets of Palestinian autonomy on the West Bank that will be crisscrossed by Jewish settlements deliberately situated to break up the Palestinians' territorial continuity and thereby prevent the evolution of a sovereign state.

Significantly, despite Rabin's poor showing in current polls and the growing doubts over his peace policy, fully 80 percent of those asked in a weekend poll regarded Netanyahu's plan as a non-starter — presumably on the grounds that no Palestinian leader would ever accept it.

Would a Likud government abrogate the Declaration of Principles and all subsequent agreements between Israel and the Palestinians?

Netanyahu and other Likud figures say a formal abrogation would be unnecessary since the Palestinians have already failed to live up to their part of the bargain and have therefore rendered all the peace accords inopera-

tive. But international opinion, and especially international legal opinion, is unlikely to endorse that stance, which would likely continue to be a matter of deep controversy inside Israel.

At the same time, only the ultra-right still seriously contemplates Israel's return to the Gaza Strip. Netanyahu and Likud advocate that Israel should have a free hand in policing terror there, but not a full reoccupation.

The second scenario involves an intensive acceleration of the peace process that would bypass the interim phases of the negotiations and attempt to reach a permanent-status agreement on Israeli-Palestinian relations.

Deputy Foreign Minister Yossi Beilin has been advocating this approach for months. As the interim agreement proves ever more elusive, more and more coalition party politicians are joining him.

But Beilin's radicalism may itself be overtaken by a seemingly more pragmatic line now being adopted by the Rabin Cabinet in the wake of seemingly unceasing waves of terror attacks.

The prime minister himself terms this approach "separation," denoting a physical partition between the West Bank and Israel proper.

Since he first suggested the idea, immediately following the Jan. 22 suicide bombings, two high-level committees have been working at translating the idea into detailed proposals.

The polls, again, tell a politically significant story: Separation is enthusiastically endorsed by a solid majority of the Israeli population.

Personal security is most Israelis' main criterion by which they judge present events and plans for the future, and the separation concept seems to hold out the best promise of greater security. The slow pace of Israeli-Palestinian diplomacy is producing fresh thinking and possibly new alignments within Israeli politics. The constant changing makes it difficult to predict which course Israel is likely to pursue. □

#### **Taxi drivers demand safety after funeral of slain cabby**

*By Naomi Segal*

JERUSALEM, Feb. 15 (JTA) — Several dozen taxi drivers demonstrated in Jerusalem this week after the funeral of a cabby thought to be murdered by terrorists.

The drivers demanded that the government pay for more security measures.

The taxis, with horns honking and black ribbons tied to their antennas, filed past the Prime Minister's Office. The angry drivers massed at the intersection opposite the government building.

Rafi Cohen of Jerusalem, whose Tuesday funeral was attended by hundreds, was the fifth cabby to be killed in a year. He was killed on the Jerusalem-Ma'aleh Adumim highway.

The drivers complained of being unable to protect themselves because of insufficient security measures and legal constraints.

By law, they cannot refuse picking up a passenger. The drivers said preventive measures that have been adopted, such as installing a "distress light" on taxi roofs, were ineffective.

One of the measures the drivers are demanding are barriers between the front and back seats.

"Every night when I go to the car I am afraid. It's a big problem," said one driver, who identified himself only as Tamir.

"Now in this situation we don't have protection in the car. Anybody can go to the car and kill us. We want protection like in New York." □

## ADL annual audit depicts anti-Semitism as 'driving force'

By Debra Nussbaum Cohen

NEW YORK, Feb. 15 (JTA) — More acts of anti-Semitism were recorded by the Anti-Defamation League in 1994 than in any of the 16 years that it has conducted its annual audit.

ADL tallied 2,066 incidents last year, an increase of more than 10 percent from 1993.

Campus incidents rose for the seventh straight year in 1994 — up 17 percent from 1993 — with 143 incidents at 79 universities and colleges.

The 1994 incidents included in the ADL audit range from the murder of Aaron Halberstam, a Lubavitch student who was shot on the Brooklyn Bridge by Rashid Baz on March 1, to a swastika that was scratched in a men's bathroom stall at Colby College in September.

In two other non-fatal but serious incidents, a California yeshiva student was attacked by a skinhead, wielding a 3-foot pipe and a screwdriver, who screamed, "I hate Jews! I'll kill you!" and in Memphis, two 13-year-old Jewish boys were attacked by two older teens who beat them with a sword while yelling anti-Semitic epithets.

There were more acts of vandalism and arson against Jewish institutions and property owned by Jews — 869 incidents — than in recent years.

### 47 states have hate-crime statutes

At the same time, there were 141 arrests for anti-Semitic crimes last year, more than twice the 60 arrests documented in 1993.

ADL attributed the increase in arrests to a number of factors, including the rise in violent incidents "that often produce evidence leading to the arrests of the suspected perpetrators and the growing impact of state and federal hate-crime legislation."

Forty-seven states and the District of Columbia now have hate-crime statutes.

"Fifty years after the world witnessed the unspeakable horrors of Nazi anti-Semitism, and despite the strides made in rejecting intolerance, we must ask how and why anti-Semitism continues to be a driving force for some in our country," Abraham Foxman, national director of ADL, wrote in a statement about the report.

ADL, which released the audit in Washington on Wednesday, presented copies of the study to Attorney General Janet Reno, White House Counsel Abner Mikva and congressional leaders.

In an interview, Foxman said he does not think it is possible to reduce the number of anti-Semitic incidents to zero. "To do that we need to eliminate anti-Semitism, bigotry and prejudice, which is part of the human condition," he said.

According to the audit, the states with the highest totals of anti-Semitic incidents are also some of the states with the highest population of Jews.

Sixty-four percent of the vandalism occurred in 12 Northeastern states and Washington, D.C. Vandalism in Western states accounted for 14 percent of the total, and the South and Midwest accounted for 11 percent each.

The states with the highest number of incidents were: New York (440), New Jersey (237), California (232), Florida (158) and Massachusetts (134).

Attacks characterized by ADL and others as "in-your-face," such as harassment and personal assault, were up in 1994, according to the audit. In a 10-year span, their number has almost tripled. ADL warned that this increase could "possibly presage the violence to come."

"There is more license in our society today" to act violently than there has been in the past, said Earl Raab, a

longtime analyst of trends in anti-Semitism and director emeritus of the Perlmutter Institute for Jewish Advocacy at Brandeis University.

"It's not that there are more anti-Semites, but those that are there feel more license to express themselves. This is true with negative feelings toward blacks and gays, not just anti-Semites," he said, commenting on the ADL audit.

He tied this trend to the increase of incidents on campuses last year, when there were many more incidents of personal harassment, threat and assault than there were of vandalism, the audit showed.

"It is among young people that there is this rise in incivility," Raab said.

Many of the campus incidents occurred in the wake of school newspapers publishing Holocaust-denial advertisements placed by revisionists Bradley Smith and Ernst Zundel. The incidents also took place around the visits to campus of representatives of Louis Farrakhan's Nation of Islam.

"Campus incidents are almost always related to a flash point," said Jerome Chanes, co-director of domestic concerns at the National Jewish Community Relations Advisory Council, an umbrella group for national and local Jewish agencies.

"As important as the anti-Semitic incident on the campus is, what was the nature of the response? Increasingly often, as campus and administration officials become more sensitized, there is an immediate and forthright response.

"You have to look at it in context, and the fact of the matter is that Jewish student groups have become more organized than they were six or seven years ago when campus anti-Semitism first came to light," he said.

Chanes also said the audit cannot be read without assessing the real weight of anti-Semitism today.

"You assess anti-Semitism by looking at the broad picture, and the absolute numbers are one criterion saying that it's record-breaking. At the same time you have a very dramatic, well-documented decline in attitudinal anti-Semitism over many years which continues.

"The relatively few individuals who harbor anti-Jewish attitudes have had, in recent years, a greater propensity to act out their views," Chanes said. □

## German anti-Semitic actions rise as more youths participate

By Gil Sedan

BONN, Feb. 15 (JTA) — Incidents of anti-Semitism rose in Germany last year, especially among the youth, according to figures released last week by the General Security Service.

Reinhard Wagner, acting chairman of the Hamburg state bureau for security, reported that by mid-November 1994, the number of anti-Semitic incidents stood at 802, compared to 656 incidents during the entire year of 1993.

However, there was a change in the character of the acts and in the age group of the violators, Wagner said.

Fewer Jewish cemeteries were desecrated last year in comparison with the previous year. But more cases of ethnic incitement were recorded, particularly the denial of the Holocaust.

A record high of 78 percent of the perpetrators were younger than 20.

One of the primary reasons for the growing number of youths associated with anti-Semitism is the spreading phenomenon of computer games, such as games that glorify Adolf Hitler, according to the security service.

Another means of spreading anti-Semitic propaganda is by mail, Wagner said. □

## Diaspora committee endorses Burg as Jewish Agency chairman

By Uriel Masad

TEL AVIV, Feb. 15 (JTA) — In a surprise move, the “advise and consent” committee of the Jewish Agency’s Board of Governors has rejected Yehiel Leket and endorsed Avraham Burg as its choice to become the new chairman of the Jewish Agency for Israel and the World Zionist Organization.

The move makes it most probable that Burg, a 40-year-old Labor member of Knesset, will be elected to the post to succeed Simcha Dinitz, who stepped down last year.

Dinitz, who was indicted for fraud and abuse of public trust related to the alleged misuse of Agency credit cards, is now on trial in Jerusalem.

The actual appointment will be made by the WZO, which will elect the candidate nominated by the Israeli Labor Party.

The Labor Party Central Committee is scheduled to vote Thursday.

The Jewish Agency is the primary recipient of funds raised for Israel by the United Jewish Appeal in the United States.

The WZO undertakes Jewish educational efforts in the Diaspora and provides the mechanism for Diaspora Zionist organizations to participate in Jewish Agency decisions.

The Board of Governors’ “advise and consent” committee, representing the Diaspora fund-raising component of the Jewish Agency’s Diaspora-Zionist partnership, must approve a candidate before the candidate is elected.

The committee made its decision Tuesday night after a closely watched meeting with Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin.

Rabin, who had strongly backed Leket, had urged the committee to endorse both candidates and leave the final decision to the Labor Party vote.

Leket withdrew his candidacy following the Board of Governors’ decision.

Burg said Wednesday that Jewish education “will be the number one topic on the agenda” when he takes his post.

Prior to their half-hour meeting with Rabin on Tuesday afternoon, nine committee members met with Burg.

The members were Mendel Kaplan, chairman of the board, Max Fisher, Shoshana Cardin, Julia Koschitzky, Corky Goodman, Richard Pearlstone, Maynard Wishner, Paul Berger and Norman Lipoff.

Prior meetings between the Board of Governors’ committee and each candidate were held in New York in January.

The “advise and consent” committee apparently was unimpressed with Leket’s somewhat drab personality, as well as with Burg’s understanding of the Jewish Agency.

Tuesday’s meeting was held at Burg’s request, and Agency sources reported that he had rectified the poor impression he had made in New York.

Some Labor Party members who had supported Leket expressed anger at the nomination process, saying that an outside body can essentially strike out a candidate by not endorsing him.

These party members called for a rethinking of the election process.

But at a news conference here Wednesday, Kaplan said the body had a right to be involved in the partnership between the state of Israel and rest of the Jewish world. □

## Militant settlers arrested amid tense days in Hebron

By Naomi Segal

JERUSALEM, Feb. 15 (JTA) — Jewish settler leader Rabbi Moshe Levinger and his wife, Miriam, were briefly detained by police this week following their arrest during an early morning raid at their home in the West Bank town of Hebron.

They were detained, along with five other settlers Wednesday, when police came to arrest Miriam Levinger, who had ignored repeated court summonses to answer charges of assaulting a police officer in an earlier incident.

Moshe Levinger and his New York-born wife are founders of the Gush Emunim settlement movement that established Kiryat Arba in 1968, a year after Israel captured the West Bank and the Gaza Strip in the Six-Day War.

The arrests came amid heightened tensions in Hebron as both settlers and Palestinians marked the anniversary of the massacre at the Tomb of the Patriarchs in Hebron, where Jewish settler Dr. Baruch Goldstein killed 29 Muslim worshipers.

Disturbances were reported Wednesday at various flash points in Hebron, where Palestinian youths threw stones, tried to block roads and burned tires.

An Israeli soldier was reportedly lightly wounded in the head during a rock-throwing incident.

Israeli security sources were expected to remain on high alert against possible terror attacks throughout the week.

When a large force of Israeli police and soldiers arrived at the Levingers’ home in the Avraham Avinu enclave in the heart of Hebron, angry settlers tried to prevent the arrest. They surrounded the house and pelted the security forces with eggs and stones.

Israel Radio said the police broke down the door of the Levinger house before arresting the couple, who were subsequently taken to a Jerusalem court. The Levingers were later released. A hearing was scheduled for June.

Meanwhile, supporters of Goldstein, who was beaten to death by worshipers at the site, planned to hold a graveside memorial for him later this week.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin warned that police would take action against militant settlers who praised Goldstein’s actions. □

## El Al moves to privatize as board of directors takes off

By Naomi Segal

JERUSALEM, Feb. 15 (JTA) — El Al took a major step toward privatization when the airline’s new board of directors began officially operating this week.

The new board chairman, Yossi Cheihaover, was approved by the finance minister and transportation minister after another candidate, Yossi Rosen, turned down the job, citing a conflict of interest.

The airline had been in receivership since 1982, after huge losses caused by years of labor disputes. The government at the time ordered the closure of the airline.

It reopened several months later under the authority of a court-ordered receiver. In the past nine years, the airline has turned profits.

Although 1994 figures have yet to be released, Israel Radio reported that company officials expect a \$10 million net profit with record revenues of more than \$1 billion.

The privatization plan calls for a sale of 51 percent of the airline on stock markets in Israel, Britain and the United States later this year. □