

NEWS AT A GLANCE

■ **The Senate confirmed Martin Indyk to become the next U.S. ambassador to Israel.** He will be the first Jew to serve in the post. Indyk is expected to assume his position in the next few weeks, according to the State Department. He will be replaced at the National Security Council by Mark Parris, a State Department official. [Page 2]

■ **Steven Katz, the director-designate to the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum, resigned two weeks before he was scheduled to assume the post.** His resignation came in the wake of published reports detailing disciplinary measures taken against him during his tenure at Cornell University. Museum officials said they might go back to some of the other candidates originally considered for the position. [Page 1]

■ **Hillary Rodham Clinton urged Jewish and Christian activists to lobby against Congress' plan to ax billions of dollars from the current budget.** At a White House meeting, she asked the activists to protect programs for the poor. The rescission bill currently on the table would slice billions from domestic programs that aid the poor. It would also reduce debt forgiveness promised to Jordan. [Page 2]

■ **Israel reopened 12 homes of Palestinians that had been sealed in the West Bank town of Nablus.** The government said the action was a goodwill gesture for Id-el-Fitr celebrations marking the end of the Muslim holy month of Ramadan. The army also cleared roadblocks where stones and Molotov cocktails had been thrown at soldiers. However, there were no prisoner releases, in contrast to previous years.

■ **A memorial was held near Kibbutz Ma'agan Michael, south of Haifa, for the 35 people killed nearby in a terrorist attack 17 years ago.** The victims, Egged employees and their families, were on a company-organized outing. The terrorists had originally planned to land by boat on the Tel Aviv beach, but made a navigational error. Police Commissioner Assaf Hefetz, who led the unit that battled the terrorists and helped rescue passengers, attended the memorial service.

Holocaust Museum likely to choose new director from past candidates

By Larry Yudelson

NEW YORK, March 6 (JTA) — The United States Holocaust Memorial Museum is again looking for a director, after Steven Katz resigned last weekend from the post he was scheduled to assume March 16.

Katz, a professor at Cornell University in Ithaca, N.Y., had been elected to the post Jan. 3. to replace Jeshajahu Weinberg, who is retiring.

His resignation came less than two weeks after the Washington Post published a report detailing disciplinary measures taken against him by Cornell during his 11-year tenure there.

Museum officials say it is "quite possible" that one of the other candidates originally considered for the post will now get the nod.

These candidates include Walter Reich, an expert on the Holocaust and senior scholar at the Woodrow Wilson Center, a Washington-based think tank; Tom Freudenheim, who oversees the Smithsonian Institute's museums of arts and sciences and serves as president of the National Foundation of Jewish Culture; and Michael Berenbaum, the Holocaust Museum's director of research.

"We will act expeditiously and come up with a resolution shortly," said Miles Lerman, chairman of the United States Holocaust Memorial Council, which serves as the museum's board.

The council's executive committee is scheduled to meet March 14.

Cornell took the measures against Katz four years ago, after Katz misled the school about a book contract and improperly took a job while on a paid study leave from the university.

In a resignation letter to the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Council, Katz wrote, "I feel that at the present time the frivolous and non-meritorious allegations which have been asserted would unduly distract from the important educational mission which the council and I share."

Lerman, who defended Katz down to the end, said this week, "He has withdrawn. He was not fired."

"He has spent his lifetime in academia, and has come to the conclusion that the public limelight and controversies is not his cup of tea," said Lerman.

Book was source of Katz's rise and fall

Lerman said the museum will support Katz as he completes work on the last two volumes of his trilogy, "The Holocaust in Historical Perspective."

The first volume of the work, which amasses an immense amount of historical data to argue that the Holocaust was a unique event, proved the source of Katz's rise and fall.

The work catapulted Katz, originally a Jewish philosophy scholar, into the front lines of Holocaust studies.

But it was the same book that became the subject of controversy. During the 1980s, Katz repeatedly described the book as "to be published" by Harvard University Press, even though the manuscript was not completed and no contract was signed.

The book was accepted for publication by Oxford University Press in 1991.

This was among the reasons Cornell disciplined Katz with a three-year salary freeze.

According to Lerman, the museum knew of the charges against Katz before his selection for the post.

"It was the feeling of the executive committee that these allegations were not serious enough to change our mind about him," said Lerman.

But the view of the past offenses as minor was not shared by many members of the museum staff.

According to the Washington Post, a series of staff meetings at the beginning of last week made it clear to Lerman and other officials that Katz had lost the confidence of the museum staff.

In part, according to people familiar with the situation, this reflected differing standards between the lay leaders on the museum's board and the academics on the staff. The two groups disagreed over whether what Cornell

had described as "academic misconduct" was really only a "misdemeanor," as board members contended.

At the same time, museum staff loyal to museum Research Director Berenbaum, who had been passed over for the post, may have exploited the issue.

"I feel very strongly that Professor Katz was the victim of an unfortunate attempt at both character and career assassination," said Menachem Rosensaft, a New York attorney who served on the museum's search committee.

He said he was referring to "those who made it clear they did not want Professor Katz to assume the directorship."

Rosensaft said he firmly supports the executive committee "in its determination that the academic misdemeanors for which he apologized did not in any way disqualify him from assuming the directorship." □

Hillary Clinton urges Jews to help save programs

By Jennifer Batog

WASHINGTON, March 6 (JTA) — Jumping into the fray of another Capitol Hill battle, Jewish activists met with first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton last week in a call-to-arms session about Congress' plan to ax billions of dollars from the current budget.

The so-called rescission bill now being considered by Congress would cancel previously authorized budget appropriations for fiscal year 1995.

Several Jewish groups have been battling to protect a wide range of public assistance programs from future budget axes. The latest effort is an attempt to save programs in last year's budget, programs believed to be safe from the chopping block.

But the legislation on the table would have sweeping repercussions for domestic programs, activists say.

It would slice \$7.3 billion from the Housing and Urban Development Agency, targeting public and subsidized housing, including developments for low-income elderly Americans.

The bill would also eliminate heating aid for the poor; summer youth training programs; and funding for the Safe and Drug Free Schools Act.

The legislation would also reach the foreign aid sphere in one area of particular concern to Jewish proponents of the Middle East peace process: The bill would slash Jordan's promised debt forgiveness from \$275 million to \$50 million.

The bill, already approved by the House Appropriations Committee, could come to the floor as early as March 10, observers say.

The gathering at the White House on March 2 focused specifically on the legislation's effects on the poor.

At the first lady's invitation, officials from the American Jewish Congress, the National Jewish Community Relations Advisory Council, the Orthodox Union's Institute for Public Affairs, B'nai B'rith Women and United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism met at the White House.

Leaders from the Catholic Church, the Baptist Church and the Presbyterian Church also attended.

"It was certainly informative and sort of a wake-up call to remind us of what we should be doing," said David Harris, legislative aide for AJCongress.

Clinton focused on the religious groups' moral obligation to remember the poor, Harris said. She also encouraged the organizations to get involved and "make our voices known," he said.

According to Martin Raffel, NJCRAC's associate executive vice chairman, the underlying message presented

by Clinton was that Jewish and Christian organizations should "go out and express our concern about the bill."

"There's a concern about the implications of these drastic cuts," about the holes being put in the safety net of public assistance and about the ramifications for society, he said.

The activists at the meeting said they expressed concern over the assumption that the private sector and charitable organizations would be able to fill in the financial gaps left by Congress' budget ax.

"The consensus is that the religious community can step up its efforts, but it can not fill in the gaps," Raffel said.

"The general feeling is they're already overwhelmed," he said, adding that depending strictly on charitable organizations "is not a viable solution."

As a follow-up to the meeting, NJCRAC officials sent letters to their members, urging them to contact their representative about the bill.

Even before the meeting with Clinton, AJCongress officials had urged their members to act. President David Kahn last week sent a letter to House Speaker Newt Gingrich (R-Ga.) expressing concern about the bill.

These groups also plan to push Congress to restore full debt relief for Jordan.

Israel's Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and President Clinton have condemned the move, saying it could jeopardize the peace process.

"There are those who would back away from our commitments abroad," the president said in a speech Monday to the Veterans of Foreign Wars. "Even some would put our efforts to make peace in the Middle East on the chopping block."

"The last time isolationism held sway," he said, "Europe and Asia slid into catastrophe and we had to fight a second World War because we walked away from the world at the end of World War I."

Jewish organizations have joined efforts to restore the full debt relief for Jordan.

Officials from the American Jewish Committee sent letters to Senate Majority Leader Bob Dole (R-Kan.) and Gingrich, urging both chambers to consider restoring Jordan's debt relief.

"To undermine America's role as coordinator of the Arab-Israeli peace process would be a serious and costly mistake, far outweighing any short-term savings that would be realized by a cut in debt relief," wrote Robert Rifkind, AJCommittee president, and David Harris, the group's executive director, wrote.

The Anti-Defamation League voiced similar concerns in a letter to members of Congress last week. □

Indyk confirmed as ambassador to Israel

By Matthew Dorf

WASHINGTON, March 6 (JTA) — It's official. Martin Indyk is the first Jewish U.S. ambassador to Israel.

In a voice vote with no debate Friday, the Senate confirmed Indyk's nomination.

The native Australian, 43, will be going to the Jewish state to assume his post in the coming weeks, according to a State Department official.

Indyk, one of the senior members of President Clinton's Middle East peace process team, has served until now as the National Security Council director of Near East and South Asian affairs.

Mark Parris, a senior deputy secretary of state in the Bureau of Near Eastern Affairs at the State Department, will succeed Indyk at NSC.

According to Jewish leaders across the political spectrum, Parris' appointment "raises no red flags." □

Canadian anti-Semitism audit reports increase in 1994 acts

By Bram D. Eisenthal

MONTREAL, March 6 (JTA) — A total of 290 anti-Semitic incidents were reported across Canada in 1994, an increase of nearly 12 percent from 1993, according to a recent audit.

Last year, the number of anti-Semitic incidents was the highest it had been in 13 years of documentation, according to the Audit of Anti-Semitic Incidents, spearheaded by the League for Human Rights of B'nai Brith Canada.

A similar and recent study in the United States reached a parallel conclusion.

The Anti-Defamation League recorded 2,066 acts of anti-Semitism in the United States in 1994.

This is more than in any of the 16 years that the league has conducted its annual audit.

Frank Dimant, executive vice president of B'nai Brith Canada, said at a news conference last Friday:

"Despite advances in peace between Israel and her neighbors, 1994 saw anti-Semitic brutality rear its head across the globe.

"From the murder of soldiers in Israel to terrorist bombings in Argentina and England, Jews in every corner of the Earth were reminded that we must remain vigilant if we are to remain safe and secure."

Possible explanations for the rise of anti-Semitism in Canada were included in the audit.

One theory for the increase was the Grant Bristow affair, the case of a paid informant of the Canadian Security Intelligence Service who was also a member of the white supremacist Heritage Front.

Bristow, the hate group's intelligence chief and security director, was hired by CSIS six months after the front's founding.

He is known to have instigated and encouraged acts of harassment against those opposed to racism.

Hate propaganda on the Internet

Another explanation considered in the anti-Semitism audit was the growing dissemination of hate propaganda on the Internet and other venues on the information superhighway.

One of several anti-Semitic messages sent electronically to Jewish students at McGill University said: "I am a racist and I think all of you Jews should be eliminated from the face of the Earth." The message was signed "Naziboy."

In order to record occurrences such as these, the audit broke down the reported incidents into two categories: violence and harassment.

Acts of anti-Semitic vandalism dropped from 105 to 92.

The drop, according to the audit, may be attributed to the reduced activity of extremist groups such as Church of the Creator and the Heritage Front.

But anti-Semitic harassment increased in 1994 to 198 incidents, up from 151 the year before.

The 31 percent increase marked the highest level of any other year except during the Persian Gulf War in 1991.

"Despite the setbacks experienced by major neo-Nazi groups in 1994, it would be naive to assume that hate is dead in this country," said Lyle Smordin, league chairman.

"Jews continue to be targeted for harassment and violence and desecrated with alarming frequency."

Most of the anti-Semitic incidents occurred in Toronto, Canada's largest city and home to the country's

largest Jewish community, according to the audit. Half of the incidents, or 146 cases, took place there.

There are an estimated 360,000 Jews in Canada, about 160,000 who live in Toronto, according to Dimant.

Montreal, with the second largest Jewish community, was next on the list, with 55, or 19 percent, of the cases.

Ottawa was third, with 36 cases, or 12 percent.

Some cases highlighted in the report included: the mailing of a bullet and hate message sent to 14 Jewish communal leaders in Toronto; propaganda published by Holocaust denier Ernst Zundel left on car windshields outside an Ontario screening of "Schindler's List"; and letters asserting that Jewish doctors were poisoning non-Jews sent to residents of Burlington, Ontario.

League Vice President Stephen Scheinberg said he was encouraged by the swift action of officials at all three levels of government to condemn acts of anti-Semitism when they did occur.

"It's an excellent development and we're most satisfied with the security given to the Jewish community here," he said. □

Amsterdam provides a home to Spielberg Holocaust project

By Henriette Boas

AMSTERDAM, March 6 (JTA) — Steven Spielberg's international effort to archive tens of thousands of interviews with Holocaust survivors has made its way to the Netherlands.

The project comes in the wake of Spielberg's last film, "Schindler's List," which was the most attended movie in 1994 in the Netherlands.

A representative of Spielberg's undertaking, Survivors of the Shoah Visual History Foundation, went to Holland last month to prepare for that country's role in the endeavor.

The project, which began in June in Los Angeles, is already under way in the United States and in Toronto. Additional interviews are scheduled to take place in Israel, France and Australia.

The representative, Michael Engel, said in a phone interview from Los Angeles that he went to the Netherlands to "establish an office of presence" in Amsterdam and to meet with existing organizations that will be involved in the project.

Those organizations are the Jewish Historical Museum in Amsterdam; the Jewish Social Welfare Foundation, which is also known as JMW; and the Anne Frank Foundation.

Engel said the Amsterdam office will be the base for interviews in the Netherlands and Belgium.

The process of selecting interviewers in Holland has started, Engel said.

At the beginning of April, about 100 interviewers — including journalists, social workers, psychotherapists and teachers — will undergo 20 hours of training.

After that selection is finished, the actual interviews will begin.

Of the 140,000 Jews in Holland in 1940, only 30,000 survived the war.

As of 1994, about 25,000 Jews lived in the Netherlands.

The recorded and videotaped interviews eventually will serve as the largest library of Holocaust survivor testimonies in the world.

The collection will be stored at five museums, Spielberg has said. □

(JTA staff writer *Alissa Kaplan* in New York contributed to this report.)

'Year of Zionism' planned to mark 100 years since Basel*By Uriel Masad*

JERUSALEM, March 6 (JTA) — Israel's Ministerial Committee for Symbols and Ceremonies has decided to declare the Jewish year 5757 — 1996-1997 — as the "Year of Zionism," according to Eli Eyal, head of the World Zionist Organization Department of Organization and Community Relations.

Eyal said the WZO will give the committee a proposed schedule of projects and events in Israel and abroad to mark the 100 years since the first Zionist Congress and the establishment of the WZO.

The congress, convened by Theodor Herzl, was held in 1897 in Basel, Switzerland.

The canton of Basel has already announced its intention to sponsor a series of events marking the centennial.

The 33rd World Zionist Congress will be held in Jerusalem in 1997.

Avraham Burg, the new acting chairman of the WZO and Jewish Agency, has said he believes Zionism should be at the center of Diaspora Jewish education.

Burg was elected acting chairman last month after a vigorous contest with the former acting chairman, Yehiel Leket.

The Jewish Agency is the primary recipient of money raised for Israel by the United Jewish Appeal.

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

Burg will retain his post as a Labor member of Knesset until he is officially elected chairman of the WZO and Jewish Agency in June.

He has already resigned his post as chairman of the Knesset Education Committee. He has been replaced by Labor Party Knesset member Dalia Itzik, who is believed to be the first woman to chair a Knesset committee not directly related to women's issues.

Efforts to rejuvenate itself

Meanwhile, the Jewish Agency's Board of Governors recently concluded its meetings here. In its efforts to rejuvenate itself and to broaden Israeli representation, the board approved 23 additional members, appointed by the WZO. This brings the board to 121 members.

The majority of the new members are prominent Israelis, chosen from various segments of society. The most noticeable additions are three olim from the former Soviet Union: Natan Sharansky, chairman of the Zionist Forum; Eduard Kozentsov, editor of Novosty, the Russian Israeli newspaper; and Sophia Landver, former chairwoman of the Association of Olim from the former Soviet Union.

Their election marks the first time olim from the former Soviet Union are represented on the Agency's Board of Governors.

Among the other new Israeli board members are: Shlomo Avineri, a Hebrew University professor; Mayors Roni Milo of Tel Aviv and Amram Mitzna of Haifa; Yehudit Heibner, who chairs the women's movement Emunah and is a member of the Jerusalem municipal council; former speaker of the Knesset and Police Minister Shlomo Hillel; and Moshe Rivlin, chairman of the Jewish National Fund.

New board members from abroad include Seymour Reich of New York, chairman of the American Zionist Movement; Howard Schaverien, chairman of the British Zionist Federation; and Ann Zabrud, chairwoman of the Australian Zionist Federation. □

Father of murdered soldier speaks out against self-rule*By Naomi Segal*

JERUSALEM, March 6 (JTA) — The father of an Israeli soldier who was kidnapped and murdered by Hamas terrorists last year has joined the ranks of those protesting the Palestinian self-rule accord.

Yehuda Waxman, whose son, Nachshon, was abducted and subsequently killed by terrorists in October, this week joined the 3-week-old hunger strike of Rabbi Menahem Felix of Alon Moreh, whose daughter, Ofra, was killed by terrorists in January.

The strikers are gathered opposite the Prime Minister's Office in Jerusalem. On orders from his doctor, Waxman is not fasting.

After his son's murder, Waxman and his wife, Esther, had appealed for calm and refused to speak out against the government.

On Sunday, Waxman explained to reporters why he had joined the demonstration.

"There were more than 130 innocent people killed on the streets by terrorists" since the signing of the self-rule accord in Washington in September 1993, he said.

Noting that he had supported the Israeli government when it signed a peace treaty with Egypt in 1979 and with Jordan last October, Waxman said:

"No Jews are in danger because we made these agreements."

In contrast, he said, Israeli lives have been endangered by the Palestinian self-rule accord, which he called "too open-ended." □

Investigation into Druse's death concludes by clearing IDF soldiers*By Naomi Segal*

JERUSALEM, March 6 (JTA) — A former Israel Defense Force chief of staff has concluded that Israeli soldiers did not carry out a "kill verification" by mistake on an Israeli Druse officer who was slain during a clash in southern Lebanon three months ago.

Maj. Kewaan Hamad was killed Dec. 19 during a clash with Islamic fundamentalist Hezbollah gunmen in the western sector of the security zone.

Newspaper reports alleged at the time that Hamad was killed by Israeli fire when soldiers mistook him for a wounded Hezbollah gunman and conducted a "kill verification."

A "kill verification" is confirming the death of an enemy in the battlefield, if necessary, by shooting the enemy at close range. The story caused further controversy when it appeared that reports concerning the soldier's death may have been concealed from his family.

In February, Lt. Gen. Moshe Levy was appointed to examine the circumstances surrounding Hamad's death.

This week, Levy said that he would not rule out the possibility that Hamad may have been hit by IDF cross fire after he was fatally wounded.

But Levy concluded that no "kill verification" had been carried out.

At the onset of the inquiry, Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, along with other military and government officials, declared that no such practice exists in the army's standing orders.

Israel Radio said that Levy, who presented his report to the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee on Monday, criticized the fact that the IDF did not initially give the Hamad family all the details surrounding the officer's death, particularly the fact that he could have been hit by IDF fire. □