



## NEWS AT A GLANCE

### From Buenos Aires to New York, Jews applaud move against Iran

By Larry Yudelson

■ Jewish groups welcomed President Clinton's decision to impose a trade embargo on Iran. But organizations appeared divided over whether to support congressional legislation that would impose a secondary boycott on foreign companies doing business with Iran. [Page 1]

■ Remembrance Day for Israel's fallen soldiers began with the sounding of a siren. According to official figures, 18,220 soldiers have died in wars since 1948. [Page 2]

■ The dispute over Israel's planned confiscation of Arab land in eastern Jerusalem heated up as the Palestine Liberation Organization urged Arab states to cut contacts with Israel if it does not reverse the decision. The expropriation plan also drew criticism from several Western countries, including the United States, Great Britain and France.

■ Israel's Civil Administration granted reunification to some 100 Palestinian families who were separated after the 1967 Six-Day War. The step was described as a goodwill gesture and was believed to have been discussed at earlier talks between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization.

■ One in three supporters of Austria's right-wing Freedom Party manifests strong anti-Semitic prejudice, according to the results of a new survey of Austrian attitudes sponsored by the American Jewish Committee. [Page 4]

■ France commemorated the deportation of more than 150,000 Jews, Gypsies, resistance members and others to concentration camps during World War II. Social Affairs Minister Simone Weil, an Auschwitz survivor, was among the French officials participating at ceremonies at the Tomb of the Jewish Martyr in Paris.

■ Israel's foreign currency reserves grew by \$566 million to a record \$9.51 billion. The increase was attributed to the ongoing purchase of Israeli shekels in recent months, which resulted from high domestic interest rates enacted as part of the Bank of Israel's policy to suppress inflation.

NEW YORK, May 2 (JTA) — President Clinton's decision to impose a trade embargo on Iran was greeted with a blessing from the Jewish world and a vow to help expand efforts to internationally isolate the Muslim fundamentalist regime.

"We applaud President Clinton's decisive blow against terrorism," said Elan Steinberg, executive director of the World Jewish Congress, in a reaction typical of Jewish organizations.

At the same time, however, Jewish groups, which have actively lobbied for strict measures against Iran, appear split over whether to support congressional legislation that would impose a boycott on foreign companies doing business with Iran.

"The phrase 'secondary boycott' has problems for Jewish ears," said Steinberg, alluding to the longstanding opposition to the Arab League's secondary boycott of companies doing business with Israel.

Clinton announced the new executive order banning all U.S. trade and investment with Iran on Sunday night at a dinner honoring Edgar Bronfman, WJC president.

Bronfman, a major Jewish philanthropist, had helped to propel anti-Iran efforts to the front pages in March by working to scuttle a \$1 billion oil development deal agreed to by Conoco Inc., the Houston-based oil company.

As a board member and shareholder of Du Pont, Conoco's parent company, Bronfman stood to gain hundreds of millions of dollars from the contract.

Conoco abandoned the deal as the White House announced that Clinton was about to sign an executive order barring American firms from entering into contracts for the financing, supervision or management of oil development projects in Iran.

The March order was narrower than the one announced this week, which bars exports to Iran and prevents American oil companies from buying crude oil from Iran.

### Israeli leaders praise Clinton

Clinton's announcement came as he stood before a group of WJC delegates from Jewish communities around the world, including Argentina, whose Jewish community was the target of a devastating terrorist attack last summer.

Although no perpetrators have been arrested in the car-bombing of the Jewish community's central offices in Buenos Aires, both U.S. and Argentine officials have pointed to Iran as the likely sponsor.

The bombing killed nearly 100 people and destroyed the offices of the local WJC affiliate.

Ruben Beraja, president of the Argentine Jewish federation, known as the DAIA, this week praised Clinton for making "a very important decision."

"The world was waiting for the United States to lead the fight against terrorism," Beraja said while attending WJC meetings here.

Israeli leaders, who have long warned of the dangers posed by Iran, also enthusiastically praised Clinton.

"I think it is the right decision, a very powerful one, and at the right time," said Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, who was at the WJC dinner when Clinton announced his new policy Sunday night.

In announcing his executive order, Clinton called Iran a "rogue state" that "must be contained" because of its support for terrorism around the world, its efforts to undermine Israeli-Arab peace and its quest for nuclear capability. "There are times when an important economic interest must give way to an even more important security interest," the president said.

Oil imports exceeded \$4 billion last year, making the United States Iran's largest trading partner.

Clinton's announcement comes as Congress has begun to consider even more dramatic steps against Iran.

Last month, Sen. Alfonse D'Amato (R.-N.Y.) introduced legislation in the Senate that in addition to banning trade with Iran would ban foreign

companies doing business with Iran from trading with the United States.

Congressman Peter King (R-N.Y.) this week introduced a similar secondary boycott measure in the House. Both houses of Congress began hearings on the issue this week.

Although Clinton may have acted in an effort to avoid the need for legislation, D'Amato and others have suggested that they would persist in Congress in order to further isolate Iran.

At the same time, D'Amato appears to be willing to give the administration's diplomatic effort a chance.

In a statement applauding the executive order, the senator called on U.S. allies to join the embargo, saying he looked forward to "working with the State Department" on this.

The issue of a secondary boycott illustrates a potential split in policy between the administration and Congress.

In his Sunday night address, Clinton explicitly cautioned against a secondary boycott, saying it would "cause strain with our allies at a time when we need their cooperation."

#### **AIPAC details Iran's terrorist activities**

Although Clinton's directive has generated unanimous enthusiasm from Jewish groups, congressional efforts to impose a secondary boycott are getting mixed reviews.

Steve Grossman, president of the American Israel Public Affairs Committee, the pro-Israel lobby, welcomed the president's diplomatic initiative and also declared strong support for the legislative proposals.

AIPAC has been in the forefront of urging lawmakers to cut off all economic ties with Iran.

In a 74-page study released last month, AIPAC detailed Iran's terrorist activities, nuclear capability and international trade relations.

Another official at AIPAC said the secondary boycott "is an effective vehicle for dealing with the allies."

"The administration first wants to jawbone them," said the official, who asked not to be identified. But, he noted, AIPAC's report on Iran "talks about sanctions."

Malcolm Hoenlein, executive vice chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, also welcomed the president's initiative and said he supported the idea of a secondary boycott.

It gives such initiatives "more teeth," Hoenlein said.

Clinton's executive order "is an important step but there needs to be more," said Abraham Foxman, national director of the Anti-Defamation League.

Others, such as WJC, are less eager to see a secondary boycott, hoping that the administration's diplomatic push would be sufficient.

And the American Jewish Committee has yet to take a position on the legislation, according to Jason Isaacson, director of the group's Washington office.

A top American priority has been to halt Iranian attempts to acquire nuclear capability.

Next week, Clinton is expected to ask Russian President Boris Yeltsin personally to cancel Russia's proposed sale of two nuclear reactors to Iran. Clinton and Yeltsin are scheduled to meet in Moscow.

Secretary of State Warren Christopher said Monday that in addition to opposing Russian and Chinese nuclear cooperation with Iran, the United States will call on its allies to undertake "a comprehensive review of their economic ties to Iran."

The administration's diplomatic push is expected to culminate in mid-June when the Group of Seven nations

meet in Canada. In addition to the United States, the nations include Germany, Japan, Great Britain, France, Italy and Canada.

A far-reaching international trade ban against Iran, such as one that would be generated by the legislation being considered by Congress, could cut off as much as 70 percent of Iranian hard currency earnings, said a pro-Israel activist in Washington.

Jewish groups say they plan to aid in the international effort. Several said they would address the issue in meetings with world leaders.

The WJC "will continue to actively push other countries to adopt a similar posture," Steinberg said, adding, "This gives us greater ammunition in the struggle."

Like many Jewish groups, the AJCommittee has pressed for sanctions against Iran during meetings with foreign leaders for years, and with senior German leaders as recently as February.

Whereas in the past foreign leaders would respond that the United States is the most guilty of doing business with Iran, Clinton's new measures will "give the message that we and others have been sending about the danger posed by Iran greater clarity and greater force," Isaacson said.

Israel's ambassador to the United Nations, Gad Ya'acobi, said he believed that the international diplomatic effort would prove partially successful.

"We believe that at least some of the Group of Seven will support this initiative," Ya'acobi said.

However, he added, "It doesn't look like all of them will do it, unfortunately." □

#### **Siren sounds for soldiers as memorial period begins**

*By Naomi Segal*

JERUSALEM, May 2 (JTA) — Yom Hazikaron, Remembrance Day for Israel's fallen soldiers, began Tuesday night with the sounding of a one-minute siren and a continuous television broadcast of the names of the men and women who died in wars.

Since the 1948 War of Independence, 18,220 soldiers have died, according to the Ministry of Defense. The roll call was expected to continue for 27 hours.

In an effort to pre-empt any violence during the holidays, Israel sealed off the West Bank and Gaza Strip on Tuesday. The closure is scheduled to last until Sunday morning, according to an army spokeswoman. She said the transfer of certain goods in and out of Gaza would be permitted.

The memorial siren was followed by a ceremony at the Western Wall in Jerusalem, where President Ezer Weizman and Israel Defense Force Chief of Staff Amnon Lipkin-Shahak were among those participating in memorial ceremonies.

Weizman lit the traditional memorial candle, after it was handed to him by Matya Poraz. Her son, Nir, was killed last year while leading a raid on a house north of Jerusalem, where Israeli soldier Nachshon Waxman was being held by captors of the Islamic fundamentalist Hamas. Waxman and his captors were also killed in the raid.

Nir Poraz's father, Maoz, a pilot, was shot down during the 1973 Yom Kippur War.

Remembrance Day observances were scheduled to continue Wednesday, when official ceremonies commemorating Israel's fallen soldiers were to take place at military cemeteries across the country.

Observances were to close officially with a torch-lighting ceremony in Jerusalem on Wednesday night, when Independence Day celebrations officially were to begin. □

**Decline of worldwide terror eludes the violent Middle East***By Matthew Dorf*

WASHINGTON, May 2 (JTA) — The worldwide decline of terrorism has not extended to the Middle East.

Although international terrorist attacks last year reached their lowest levels in 23 years, terrorism by Islamic extremist groups surged, according to the State Department's annual report on international terrorism.

"Terrorist attacks and violence instigated by Palestinians continued at a high level in 1994," according to the "Patterns of Global Terrorism Report," which was sent to Congress last Friday.

The report details 321 incidents of international terrorism last year, compared to 431 in 1993. The decrease marks a significant shift from 1987, when the State Department documented a record 665 terrorist acts.

But the decline did not extend to the Middle East.

"Needless to say, there has been a sharp increase in terrorist attacks against the Middle East peace process," Philip Wilcox, the State Department's coordinator for counterterrorism, said in a briefing with reporters.

Wilcox accused the Islamic fundamentalist groups, Hamas and Islamic Jihad, of leading a "dangerous and vicious rear-guard action" aimed at destroying the peace process.

According to the report, 73 Israeli citizens, including off-duty soldiers, were killed in 1994 and more than 100 were wounded.

Wilcox said the actual number of Israelis killed at the hands of Palestinian terrorists was more than 73, but the report does not include attacks on active duty soldiers.

Among the worst incidents recorded were bus bombings in Afula and Hadera in April, which killed eight and five people, respectively. In October alone, the report records the random shooting at a Jerusalem pedestrian mall, which left two dead; the kidnapping and murder of an Israeli soldier, Nachshon Waxman; and a suicide-bomb attack on a Tel Aviv bus, which killed 22 Israelis.

The report has a special two-page section, including a full page of photos, detailing Hamas terrorist acts, which alone left 55 Israelis dead.

Calling it "a very disturbing trend," the report states that attacks by Hamas have "increased in number and lethality."

**Study notes Arafat's condemnation**

Perhaps foreshadowing next month's semiannual report on the Palestine Liberation Organization's compliance with accords with Israel, the terrorism study notes that PLO leader Yasser Arafat condemned acts of terrorism by Hamas and the Islamic Jihad.

But, the report said, Arafat "did not do so when individuals associated with the Fatah Hawks, nominally aligned with Arafat's Fatah organization, were responsible for a few attacks in early 1994."

Other incidents listed in the study included the July 1994 bombing of the Argentine Jewish community's central offices in Buenos Aires, which killed nearly 100 people, and the double bombing in London the same month of the Israeli Consulate and the Balfour House, which housed a Jewish fund-raising organization.

In the United States, there were no confirmed acts of terrorism in 1994, the report said.

But the report notes that the FBI is continuing its investigation into two attempted bombings outside the buildings that house the New Israel Fund and the Americans for Peace Now. In each incident, both of which occurred in January 1994 in New York, small explosive devices were found. No one was hurt. □

**Canada delays hearing of alleged war criminal***By Gil Kezwer*

TORONTO, May 2 (JTA) — The deportation hearing for alleged war criminal Joseph Nemsila has been delayed here so that he would be able to obtain legal counsel, Canada's Immigration and Refugee Board has decided.

The hearing for the 82-year-old has been postponed until May 31.

"Today's delay will further compound the frustration being felt by the Jewish community. However, Nemsila is entitled to counsel, and today's proceeding was not unexpected. We urge the government to move as expeditiously as possible on this case," said B'nai Brith Canada spokesman Paul Marcus.

Nemsila, who lives in Toronto, is a citizen of the former Czechoslovakia with permanent-resident status in Canada. He is accused of misrepresenting himself to immigration authorities when he entered the country.

He was allegedly a district commander in the notorious Hlinka Guard in the Nazi vassal state of Slovakia. He also reputedly participated in the roundup of the country's 100,000 Jews and their deportation to Auschwitz and other death camps in Poland.

At the end of the war, Nemsila is believed to have abandoned his family in Slovakia and fled to Canada.

During the war, Slovakia paid Nazi Germany for each Jew deported. In turn, the Nazis allowed Slovak officials to keep the confiscated property of the deportees.

This is not the first case involving former officers of the Hlinka Guard and Canada.

Joseph Kirschbaum, another former officer in the Hlinka Guard who later served in the Slovakian Embassy to the Vatican, continues to live in Toronto. He is prevented from entering the United States because he is on the U.S. Justice Department's Office of Special Investigations watchlist.

Another alleged war criminal, Karol Sidor, the commander of the Hlinka Guard, lived quietly in Canada until his death in 1953. □

**Remainder of stolen Judaica returned to Budapest museum***By Agnes Bohm*

BUDAPEST, May 2 (JTA) — The remaining 31 pieces of a hoard of stolen Judaica have been returned to the Hungarian capital of Budapest.

Romanian authorities last week brought back the long-awaited package of the Judaica treasure, which was stolen from the Budapest Jewish Museum in December 1993. The last 31 pieces from the treasure-trove were found in February in an apartment in the Romanian capital of Bucharest.

In all, 236 pieces of Judaica were found in neighboring Romania. Most were in good condition, though some need restoration work, officials said. The first 205 pieces were returned to Budapest last summer. Legal wrangling apparently held up the return of the remaining pieces.

The treasure, valued at \$200 million, consists of pieces collected since 1916, including gold and silver religious objects, paintings and carpets. The only missing pieces were two porcelain seder plates.

Hungarian officials said in an interview last week that none of the four suspects in the case is in custody. One of the suspects lives in Austria, and another lives in Germany. The whereabouts of a third, a Romanian Israeli, is unknown. A fourth suspect is unknown. □

## Survey in Austria uncovers strongly anti-Semitic views

By Alissa Kaplan

NEW YORK, May 2 (JTA) — One in three supporters of Austria's increasingly popular Freedom Party manifests strong anti-Semitic prejudice, according to the results of a new survey sponsored by the American Jewish Committee.

The results are "deeply disturbing," according to an AJCommittee official, because the party, once considered a fringe element, has entered Austria's political mainstream. The Freedom Party, led by right-wing extremist Jorg Haider, won 23 percent of the vote in last October's Austrian general elections and is now the most successful far-right political faction in Western Europe.

The AJCommittee survey, titled "Current Austrian Attitudes Toward Jews and the Holocaust," was conducted by the Gallup Institute of Austria between Jan. 17 and March 1.

It was released simultaneously last Friday in Vienna and New York amid commemorations marking the 50th anniversary of the fall of the Third Reich and the end of World War II.

A key purpose of the survey was to examine where Freedom Party supporters stand on Jews and on Holocaust-related matters, according to David Singer, AJCommittee director of research. He said Freedom Party supporters represented 21 percent of the 2,000 survey respondents.

Singer said the survey found that "more than one in three Austrians who support the Freedom Party see Jews as having too much influence on world events in Austrian society, reject Jews as neighbors and maintain that Jews are exploiting the Holocaust for their own purposes.

"A significant portion of Freedom Party supporters are open to Holocaust denial, as well," he added. "All in all, Freedom Party supporters are much more likely than other Austrians to exhibit hostility toward Jews."

No less disturbing is the willingness of some Austrians who consider themselves to be free of anti-Jewish hostility to support a party that has become the home base for anti-Semites, the survey concludes.

### Says he wants to be chancellor

Haider, the party's leader, who says he wants to be the next Austrian chancellor, has embraced Adolf Hitler's labor policies.

The survey, which has a margin of error of 3 percent, did yield some encouraging findings, however, said Singer.

"Attitudes toward Jews have improved over time, and there is a greater openness to Holocaust remembrance today," he said, comparing the latest results to a 1991 survey his organization conducted on Austrian attitudes toward Jews and other minorities.

For instance, the number of Austrians who see Jews as having "too much influence" in Austrian society has dropped from 28 percent in 1991 to 19 percent this year, he said. And the number of Austrians who believe that "Jews are exploiting the Nazi Holocaust for their own purposes" has dropped from 32 percent to 28 percent over the same time period.

However, 31 percent of non-Freedom Party supporters now show no interest in keeping the memory of Holocaust alive. And 43 percent of Freedom Party supporters believe that it is time to "put the memory of the Holocaust behind us."

One in four Austrians continue to express hostility toward the Jews, the survey found. It also found that while Austrians are generally well-informed about the Holocaust, many fail to acknowledge their country's role in it. □

## Controversy in Holland erupts over commemoration's attendees

By Henriette Boas

AMSTERDAM, May 2 (JTA) — A fight has erupted in the Dutch Jewish community over a planned commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the end of the German occupation here.

The controversy, which has been covered extensively in the general Dutch press, concerns who should take part in the event, which is set to take place Sunday at the three-century-old Sephardi synagogue in Amsterdam.

Among those scheduled to attend the commemoration are Prince Consort Claus; his eldest son, Crown Prince Willem Alexander; and Premier Wim Kok. The previous mayor of Amsterdam, Ed van Thijn, who is Jewish, was also slated to attend, as was Ashkenazi Chief Cantor Hans Bloemendal.

Although the commemoration is not a religious service, it has been organized by various Dutch Jewish congregations — both Liberal and Orthodox.

But last month, the Orthodox former chief rabbi of Amsterdam, Meir Just, and a group of people close to him, objected to the participation of non-Orthodox Jews. They said the memory of the more than 100,000 Dutch Jews who died in the Holocaust would be desecrated by the participation of "heretics" in the event.

Just even objected to the participation of Bloemendal, who has served as chief cantor for 46 years, because he is not Orthodox. As a result, several Orthodox rabbis announced that they would not attend the commemoration.

Jacob Loonstein, one of those close to the former chief rabbi, said his ancestors who died in the Holocaust would not have accepted a ceremony organized partly by Liberal Jews.

Just is no stranger to controversy. He was originally given the chief rabbi post for a five-year period, after the retirement of former Chief Rabbi Aaron Schuster. But at the end of that period, Just refused to step down. In the end, he was given the largely honorary title of chairman of the Chief Rabbinate of the Netherlands.

The synagogue where the commemoration will take place was the location of the first Jewish service held in Holland after the liberation of Amsterdam. The service 50 years ago, attended by hundreds of Jews, was conducted by the late Chief Rabbi Justus Tal, who had been in hiding in Amsterdam. □

## Hungary, Israel to build satellite

By Agnes Bohm

BUDAPEST, May 2 (JTA) — The Hungarian government has approved an agreement with Israel to produce a joint communication satellite.

The first Israeli-Hungarian satellite, which will not be completed until 1998, will be made by Israel Aircraft Industries Ltd. and by the firm Antenna Hungaria, according to the pact, which was endorsed April 27.

The Israeli firm, which will be involved in the technology and building of the satellite, has a 50 percent share in the joint venture, which was based in Hungary.

It has been speculated that the satellite will be called CERES, an acronym for Central European Satellite.

Hungary will rent four channels from the satellite, which will have a total of 16 channels. The remaining channels will be sold internationally.

In the past, some deals in Hungary excluded Israeli firms, mostly because of anti-Semitism.

Israel has cooperated with other countries in satellite projects. □