

**NEWS AT A GLANCE**

■ Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin met with U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher and Defense Secretary William Perry on Friday and was slated to meet with President Clinton on Sunday evening. In an earlier address to the American Jewish Committee, Rabin said Israel was strong enough to take "calculated risks" for peace.

■ Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres traveled to Cairo for discussions with Palestinian officials about the two sides' troubled negotiations. Peres' trip came a day after the League of Arab States urged the U.N. Security Council to block Israel's planned confiscation of Arab land in eastern Jerusalem.

■ Senate Majority Leader Bob Dole (R-Kan.) will ask Congress for money to begin building a U.S. Embassy in Jerusalem next year, before Israeli and Palestinian negotiators have concluded negotiations on the city's "final status." [Page 3]

■ Arsonists set fire to a synagogue in the northern Germany city of Lubeck, only hours before Berlin's Jews rededicated their main temple. [Page 2]

■ Austrian Chancellor Franz Vranitzky acknowledged his country's complicity with the Nazi Final Solution in remarks during ceremonies marking the 50th anniversary of the liberation of the Mauthausen death camp in Austria. [Page 4]

■ Canada has begun deportation hearings against two Ontario men suspected of committing war crimes during the Nazi occupation of Eastern Europe. [Page 4]

■ Two Israeli soldiers were lightly wounded when members of the Islamic fundamentalist Hezbollah movement fired missiles and mortars at an Israel Defense Force post in southern Lebanon. The fighting took place after Hezbollah launched a Katyusha rocket attack on northern Israel, wounding four people and damaging property in Kiryat Shmona.

■ Two Arabs and an Israeli soldier were lightly wounded by gunfire in Bethlehem, amid conflicting reports over the cause of the incident.

**FIFTY YEARS AFTER THE HORROR (Part 4)****Mixed emotions emerge amid Germany's WWII obsession**

By Miriam Widman

BERLIN, May 7 (JTA) — As Germany this week commemorates the 50th anniversary of the Allied victory over Nazi Germany on May 8, 1945, a wide range of emotions has surfaced among the German populace.

Looking back at events a half-century ago, there is sadness and horror. But there is also bitterness, resentfulness and, in some cases, indifference.

The events of the past have become something of a national obsession, as reflected in the enormous number of newspaper articles, television programs, discussions and exhibits devoted to the 50th anniversary of the end of the war.

German newspapers, from national dailies to local papers, have been running series of articles for weeks, detailing the military struggle for Berlin and the personal recollections of those who survived the war.

Public television has been running nightly programs about what happened five decades earlier. An exhibit in Berlin on the last days of the war, called "Berlin 1945," has reportedly drawn some 1,000 visitors daily.

The Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung, a well-respected conservative daily, has received strong reader support for its series "Fifty Years Ago," which began in January.

The introspection gripping the country also comes amid a series of commemorations marking the liberation of Nazi death camps 50 years ago.

Last week, German officials joined survivors at the commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the liberation of Dachau, the first concentration camp erected by the Nazis and one of the last to be liberated.

Edmund Stoiber, governor of Bavaria, spoke for many when he said at the rain-soaked ceremony, "I feel ashamed that the crimes against those people were perpetrated by and in the name of Germans."

But as 80 million Germans dwell collectively on the past, their emotions are mixed.

**For Germans, the past is a study in grays**

For most people outside Germany, World War II was a black-and-white affair, with the Germans as the bad guys and the Allies heroically coming to the world's rescue.

But for some Germans, the past is more of a study in grays. Although many see the Nazis as the aggressors, one can find books and films in which the Germans are portrayed as the victims of the Soviets, who after the war occupied the eastern half of Germany and drove some 12 million ethnic Germans out of Eastern Europe.

A heated debate now galvanizing the country illustrates the scope of the controversy.

A group of some 300 Germans, including the country's development minister and a former federal prosecutor, recently backed a statement saying that the May 8 anniversary should not only be seen as the day Germany was liberated from the Nazis.

The date, they said, also marked "the beginning of expulsion, terror and new suppression in the East, and the beginning of the division of our country."

The statement's supporters contend that young Germans are infinitely better informed about Nazi atrocities against Jews and others than they are about Soviet atrocities against Germans after the war.

Many Germans who lived through the war agree that the May 8 anniversary should not be viewed as a day of liberation.

"It was a liberation," an 81-year-old woman who asked not to be identified said sarcastically.

"The Russians liberated us of our last shirt," she said, referring to the mass rapes that occurred when the Soviets overran eastern Germany.

For her, liberation came only when East and West Germany were reunited Oct. 3, 1990.

Virginia Seiring, an elderly woman who was forced from her home in East Prussia by the Soviets at the war's end, said, "It would be a

humiliation for me to celebrate [the end of the war] as a liberation."

Arnulf Baring, a well-known historian, said that 50 years ago, Germans were happy that the bombs stopped falling, but they also had to deal with their defeat in the war and what would come next.

When older Germans talk about the war, they tend to describe their personal experiences. Older Berliners recall how they were bombed out of their homes, how they left the war-torn city for the countryside or how difficult it was to obtain food. Rarely, if ever, do they voluntarily bring up what happened to their German Jewish neighbors.

"After the war, it appeared as if only unconscious people supported this [Nazi] regime," Polish writer Andrzej Szypiorski said last month at ceremonies commemorating the 50th anniversary of the liberation of the Sachsenhausen death camp.

Although the "we didn't know anything" excuse still often surfaces in talks with older Germans, other reasons emerge as well.

"We were afraid," said Kurt Robbel, an octogenarian who fought as a soldier in the war and was taken prisoner by the Soviet Union. Robbel said the terror of the Nazi regime was so complete that people were numbed into silence out of fear for their own lives.

#### Mixed emotions for those born after the war

For Germans who were born after the war, opinions are also mixed. But two key views among the young emerge in the German media: The obsession with World War II and the Holocaust to the point that personal guilt emerges for the 6 million Jews who were killed, and the feeling that Germany's wartime experience has nothing to do with them.

An illustration of how difficult it is for Germans to deal with the Holocaust was provided by a series of letters to the editor after the intellectual weekly *Die Zeit* published an article on the Holocaust by Israeli writer David Grossman.

Grossman was asked by the paper to write the article earlier this year to coincide with the 50th anniversary commemoration of the liberation of Auschwitz.

Grossman's front-page story, "We Still Can't Speak About Forgiveness," argued that Israelis are further along in their discussions about the Holocaust and its effects on future generations than are the Germans.

He suggested that the issues Germans deal with when discussing the Holocaust are domestic in nature — such as the country's view of authority, attitudes toward those who are perceived as different and the German concept of "Heimat," or fatherland.

"The significant questions that the Second World War and the Holocaust poses for you do not necessarily have anything to do with Jews or Israelis," Grossman wrote to his German audience.

Responding to the article, Gisela Amberg said that for years she viewed the Nazi period as something that had nothing to do with her.

But after reading Grossman's article and the anniversary reports about Auschwitz, she felt differently.

"It is the lie that you can believe that you can forget something like this," she said.

Ludger Meyer, a 26-year-old from Dortmund, saw it in a different light.

He belongs to a generation, he wrote, that is trying to stake out a position on the Holocaust somewhere between the idea of collective guilt and the view that it had nothing to do with the younger generation of Germans.

He also said his generation has trouble defining itself.

"If I think of myself as German, and I say it, then

I find myself in the rightist Nazi corner again," he said. "If you want to be European, then you're [countryless], and there is a suspicion that you're trying to hide from your own history."

Meyer also defended present-day Germany, saying the current activities of the radical right are stronger in Russia, Italy and France.

This is a common reaction: Younger Germans often compare the activities of Nazis and neo-Nazis with events in other countries. Favored comparisons include U.S. treatment of the American Indians and the white-black conflict that prevailed under South Africa's apartheid regime.

Perhaps these comparisons provide some justification for Grossman's view. A close look at the national dialogue shows that 50 years after Germany's defeat, the country is only just starting to come to grips with its Nazi past. □

#### **As Berlin rededicates shul, arson hits another in Lubeck**

*By Miriam Widman*

BERLIN, May 7 (JTA) — As Europe and much of the rest of the world was marking the 50th anniversary of the Allied defeat of Nazi Germany, arsonists set fire to a synagogue in the northern German city of Lubeck.

The arson attack, which comes 14 months after a previous fire was set at the Lubeck synagogue, came only hours before Berlin's Jewish community rededicated their main temple in the city.

According to German news reports, the fire at the Lubeck synagogue was set near a side entrance early Sunday morning by unknown perpetrators. An extension to the synagogue was completely destroyed in the blaze. Nobody was injured, though there were people in the building at the time.

The Federal Attorney's Office has taken over the investigation of the incident, which prompted some 2,000 demonstrators to gather spontaneously in Lubeck to protest the attack.

The synagogue was the target last year of the first firebombing of a Jewish house of worship since the days of the Third Reich.

Four men between the ages of 19 and 24, all of whom belonged to extreme right-wing groups, were convicted of premeditated arson in that incident. They were recently given sentences ranging from 30 months to 4½ years in jail.

Ignatz Bubis, chairman of the Central Council of Jews in Germany, said the arsonists involved in the latest incident probably timed the attack to coincide with the dedication of the New Synagogue.

The rededication of the New Synagogue in Berlin was attended by some 4,000 guests, including German President Roman Herzog, Chancellor Helmut Kohl and leaders of Berlin's 10,000-strong Jewish community.

Berlin Mayor Eberhard Diepgen welcomed the reopening of the 129-year-old building, which survived the Kristallnacht pogrom of Nov. 9-10, 1938, but was badly damaged by an Allied bombing raid on Berlin in 1943.

Bubis, in his address, said the future of Germany's Jewish community depends on the support of the country's non-Jewish population.

He also noted that the synagogue was saved from destruction on Kristallnacht because of the courage of the head of the local police precinct, Wilhelm Krutzfeld, who managed to get the fire department to put out the fire.

"There were such people" as Krutzfeld to help Jews during the days of the Third Reich, Bubis said. "Unfortunately, there were too few." □

## Dole urges building to start in '96 on Jerusalem embassy

By Matthew Dorf

WASHINGTON, May 7 (JTA) — Senate Majority Leader Bob Dole (R-Kan.) will ask Congress for money to begin building a U.S. Embassy in Jerusalem next year.

Dole plans to introduce legislation that would force the State Department to move the embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem before May 31, 1999. Construction must begin before the end of 1996, states a draft of the Jerusalem Embassy Relocation Implementation Act of 1995.

That provision is controversial, because it would mean that work on the new embassy would begin before the "final status" of Jerusalem is determined.

Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization are scheduled to begin negotiations on final-status issues, including the fate of Jerusalem, next year and to finish the talks by 1999.

Although the U.S. ambassador would not move from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem until the status of Jerusalem is resolved in those negotiations, the construction "would be a symbolic gesture supporting a unified Jerusalem under Israeli control," said one congressional aide familiar with the proposal.

The latest effort goes one step further than a letter that 93 senators sent to Secretary of State Warren Christopher last month calling for the United States to move its embassy to Jerusalem at the end of the final status talks. More than 260 members of the House have signed a similar letter.

The embassy would most likely be built on a parcel of land in western Jerusalem that the United States bought last year. At the time, the State Department said any future development of the site would be for "a place where a very senior diplomat would live." Officials would not say whether the plot would be used for an embassy.

Dole was expected to unveil his proposal in an address here Monday night to the American Israel Public Affairs Committee, the pro-Israel lobby.

The State Department has opposed any plans to move the embassy, citing concerns that any effort could derail the Middle East peace process.

PLO leader Yasser Arafat claims eastern Jerusalem as the capital of a future Palestinian state, while Israel maintains that an undivided Jerusalem will remain its eternal capital.

Arafat attacked the Dole proposal, saying, "These latest attempts to move the American Embassy to Jerusalem are dangerous and in violation of previous U.S. administration decisions."

### 'We live by our laws'

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin told reporters after meeting with Secretary of State Warren Christopher here last Friday that the location of the U.S. Embassy does not affect Israel's claim to Jerusalem.

"We live by our laws," Rabin said. "We have got our position. If the other countries, including the United States, have not recognized [the unification of Jerusalem] for the last 27 — by now almost 28 — years, it's their problem."

Christopher refused to say whether he supported Dole's initiative. "The parties to the Declaration of Principles themselves have confined the issue of Jerusalem to the second part of the negotiations," Christopher said, referring to the Israeli-Palestinian agreement signed on the White House lawn in September 1993.

In Jerusalem, meanwhile, Communications Minister Shulamit Aloni said although Israel wants all the embassies to be in Jerusalem someday, now is "not the right time."

Aloni, who heads the left-wing Meretz bloc, said beginning construction on a U.S. Embassy in Jerusalem next year "has a smell of provocation and even involvement in negotiations that must be between us and the Palestinians."

The latest flap over moving the U.S. Embassy comes as Palestinians continue to protest Israel's move last week to seize Arab-owned land in eastern Jerusalem. Last week State Department spokesman Nicholas Burns said of the Israeli move, "It's difficult to see how this type of action, this land confiscation, can be helpful at this time in the negotiations."

For their part, Palestinians retaliated by trying to build onto the Orient House, the Palestinian Authority's de-facto office in Jerusalem, without obtaining needed permits. Israeli authorities forced builders to halt construction and ordered an illegal addition torn down. □

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

## Jewish, Arab groups call truce on bill about counterterrorism

By Matthew Dorf

WASHINGTON, May 7 (JTA) — As Congress continues a push to vote on counterterrorism legislation by the end of the month, Jewish and Arab Americans have sounded a truce in their war of words over the proposed measures.

The agreement comes in the wake of accusations by Arab American leaders that Jewish organizations launched a war against their community by supporting the legislation.

In a joint statement released here last week by the National Association of Arab Americans and the National Jewish Community Relations Advisory Council, the two communities joined to condemn terrorism and pledged to continue working together, in spite of sharp disagreements over the proposed counterterrorism legislation.

The Jewish umbrella group and the NAAA, the largest of the Arab American organizations, pledged in the statement not to allow their "different perspectives" on the counterterrorism bill and other initiatives to "damage our relationship or to deter our two communities from continued cooperation on behalf of shared goals and interests."

The Senate and House of Representatives continued hearings last week on measures that, among other provisions, seek expedited deportation of aliens suspected of terrorism and limit fund raising for foreign groups designated as having terrorist links.

These provisions have drawn the ire of Arab Americans and the skepticism of many Jewish groups, which support the goal of the legislation but remain concerned about protecting civil liberties.

The legislation weaving its way through Congress would also establish a national counterterrorism center staffed by 1,000 new law enforcement personnel, increase federal law enforcement agencies' access to financial and other records of suspected terrorists, expand surveillance authority and require the tagging of explosives so they can be more easily traced.

Despite the continuing disagreements, Arab Americans and American Jews will continue to work together in other areas.

"The relationships between the Arab American and the Jewish community cannot be and will not be shunted aside because there are disagreements over counterterrorism legislation," said Larry Rubin, executive vice chairman of NJCRAC. □

(JTA intern Jennifer Batog in Washington contributed to this report.)

**Austria acknowledges guilt in ceremonies at Mauthausen***By Marta S. Halpert*

VIENNA, May 7 (JTA) — Austrian Chancellor Franz Vranitzky this week acknowledged his country's complicity with the Nazi Final Solution and decried those who belittle the Holocaust.

The chancellor also struck a strong blow against right-wing extremism in remarks during a ceremony marking the 50th anniversary of the liberation of the Mauthausen death camp.

More than 20,000 people from 40 countries gathered for the ceremony Sunday at the site of what was the largest concentration camp on Austrian soil.

Among them was Col. Richard Seibel, who, as commander of the 11th Armored Division of the U.S. Army, was the first to enter Mauthausen on May 5, 1945.

"I am not here for myself, but for those many soldiers who were here helping me in this hell," the 86-year-old veteran said. Choking back tears, he added: "I want to salute the survivors. They have surmounted evil and insanity — you are the heroes here."

Of the 200,000 people detained at Mauthausen and in various subcamps between 1938 and 1945 throughout the province of Upper Austria, more than half were killed.

Many died working as slave laborers in Mauthausen's infamous quarry. Others were shot or killed in the camp's gas chambers.

Memories of the liberation and warnings for the future were combined in an address by renowned Nazi-hunter Simon Wiesenthal, a former prisoner of the camp who was liberated there after surviving 12 other camps.

During Sunday's ceremonies, each religious group held its own commemorative services. While Roman Catholics gathered to remember the priests and other clergy imprisoned and killed at Mauthausen, Jews chanted the "El Male Rachamim" memorial prayer and "Hatikvah," the Israeli national anthem.

Vranitzky was joined by all 10 of the Social Democratic ministers of his Cabinet and by one minister of his Christian Conservative coalition partner.

In his keynote address, the chancellor made it clear that Austrians had a remarkable share in the "ice-cold planning and executing of the infamous Final Solution."

Stressing the importance of memory, Vranitzky said, "We will not tolerate anybody who does not accept the historical truth and tries to belittle the horrible mass murder in this laboratory of violence."

And, referring to the recent electoral success of Jorg Haider's right-wing extremist Freedom Party, the chancellor called upon Austrian youth not to believe in "any new fuhrer who incites people to hate each other. □

**Canada moves to deport 2 suspected of war crimes***By Gil Kezwer*

TORONTO, May 7 (JTA) — Canada has begun deportation hearings against two Ontario men suspected of committing war crimes during the Nazi occupation of Eastern Europe.

Canada's Justice Department filed papers last week accusing Johann Dueck of taking part in the killing of Jews and other civilians as a member of the Selidovka district police in German-occupied Ukraine from 1941 to 1943.

The government alleged that Dueck, now 76, concealed this information from Canadian immigration officials, thereby obtaining citizenship by "false representations or fraud."

On April 28, the government filed papers against

Helmut Oberlander, accusing him of having been a member of a commando unit that massacred hundreds of thousands of Jews in Ukraine and Crimea following the German army's advance into the southern Soviet Union in the summer and fall of 1941.

Like Dueck, the 72-year-old Oberlander faces proceedings to strip him of his Canadian citizenship for hiding his wartime record. If denaturalized, the two will then face deportation hearings.

The two cases are the third and fourth such proceedings initiated by Ottawa in the past six weeks.

On March 20, denaturalization proceedings commenced against Erichs Tobiass. The 84-year-old Toronto man was accused of participating in the execution of civilians in Latvia from 1941 to 1943 as a member of the Latvian Security Police, an SS auxiliary unit responsible for the deaths of 30,000 Latvian Jews.

Another case has been brought against 82-year-old Joseph Nemsila of Toronto, who is alleged to have been a district commander in the notorious Hlinka Guard in the Nazi puppet state of Slovakia.

He is alleged to have participated in the roundup of the country's 100,000 Jews and their wholesale deportation to Auschwitz and other death camps in Poland.

But because Nemsila is not a Canadian citizen, he will face a deportation hearing before Canada's Immigration and Refugee Board.

Last month, Nemsila's deportation hearing was postponed until May 31, in order to give him time to obtain legal counsel.

In January, the Canadian government announced that it had 12 war crimes suspects, but that it was only going to proceed against four, who were to serve as test cases.

The filing of civil rather than criminal charges in the four cases suggests that the Justice Department views the 1987 war crimes amendment to the Criminal Code as unworkable. That amendment allowed for the prosecution of war crimes committed outside Canadian jurisdiction against non-Canadians.

But none of the four cases pursued under the amendment resulted in a conviction.

One of those whom the government was unable to prosecute successfully was Imre Finta, a Hungarian police officer accused of sending 8,617 Jews to Auschwitz during WWII. He was acquitted. □

**Chile probes blast at Zionist Center***By Larry Yudelson*

NEW YORK, May 7 (JTA) — At the Jewish community's request, police in the Chilean city of Concepcion have launched a second investigation into an explosion that rocked the Zionist Center there last month.

The explosion occurred the morning of April 16, a few hours after the second Passover seder, and injured the center's two caretakers, according to reports received here by the World Jewish Congress.

The blast reportedly destroyed windows and started a fire. Police initially concluded that the blast happened in the building's heating equipment after a buildup of liquid gas.

But Chile's Jewish community requested a more thorough investigation.

According to news accounts, one of the caretakers said the center had received daily phone threats from neo-Nazis.

Juan Burotto, president of the Jewish community, reportedly said he would not rule out the possibility of anti-Zionist violence. Concepcion, about 300 miles south of Santiago, is Chile's third largest Jewish community. □