

**NEWS AT A GLANCE**

■ **U.S. Middle East peace envoy Dennis Ross arrived in Israel on a shuttle mission aimed at laying the groundwork for the resumption of talks between senior Israeli and Syrian military officers.** Ross told reporters that he saw no obstacles to the resumption of the talks by the end of the month. [Page 4]

■ **Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher and Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak will meet in Cairo on Friday to discuss the peace process,** according to the Egyptian news agency. In Jerusalem, political sources said that no final decision had yet been made. [Page 4]

■ **Israeli security forces arrested some 45 members of the Islamic fundamentalist Hamas movement.** Those arrested were suspected of planning to detonate a car bomb in Jerusalem, kidnap Israeli soldiers and hijack an Israeli bus. [Page 4]

■ **Austria adopted a law that allows for the creation of a \$50 million fund for victims of the Nazis.** The fund was created in connection with the 50th anniversary of the re-establishment of the republic as a gesture toward the victims of the Nazi regime. [Page 3]

■ **Members of the Islamic fundamentalist group Hezbollah fired on Israel Defense Force positions in the southern Lebanon security zone,** sources said. The attack came after heavy exchanges with Israeli and South Lebanon Army forces in the western sector of the security zone.

■ **Jordan has established a diplomatic office in the Gaza Strip.** A Jordanian official arrived in Gaza and is due to present his credentials to Palestine Liberation Organization leader Yasser Arafat. [Page 4]

■ **The son of executed Nazi war criminal Adolf Eichmann decided to speak publicly about his father.** "I tend to compare our family history to that of a multistage rocket," Ricardo Eichmann said in a telephone interview. "My father was the part that was dropped to the sea shortly after takeoff, while we continue flying. I am glad I do not have to live with him."

**NEWS ANALYSIS****Debate over PLO aid heats up as legislation deadline nears**

By Matthew Dorf

WASHINGTON, June 5 (JTA) — Should the Palestine Liberation Organization continue to receive American foreign aid?

Congress will answer that question before the end of this month.

In the meantime, the issue is shaping up to be the latest battleground both for proponents and opponents of the Israeli government's current peace policies.

The Middle East Peace Facilitation Act — which allows U.S. aid to go to Yasser Arafat's Palestinian Authority, permits American diplomats to talk to PLO officials and allows PLO members to travel to the United States — was enacted after Israel and the PLO signed their historic Declaration of Principles in September 1993 in Washington.

The legislation, which waives previously enacted statutes prohibiting contact with the PLO, expires June 30.

There is little doubt that Congress will extend the waivers required to allow the money to flow and the meetings to take place.

The United States pledged \$500 million to the PLO after it signed its peace accords with Israel.

Arafat has already received about \$100 million.

What remains to be decided, however, is what strings Congress will attach to the PLO's aid and how long the waivers will last.

Jewish activists on all sides of the debate hope to seize on the limited time remaining to sway Congress to their positions.

A barrage of activists — from the pro-aid Israel Policy Forum, which has slated a satellite hookup with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, to 100 Orthodox rabbis vehemently opposed to the Israel-PLO peace accords — plan a no-holds-barred campaign on Capitol Hill in the coming weeks.

"When your former enemy is in the process of becoming your ally and you feel you are increasingly sharing interests with this former enemy, it becomes important to encourage that movement," said Jonathan Jacoby, executive vice president of the Israel Policy Forum.

In contrast, opponents argue that Arafat has had his chance and continues to violate his commitments with Israel.

"By violating every aspect of his commitments proves that Arafat is not willing to live at peace with Israel," said Morton Klein, president of the Zionist Organization of America.

**Legislation may undergo changes**

As part of its 1993 Middle East Facilitation Act, Congress decided to tie ongoing aid to the PLO to its compliance with its agreements with the Jewish state.

As a result, the legislation links funding for the PLO to its commitment to recognize Israel's right to exist, to amend its covenant calling for the destruction of Israel, to renounce terrorism, to refrain from violence and to ensure that all PLO factions comply with the agreements.

As time runs out on this bill, the chairmen of the House and Senate committees that deal with foreign affairs, Sen. Jesse Helms (R-N.C.) and Rep. Benjamin Gilman (R-N.Y.), have begun to consider changes.

Congressional aides involved in the drafting of the legislation do not expect a public debate on the measure.

"Once the language is worked out and accepted by committee members we will bring it to the floor for a vote," one aide said on the condition of anonymity.

"We'll make it look tough, but in the end the goal is to get the money to the PLO," the aide said.

Although no public debate is expected, forces are already working to shape the measure.

On the right of the spectrum are those seeking to kill the legislation altogether.

Others, however, are looking only for some technical changes.

The American Israel Public Affairs Committee, the pro-Israel lobby, is working with members of Congress to "update and enhance" the

legislation "so it becomes an even more effective tool" for PLO compliance, said Steve Grossman, president of AIPAC.

AIPAC wants to include language on prosecuting terrorists and to update the bill to reflect the realities on the ground today that were not there when the agreements were first reached, he said.

Nevertheless, AIPAC will be lobbying members of Congress to support the bill.

"This act and its renewal is a key ingredient in the ongoing success of the peace process, and therefore it is essential" for it to be renewed, Grossman said.

Central to the debate is whether the PLO has adhered to its commitments under the Declaration of Principles and other agreements with Israel.

According to a State Department report released last week, the PLO has "abided by its commitments," but "more should be done."

Those who support continuing the aid are using the State Department report to bolster their position.

Many have adopted the Israeli government's view that continued aid is essential to the continuation of the peace process.

They quote Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres' logic that "we do not ask for 100 percent results, only 100 percent effort."

Opponents, in contrast, seize on Arafat's failed commitment to amend the PLO covenant, which calls for the destruction of Israel.

This camp also points out that more Israelis have been killed by terrorists since the signing of the Israel-PLO accords on the White House lawn than during the Palestinian uprising, or intifada, that preceded it.

Klein, who labeled the State Department report "a whitewash," has led a vocal fight on Capitol Hill to oppose aid to the PLO.

### **Supporters fighting tooth and nail**

Klein, who published his own sharply critical accounting of PLO compliance, has asked members of Congress to give Arafat a four- to six-month deadline to amend the PLO covenant, prosecute terrorists, disarm Hamas and other Palestinian militants, extradite terrorists to Israel and stop inciting hatred of Israel through hostile speeches.

"By pretending that the PLO is in compliance, the State Department is sending a message that Arafat doesn't really have to comply," Klein said.

Activists supporting the peace process have fought Klein tooth and nail on the issue.

"I don't think that Congress wants to be single-handedly responsible for killing the peace process," said Tom Smerling, executive director of Project Nishma, a group that backs the peace process.

"Making policy for Gaza from 5,000 miles away is unwise," Smerling said.

"Congress would not be in the business of considering micromanaging the DOP if it were not for Jewish opponents of the peace process urging them on," Smerling added.

Klein has vehemently denied that he is opposed to the peace process.

"We owe it to the Israelis to trust them on this," Smerling said. "It's their lives and future at stake. For us to say we know more about the Palestinians than you do is arrogant and ridiculous."

But opponents of aid say it is their money and they should have a say where it goes.

"As an American taxpayer, I demand a right and a voice in where money is distributed," said Rabbi Steven Pruzansky, who will lead an international coalition of 100

Orthodox rabbis through Capitol Hill visits next week.

"It would be an outrage to send any more American money down the rat hole of Gaza. The PLO is still a terrorist organization that failed to comply in large part with its agreements," said Pruzansky of Congregation Bnai Yeshurun in Teaneck, N.J.

Also on the opposition side, Beth Gilinsky, president of the Jewish Action Alliance, said she is sitting on tens of thousands of letters to members of Congress opposing aid to the PLO.

Gilinsky said she is planning to deliver the letters later this month at a Capitol Hill rally with Christian pro-Israel groups and other opponents of the current peace process.

Although the opposition has been more vocal over the past months — arguing incessantly against continued funding unless the PLO lives up to its accords — organized American Jewry's heavy hitters have begun to weigh in to support an extension of the legislation.

In addition to AIPAC, the National Jewish Community Relations Advisory Council has joined the fray.

In a letter sent last month to all members of Congress, the Jewish umbrella group asked lawmakers to "endorse our government's commitment of economic assistance to the Palestinians" by extending the legislation allowing the PLO to receive American aid.

The Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations has not yet taken a stand on the issue, but Malcolm Hoenlein, the group's executive vice chairman, said he envisions a consensus in favor of extending the waivers with some modifications.

"The fact is that Arafat has not done all that he should have," Hoenlein said. "I envision that the conference will find the need to press for compliance and hold Arafat's feet to the fire but support continued funding."

Hoenlein was quick to point out that "even the Likud," Israel's opposition party, supports continued funding for the Palestinians, but says the money should go directly to fund projects, not the Palestinian Authority.

For active supporters of the peace process, the issue of Palestinian aid has become a rallying cry for their cause. "The Jewish community has had a problem finding concrete things around which to rally in favor of the peace process," said Jacoby of the Israel Policy Forum.

"Finally, this is something the Jewish community can support," he said. □

### **Life gets back to normal after Katyushas rain on north**

*By Naomi Segal*

JERUSALEM, June 5 (JTA) — Life returned to normal for residents of the north, after a Katyusha attack by fundamentalist Islamic Hezbollah terrorists.

In a statement released in Lebanon, Hezbollah said the attack last week was in retaliation for the shelling a day earlier of the village Shakra, north of the southern Lebanon security zone.

A 12-year-old girl was reportedly killed and two other youths injured in the shelling.

Eight Katyusha rockets fell inside Israel, causing minor damage but no injuries.

In Israel, residents of Kiryat Shmona called on the government to take action to prevent future attacks.

Mayor Prosper Azran said residents of the city feel as though they are living under a military regime.

"In the last 27 years, more than 1,700 missiles have fallen, more than 1,000 buildings were damaged, more than 300 people were injured and 40 people died," he told Israel Radio.

"We're tired from this kind of life." □

**Austria creates national fund as gesture toward Nazi victims***By Alissa Kaplan*

NEW YORK, June 5 (JTA) — Austria has adopted a law that allows for the creation of a \$50 million fund for victims of the Nazis.

The fund, officially known as the National Fund of the Republic of Austria for the Victims of National Socialism, was created in connection with the 50th anniversary of the re-establishment of the republic as a gesture toward the victims of the Nazi regime.

The law, adopted June 1, was introduced by Austria's governing coalition parties.

Elan Steinberg, executive director of the World Jewish Congress, said he would reserve judgment concerning the fund until the final details are worked out.

"This is Austria's way of paying reparations without calling it reparations," he said.

The use of the term "reparations" implies taking responsibility for the persecution of various peoples during World War II, he said. Taking responsibility has nothing to do with money, Steinberg added.

"Austria, for nearly half a century, has presented itself as the first victim of Hitler," he said.

However, the fund is better than what existed for victims in the past, he said, "because in the past, there was nothing."

According to a news release from the Austrian government, beneficiaries of the fund are people who were "persecuted by the Nazi regime out of political, racial, religious or ethnic reasons; because of their sexual orientation; or [because of] their disabilities."

Beneficiaries also include those who had to leave Austria because of other reasons mentioned and those "who received no or insufficient payments, who are particularly needy or whose support seems otherwise justified," according to the release.

About 25,000 to 30,000 Jews from Austria are alive from the World War II period, Steinberg said.

The Austrian government said it has names and addresses of 12,000 people who are eligible for compensation. More are expected to register their claims.

"They are entitled to compensation for the material damage caused by the Austrian Nazi regime," Steinberg said.

A Viennese Jewish leader, Paul Grosz, reportedly expressed concern about the bill because it did not specify how much money each person would receive or whether a person could apply for extra cash in special circumstances.

"I cannot view this as a victory," Grosz said.

Jorg Haider, whose far-right party won about a quarter of the votes in a general election in October, backed down from his earlier opposition to the fund and voted for it. The extremist party had wanted Austrians who suffered from the Allied occupation after the war also to be eligible for the fund. □

**Touvier loses last appeal for crimes against humanity***By Michel Di Paz*

PARIS, June 5 (JTA) — Paul Touvier, the first and only Frenchman convicted for crimes against humanity, has lost his last appeal against the life sentence imposed on him April 20, 1994.

The Cour de Cassation, France's supreme court, rejected the appeal June 1.

Touvier and his lawyers have exhausted all possible legal ways to change the sentence, according to French law.

Touvier, who was the head of the collaborationist French militia of Lyon during World War II, was involved in the execution of seven Jewish hostages in Rillieux-la-Pape on June 29, 1944.

He can ask for the pardon of French President Jacques Chirac, but the chances of success of such a request are not good, according to observers here.

Three other Frenchmen — Rene Bousquet, Jean Leguay and Maurice Papon — have been charged with crimes against humanity, but their cases never went to trial.

Bousquet was appointed Vichy minister of police in 1942. He was charged with having ordered the arrest and deportation of tens of thousands of Jews during the war. But when he was about to be indicted for crimes against humanity, he was murdered. The man who killed Bousquet on June 8, 1993, was described as mentally unbalanced.

Leguay was indicted in 1979 for organizing the first mass roundup of French Jews in 1942. In 1989, only weeks before the start of prosecution, he died of natural causes at the age of 79.

Papon was a high-ranking member of the French administration in charge of the Bordeaux area during World War II. At a time when his region was not yet occupied by the Nazis, he signed orders to arrest and deport 1,690 Jews.

Papon, now in his 80s, served the French government after the war, becoming a Cabinet member in the 1970s. Papon was first charged with crimes against humanity in 1981 and was indicted in 1983.

He has not been brought to trial and some believe that he never will. But according to some reports leaked to the press before last month's presidential election, Papon may stand trial in the fall. □

**Synod begins in Holy Land; first to convene in 2 millenia***By Naomi Segal*

JERUSALEM, June 5 (JTA) — The Catholic Church has convened a synod here, the first to take place in the Holy Land in 2,000 years.

Church leaders and Christian intellectuals from Israel, Jordan and the Palestinian autonomous zones are participating in the event, which will include a series of discussions and meetings on social, religious and political affairs that is expected to last several years.

The official opening was marked with a religious ceremony at the Beit Jala seminary, near Bethlehem.

Latin Patriarch Michel Sabbah, the chief Roman Catholic clergyman in the region, is presiding over the synod, which will also include Greek Catholics, Armenian Catholics, Syrian Catholics, Maronites and Chaldeans.

All the churches represented at the synod recognize the authority of the pope.

Father Rafiq Khoury, secretary-general of the synod, said that at its conclusion, participants will produce a document on the role of Christians today in the Holy Land.

Some of the meetings are being held in Jerusalem, which has been at the center of renewed debate as Israel and the Palestinians are set to discuss its final status in negotiations beginning in 1996.

Some said they expect the synod to address political issues such as the status of Jerusalem and Palestinian rights.

But Khoury said the synod would not directly deal with political issues connected to the peace process.

"Naturally, Jerusalem is at the center of the initiative," he said, "but this is not a political gathering, it is a spiritual and religious one." □

**Rabin, Christopher, Mubarak to talk in Cairo about peace***By Naomi Segal*

JERUSALEM, June 5 (JTA) — Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher and Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak will meet Friday in Cairo to discuss the peace process, according to the Egyptian news agency.

In Jerusalem, political sources confirmed that the possibility of such a meeting had been raised.

But they said no final decision had been made, Israel Radio reported.

The Egyptian announcement Monday of the three-way Cairo summit came as U.S. Middle East peace envoy Dennis Ross arrived in Israel on a shuttle mission aimed at laying the groundwork for the resumption of talks between senior Israeli and Syrian military officers, which are set to resume at the end of the month.

Ross met with Rabin as well as with the Israel Defense Force chief of staff, Lt. Gen. Amnon Lipkin-Shahak.

Ross told reporters after the meeting that he saw no obstacles to the resumption of talks between Israeli and Syrian military officers. The military talks were suspended in December.

"One of the most important purposes of my trip is to be working on the resumption of talks between senior military officers by the end of June," Ross told reporters.

He also said he could not confirm that the Friday meeting in Cairo would take place, adding that Christopher's final itinerary had not yet been worked out.

Earlier Monday, Israeli leaders spoke optimistically about the peace track with Syria.

Rabin, addressing a Labor Party convention in Tel Aviv, said Israel is on the brink of resuming peace talks with the Syrians.

He repeated his pledge that any draft of a peace treaty with Syria would be brought before the Israeli public in a national referendum.

"I believe that a majority of Israelis would approve peace with Syria," Rabin said, "even if it is accompanied by a painful withdrawal" from the Golan Heights, the key Syrian demand for establishing peace with the Jewish state.

Foreign Minister Shimon Peres told the convention delegates that there are only seven months left to reach peace with Syria.

If it is not achieved by then, he said, it will not happen until after Israel's 1996 national elections. □

**45 Hamas members arrested; most-wanted terrorist killed***By Naomi Segal*

JERUSALEM, June 5 (JTA) — Israeli security forces have arrested some 45 members of the Islamic fundamentalist Hamas movement.

Those arrested were suspected of planning to detonate a car bomb in Jerusalem, kidnap Israeli soldiers, shoot at army roadblocks and hijack an Israeli bus, according to an Israel Defense Force statement issued Monday.

The group was led by Mohammed Daya, a leader of the military wing of Hamas from the Gaza Strip, Israel Radio said.

He was said to be responsible for planning last October's kidnapping of Cpl. Nachshon Waxman, who was later killed during a shootout between his kidnapers and an elite Israeli commando unit that was attempting to rescue him.

Most of those arrested were from villages surrounding Jerusalem, Israel Television said.

The arrests, which were carried out over several days, came after a shootout last Friday in the West Bank town of Hebron in which Israeli soldiers killed a Hamas terrorist who was on Israel's most-wanted list.

Israel Radio reported that the terrorist, who was later identified as Hamed Yamour, was found by Israeli security officials in a suspected hideout of Muslim militants.

A gun battle ensued when Yamour refused an order to surrender.

Israeli troops ended the siege by firing anti-tank missiles at the house.

Yamour's body was later found in the demolished building.

The head of the IDF's central command, Maj. Gen. Ilan Biran, told Israel Radio that Yamour was one of the most-wanted members of Hamas. He added that Yamour had been involved in a number of terror attacks against Israelis.

A curfew was imposed in Hebron and in nearby Halhoul last Friday as Israeli security forces conducted searches for other suspected terrorists.

Meanwhile, Jordan has expelled two senior Hamas activists.

The expulsion was in accordance with a Palestine Liberation Organization request, media reports said.

The two men were identified as Mussa Abu Marzuk, an important leader in Hamas' international leadership, and Im'ad al-Almi, who is Hamas' ambassador in Tehran, Iran. □

**Court to retry man convicted for plotting Hadera bus blast***By Naomi Segal*

JERUSALEM, June 5 (JTA) — A military appeals court in the West Bank town of Ramallah ordered a retrial last week of the case of a Palestinian who was sentenced to death for plotting a fatal terror attack.

In mid-November, Said Badarneh was sentenced to death for involvement in the Hadera suicide bus bombing. In the attack, which took place April 13, 1994, five Israelis were killed and 30 people were wounded.

In their ruling last week, the judges ordered a retrial because of irregularities in the original trial.

Among the irregularities cited were the lack of an evidentiary hearing and the illegal use of evidence from a Hamas activist.

The lawyer representing Badarneh welcomed the decision. In the initial trial, Badarneh, who never denied the charges against him, was found to have played a central role in the planning of the attack.

The five-judge panel was expected to overturn the death sentence and instead impose six concurrent life sentences, Israel Radio reported. □

**Jordan establishes Gaza Strip office***By Naomi Segal*

JERUSALEM, June 5 (JTA) — Jordan has established a diplomatic office in the Gaza Strip.

A senior Jordanian diplomat arrived Monday in Gaza to take up his duties as the Hashemite kingdom's representative.

Ziad Majali, 43, a former head of the political department at the Jordanian Foreign Ministry, is due to present his credentials to Palestine Liberation Organization leader Yasser Arafat later this month.

Eight other countries have representatives in Gaza: Egypt, Morocco, Tunisia, Germany, Norway, Denmark, Greece and Turkey. □