

**NEWS AT A GLANCE**

■ Students at a Salt Lake City high school who sang religious songs at the school's graduation did not violate a court order because the ban had named only the school board and the choir's director, according to the 10th Circuit Court of Appeals in Denver. School officials said some students may face disciplinary action.

■ U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher wrapped up a visit to the Middle East by announcing officially that top-level military officials from Israel and Syria will resume their negotiations June 27 in Washington. He also announced that negotiations would resume on nonmilitary issues. [Page 3]

■ Palestine Liberation Organization leader Yasser Arafat called on Israel to meet a July 1 deadline for reaching agreement on implementing the next phase of Palestinian self-rule. The call came after Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin said that he doubted the talks could be completed by July 1. [Page 3]

■ The Israeli army is ready to withdraw troops from four cities in the West Bank, the Israeli daily Ha'aretz reported. Senior military sources told the paper that the army is ready to withdraw from Jenin, Nablus, Tulkarm and Kalkilya.

■ Israeli security forces closed two mosques in the West Bank after determining that they were serving as bases for extremist activities. A Hebron mosque was closed for six months, and a Nablus mosque for three months, after anti-Israeli materials were found on the premises.

■ Israel's fervently Orthodox community launched a boycott of companies that run commercials on television and radio on Shabbat and holidays. Several major companies already announced their full compliance with the community's demands. [Page 3]

■ Justice Minister David Libai took over the Interior Ministry portfolio, a post he is expected to hold temporarily. He took over from Tourism Minister Uzi Baram, who announced in mid-May that he would step down from the position in order to spend more time with his ill wife.

**CHANGING RELATIONS [Part 2]****Plan to restructure UJA and CJF could alter relationship with Israel**

By Larry Yudelson

NEW YORK, June 11 (JTA) — A new proposal to reorganize the central institutions of the American Jewish fund-raising structure is raising profound questions about the centrality of Israel in American Jewish life.

Some experts and communal leaders fear a restructuring plan now being considered by the United Jewish Appeal and the Council of Jewish Federations could weaken American Jewry's ties with Israel.

But defenders of the proposal, now under discussion by a joint UJA-CJF task force, say the relationship is unlikely to change, because Israel will remain at the center of the American Jewish community's fund-raising efforts.

Whatever the case, critics and proponents of the plan alike agree that a complete overhaul of the fund-raising structure is long overdue.

And the fact that both sides are speaking of the plan's potential impact on Israel-Diaspora relations indicates the sweeping nature of the changes now being contemplated.

The outcome of these discussions could completely change the way American Jews contribute money to Israel. And because the strength of American Jewry's relationship to the Jewish state is often measured in philanthropic dollars, any change in the way American Jews give to Israel could alter the way they relate to Israel, observers say.

The plan under consideration is the first concrete proposal to emerge from a two-year "Study of the National Structure" that UJA and CJF jointly launched last year.

It calls on UJA, traditionally responsible for raising money to aid Jews overseas, to take on all fund-raising responsibilities, operating a unified national campaign for the federation system that would cover local, national and overseas needs.

CJF, the association of Jewish federations in North America, would concentrate on community building. But it would also have an increased role in the governance of UJA, controlling at least 40 percent of the UJA board.

UJA is now owned jointly by the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, which provides humanitarian relief for Jews around the world, and by the United Israel Appeal, which funds the social services provided by the Jewish Agency for Israel.

**Proposal calls for JDC to give up control of UJA**

Under the task force blueprint, the Joint would relinquish control of UJA, and the United Israel Appeal would cease to exist altogether, with UJA picking up its duties.

The proposal would theoretically save money by bringing UJA and CJF into the same building, centralizing administrative services and eliminating overlapping programs.

The plan immediately encountered roadblocks when it was presented to the task force at its May meeting. "We began a heated Jewish discussion of the issue, with no conclusion," said Joel Tauber, chairman of UJA's board of trustees and one of the co-authors of the proposal.

Among the vexing issues that the task force is grappling with are:

- Will Israel remain the center of American Jewish fund-raising efforts?

- Will Israel's share of federation campaign proceeds continue to decline?

From its creation, Israel has been the driving engine of American Jewish philanthropy.

A chart of UJA revenue mirrors a graph of the Jewish state's drama: Peaks of income came in the wake of Israel's creation and initial absorption of refugees, the 1967 Six-Day War, the 1973 Yom Kippur War and the mass immigration of Jews from the former Soviet Union in this decade.

UJA owes its existence to local community federations, which in 1938 successfully urged the two major appeals for overseas Jewry — the Joint and what was then called the United Palestine Appeal — to conduct a joint campaign.

The success of this combined overseas campaign led community

federations gradually to merge the local arm of the UJA campaign with their own fund-raising drives for local needs. The last of these mergers took place in 1986, when New York's Federation of Jewish Philanthropies joined with the local UJA to become UJA-Federation of New York.

Under this combined system, donors solicited by either their local federation or national UJA write one check to the federation. The federation then allocates a percentage of its campaign proceeds each year to UJA, to support humanitarian programs in Israel and elsewhere overseas.

The problem is that in recent years, this percentage, which once surpassed 50 percent, has been dropping significantly in city after city, as federations allocate more money to fund Jewish education and pressing social service needs.

In effect, after UJA convinces donors to write a check to a federation, it then has to convince the federations to send more of that check on to UJA.

UJA's leadership comes from the ranks of major donors particularly concerned about Israel and other overseas concerns. CJF's leaders reflect the priorities of federations, which in recent years have become increasingly preoccupied with local needs.

#### **Critics warn of diluted support for Israel**

Critics are saying the blueprint now being debated could dilute support for Israel, by broadening UJA's mandate and diversifying its governance.

"Part of the defining logic of the system has a tension between some people whose first priority is to Israel, and some people whose priority is to the local community," said Samuel Norich.

Norich is author of "What Will Bind Us Now: A Report on the Institutional Ties Between Israel and American Jewry," which last year analyzed the role of the central fund-raising institutions in maintaining the Israel-Diaspora relationship, and the potential impact of changes in the structure.

Norich said the essence of the new proposal is that UJA will lose its primary mission of raising funds for Jews overseas to become the fund-raising arm of continental Jewry and the local needs of each federation.

"I can't help but see it as bad news for the Israel-Diaspora relationship," he said.

But Tauber of UJA, who co-chairs the task force, maintains that Israel will remain at the center of the Jewish philanthropic enterprise. And he said it is not philosophy alone that dictates Israel's centrality, but reality.

"Our emphasis on Israel still raises the most amount of dollars, so from that point of view it will continue to be the centerpiece of everything we do at UJA," he said.

Moreover, the reason that UJA is "even considering the proposal," he said, is because it would contain assurances that the federations would raise or at least maintain their current level of allocations for overseas needs.

The proposal gave two suggestions for boosting the share going overseas.

One would have federations give a five-year guarantee to keep the overseas allocation at the current level.

The other would "recognize that the new structure should produce more productive campaigns" and seek agreement that UJA get a higher share of the increase, with an aim toward again achieving the once common 50-50 split.

The feasibility of any such plan is very much open to question, because each federation is autonomous.

"It's not clear who would ask them to give up their autonomy, and if they would want to," said Daniel Shapiro, a CJF representative on the task force.

But another task force member insisted that without such assurances from the federations, "there will not be major movement of any nature" in the restructuring process.

In the end, any proposal will require the full consent of all four concerned parties: UJA, CJF, the Joint and the United Israel Appeal.

According to Frank Strauss, director of communications at CJF, the committee hopes to present a final plan for consideration by the end of the year.

But others involved talk of a much longer timetable.

"When New York merged [UJA and the federation], it was an eight- to 10-year process," observed one committee member. Although the plan afoot falls short of a merger, said this member, "we're talking about a process that's going to take time." □

#### **Parties sign agreement to keep newspaper alive**

*By Naomi Segal*

JERUSALEM, June 11 (JTA) — The struggle to keep the 70-year-old newspaper Davar alive seems to have been successful.

An agreement was signed last week by representatives of the Histadrut; the management of Davar; and representatives from the journalists' committee, who have been fighting to keep the paper afloat.

Under the agreement, the Histadrut will hand over all its holdings in the paper to the journalists and investors — who have yet to be found — by the end of the year.

The Histadrut will pay more than \$300,000 a year for the paper. Veteran journalist Ron Ben Yishai was named editor in chief of the paper. □

#### **Islamic Jihad leader's wife will not regain citizenship**

*By Naomi Segal*

JERUSALEM, June 11 (JTA) — The High Court of Justice has refused to reinstate the citizenship of the wife of an Islamic Jihad leader deported from Israel.

Fathia Shakaki, wife of the secretary of the fundamentalist Islamic Jihad movement, had petitioned the High Court for the return of her identity card.

The justices, however, ruled in favor of the Interior Ministry's decision not to grant Shakaki citizenship rights.

Shakaki had been living in Syria for six years, essentially relocating the center of her life, the justices said. □

#### **Cyclists rev up for peace**

*By Naomi Segal*

JERUSALEM, June 11 (JTA) — Five Jordanian motorcyclists crossed into Israel last week to take part in a "peace ride," from the Jordanian capital of Amman to Haifa.

They crossed over the Sheik Hussein Bridge, near Beit She'an, and continued to Haifa.

The event was organized by the Beit HaGefen Center in Haifa as part of activities scheduled for Arab culture month.

One of the cyclists told Israel Radio that the group came to underscore the peace process, and that Jordanian authorities helped them in every way to take part in the peace ride. □

**Christopher mission succeeds  
in jump-starting Israeli-Syrian talks***By Naomi Segal*

JERUSALEM, June 11 (JTA) — U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher wrapped up his 13th round of Middle East shuttle diplomacy, having secured his main objective: the resumption of military talks between Israel and Syria.

Although the talks were essentially agreed upon last month, Christopher announced that top-level military officials from Israel and Syria would resume their negotiations later this month in Washington.

Christopher, returning to Israel on Saturday night after meeting earlier in the day with Syrian President Hafez Assad, said the June 27 talks in Washington would bring together the chief of staff of the Israel Defense Force, Lt. Gen. Amnon Lipkin-Shahak, and his Syrian counterpart, Lt. Gen. Hikmat Shihabi.

The talks are expected to last two or three days, Christopher said. After a break to allow the two sides to review the discussions, negotiations are scheduled to resume in Washington at a lower military level. The resumption of military talks comes after similar negotiations in Washington in December were abruptly halted by Syria.

The two sides are trying to reach agreement on security arrangements for an Israeli withdrawal from the Golan Heights as part of a peace deal with Syria.

Christopher also announced that, along with the military talks, negotiations would resume between the Israeli and Syrian ambassadors on non-military issues.

The secretary offered a highly optimistic assessment of the prospects for achieving an agreement on the Israeli-Syrian track.

**Clinton willing to 'go the extra mile'**

"I think that this trip has reinforced my feeling that there is a tremendous opportunity to move now toward a goal of a comprehensive peace, perhaps a better opportunity than at any time during the two-and-a-half years that I have been in office," Christopher said.

Christopher also said President Clinton was willing to return to the region if his presence would help move the long-troubled talks forward.

But State Department spokesman Nicholas Burns said later that the president had no immediate plans to visit the region. He said Christopher's statement was only intended to indicate that Clinton was willing to "go the extra mile" to achieve peace.

Christopher, in addition to visiting Israel and Syria, traveled to Egypt last Friday for a three-way meeting with Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak.

The session, which brought the Israeli and Egyptian leaders together for the first time in four months, was intended to clear up recent tensions between the two countries that arose over an Egyptian demand that Israel sign the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, a move that Israel refused.

"I believe we turned a new page in the Egyptian-Israeli relationship, one that is promising as we build for the future," Christopher said after the meeting.

Christopher also met over the weekend with Palestine Liberation Organization leader Yasser Arafat in the West Bank Jericho enclave. And he made a short stopover in Jordan on Sunday before flying home to Washington.

On the Israeli-Palestinian track, Arafat called on Israel to meet a previously agreed upon July 1 deadline for reaching agreement on implementing the next phase of

Palestinian self-rule. Rabin said last Friday that he doubted that the talks could be completed by July 1.

Palestinian official Yasser Abed Rabbo, responding to Rabin's comments, said Saturday that the Palestinian Authority would seek international arbitration if the deadline is not met. □

**Fervently Orthodox campaign  
against Shabbat commercials***By Uriel Masad*

TEL AVIV, June 11 (JTA) — Israel's fervently Orthodox community has launched a campaign against companies that run commercials on television and radio on Shabbat and Jewish holidays.

Several major companies have already announced their full compliance with the restrictions on commercials demanded by the fervently Orthodox community, which constitutes some 20 percent of Israeli society.

The boycott campaign was launched June 2 by the daily newspaper Yated Ne'eman, which serves the fervently Orthodox community of Bnei Brak. The paper launched the campaign with the publication of a list of companies whose commercials are aired on Saturday and on Jewish holidays.

Although the information was provided without any threats or recommendation, the newspaper's readers were expected to understand the implications and act accordingly.

Consumer boycotts by the fervently Orthodox community in the past have proven effective. One particular campaign against billboards that bore what were considered lascivious advertisements succeeded.

Many leading companies changed their advertisements to fit the demands of the fervently Orthodox community.

The director-general of Yated Ne'eman, Ya'akov Lavin, said in an interview that the goal of the latest campaign was to get Israel Television's Second Channel, as well as regional radio stations that are expected to start full operations in September, to follow Israel Radio's example and not broadcast any commercials on holidays.

Israel Radio, which operates two commercial stations, does not run commercials on Shabbat and on holidays as the result of an agreement reached by the Orthodox political parties and David Ben-Gurion when the State of Israel was established.

According to Lavin, the fervently Orthodox community, which rarely watches television, only recently become aware of the commercials. When the news of these commercials reached the community, he said, the newspaper launched the campaign.

Among those companies listed in the newspaper were such national food companies as Tnuva, Tivol, Elite and Osem, the soft drink manufacturer Tempo, the baby food maker Materna and the clothier Bagir.

Coca-Cola, Snowcrest and the dairy company Strauss have yet to respond to the demands of the fervently Orthodox community. The dairy company Tene-Noga so far stands alone in saying that it will not comply with the community's demands.

Those companies that do not comply could lose the kashrut certification given them by the Badatz, the fervently Orthodox courts. Without the Badatz approval, no one in this community would purchase the company's products.

Follow-ups to check for compliance with the community's demands are performed by gentiles who are hired to watch for commercials on holidays and by companies that set their equipment on timers and then examine the recordings on non-holidays. □

## **A German town debates place of swastikas on graves**

*By Gil Sedan*

BONN, June 11 (JTA) — Fifty-year-old swastikas on the headstones of German soldiers have been removed in a northern German town, despite a church resolution to leave them intact.

And in an unusual twist, the German church that oversees the cemetery in Osternburg now has to decide whether to replace the Nazi symbols.

When Osternburg resident Wolf Hertlein spotted the swastikas during a visit to the cemetery, he told the authorities of the Evangelical Lutheran Church that he wanted them removed from the gravestones.

Hertlein persisted even when the church denied his request. He went to the media, which played up the story.

The issue sparked a major debate in the town. The church received some 1,000 appeals urging that the graves remain intact.

At an emergency meeting convened by the church, leaders decided not to remove the swastikas.

The swastikas should remain in place because they have served as a memorial to the "wicked regime for which those soldiers had given their lives," the leaders said.

Others in the community disagreed, and some residents in Osternburg took the matter into their own hands.

They showed up at the cemetery one morning last week and removed the swastikas from 13 of the 14 graves that had them.

The church will now have to grapple with whether it will order the reinstallation of swastikas on graves, 50 years after the end of the Nazi regime.

The community's rabbi, Henry Brandt, distanced himself from the debate.

"This is entirely a matter for the non-Jews to decide," he said. □

## **Labor Party wants increase in female presence on roster**

*By Naomi Segal*

JERUSALEM, June 11 (JTA) — The Labor Party has voted to increase the number of women represented on its Knesset roster.

The move came after female delegates boycotted a party convention last week.

A proposal put forward at the June 5 convention would guarantee women six of the first 44 seats on the party roster.

In Israeli elections, the electorate votes for parties rather than individuals. The number of Knesset seats for each party is determined by the percentage of votes obtained.

Female Labor delegates were still considering the proposal. They had originally demanded 20 percent representation on the list.

Labor and Social Affairs Minister Ora Namir said she would not rule out the formation of an independent women's lobby within the party that would continue the battle for more representation.

Earlier, the convention also decided to put off debating the implementation of the law calling for the direct election of the prime minister. The 1996 elections will be the first time Israelis vote directly for prime minister.

Deputy Foreign Minister Yossi Beilin, who opposes the law, called on the convention to debate the issue at the meeting.

But the convention overwhelmingly voted to delay discussion until March 1996.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin had urged members of the convention not to discuss the matter now, saying it would be a grave mistake to have an internal argument during crucial months of the peace process.

Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, who opposes the law, sided with Rabin, saying now is not the time to get bogged down by a discussion. □

## **Investigator for Shin Bet to face disciplinary tribunal**

*By Naomi Segal*

JERUSALEM, June 11 (JTA) — An investigator from Israel's Shin Bet domestic intelligence agency who carried out an interrogation that allegedly led to the death of a suspected Palestinian terrorist two months ago will not be brought up on criminal charges, the state prosecutor announced last week.

Instead, the investigator will face a disciplinary tribunal, said State Attorney Dorit Beinish.

Beinish noted that after reviewing an earlier inquiry into the incident conducted by the Justice Ministry's division for investigating security officials, it could not be proven conclusively that the interrogator's treatment of the detainee, Abdel Samed Harizat, led to his death.

Harizat was brought to a Jerusalem jail on April 22 for interrogation about his involvement in a Hamas cell in the West Bank town of Hebron.

Later that day, he was brought, unconscious, to Hadassah Hospital.

He died three days later.

The results of a court-ordered autopsy indicated that Harizat died as the result of a brain hemorrhage caused by violent shaking of his head.

The Justice Ministry investigation found that Harizat's interrogators grabbed his shirt and shook him several times during questioning.

Forensic experts said this treatment could have caused his death.

But they added that it could have come as the result of a cumulative effect from earlier shakings.

They noted that even though being shaken by the shoulders can cause death, it is an extremely rare phenomenon.

Beinish said due to the fact that the investigator could not have foreseen that his actions would result in the death of Harizat, criminal charges could not be brought against him.

Events surrounding Harizat's death have led the head of Shin Bet to call on investigators to review standing orders regarding proper interrogation procedures for security prisoners.

The incident also led a ministerial committee overseeing interrogations to review its recent decision to ease restrictions on interrogation methods for questioning suspected Hamas and Islamic Jihad terrorists.

The decision to ease restrictions was made several months ago by the committee, which is headed by Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, as part of the battle against terror.

The decision allowed interrogators to use "moderate physical force" during interrogation for a limited period of time.

But Justice Minister David Libai, who also sits on the committee, said interrogation procedures should be reviewed because of Harizat's death.

One observer noted that it would be unlikely Rabin would agree to any significant changes in interrogation methods that might impede the ability of Shin Bet to fight terror. □