

**NEWS AT A GLANCE**

■ **Palestine Liberation Organization leader Yasser Arafat joined a hunger strike to show support for Palestinian prisoners held in Israeli jails. Palestinians in the Gaza Strip and West Bank also joined the strike.**

■ **Anti-Semitism rooted in radical Islam poses an increasing threat to Jewish security worldwide, according to a newly released analysis of global anti-Jewish bias. [Page 4]**

■ **Israeli officials said the pace of an Israel Defense Force redeployment in the West Bank would be determined by the speed of building bypass roads to protect Jewish settlements in the territories. "The main concern is how to ensure security on the roads," said Foreign Minister Shimon Peres.**

■ **An Israeli woman has taken her case to Israel's High Court of Justice in an effort to gain entry into the Israeli Air Force's combat pilot training course. All previous efforts by Alice Miller to get into the course have proven unsuccessful.**

■ **Hungarian ultranationalist Istvan Csurka reiterated some of the anti-Semitic sentiments for which he is known during a recent public commemoration in Budapest. Csurka predicted that Hungary would one day be inhabited only by Russians, Ukrainians, Jews and Gypsies. [Page 2]**

■ **King Hussein of Jordan proved that America needs to maintain its health care system, according to Speaker of the House Newt Gingrich (R-Ga.). Gingrich cited Hussein's recent visit to the Mayo Clinic for cancer treatment as an example of how America's strength in health care generates revenue.**

■ **Having ruled that the Israeli government's peace policies violate Jewish law, a group of Orthodox rabbis has issued a similar ruling aimed at the U.S. government. Jewish law prohibits funding of the Palestine Liberation Organization "without the closest scrutiny as to whom the money is reaching," the International Rabbinical Coalition for Israel said. [Page 3]**

**Remarks of Polish priest trigger international protest**

By Ruth E. Gruber

KRAKOW, Poland, June 21 (JTA) — A well-known priest's anti-Semitic remarks — and the refusal of President Lech Walesa to condemn them — have triggered a controversy in Poland and around the world.

Jewish leaders in Poland expressed deep concern that the affair might set a precedent for the acceptance of open anti-Semitism in mainstream political discourse prior to Poland's presidential elections this fall.

"Nothing good has been said by the president, which is perhaps the worst part of the affair," said Stanislaw Krajewski, Polish consultant for the American Jewish Committee.

"This means to me that the president is ready to fight for the votes of anti-Semites in the presidential elections," added Krajewski, who is also the Jewish co-chairman of the Polish Council of Christians and Jews.

The Rev. Henryk Jankowski, a close friend and longtime political ally of Walesa since the rise of the solidarity movement in 1980, used anti-Semitic language in a June 11 sermon in the northern city of Gdansk at a service that Walesa attended.

Jankowski later reiterated his statements in a declaration to the press.

He accused Jews of "satanic greed" and other actions that caused historical "tragedies," including both World War II and the rise of communism.

In the sermon, in which he expressed his support for Walesa in the upcoming elections, Jankowski said, "Poles, bestir yourselves. We can no longer tolerate being governed by people who have not declared whether they come from Moscow or Israel."

He said the "Star of David is implicated in the swastika as well as the hammer and sickle."

Jewish organizations in Poland immediately condemned the priest's remarks and expressed surprise that Walesa had not opposed Jankowski's statements on the spot.

In a statement to the Polish Press Agency on June 14, Jankowski denied that he was an anti-Semite.

**Walesa refuses to repudiate priest's remarks**

But at the same time, he reiterated his view in even stronger language.

"The Star of David symbolizes not only the state of Israel, but also the Jewish nation," he said. "Like all other people, the Jews happen to do unbecoming things in public life just as they happen to do very noble things indeed. I am talking about banking and finance circles. Their actions have led to many a human tragedy."

"Also note the political and public activities in all areas of life," he said. "All those elements, that satanic greed — we can say this with no doubt — were the cause of communism and of World War II."

At a news conference Sunday, Walesa refused to repudiate the priest's remarks, adding that Jankowski was a good friend of his and was not an anti-Semite.

During an interview on Polish radio later in the day, Walesa said, "I am a friend of Father [Jankowski], a friend of many years. I want to say that [he] really is not an anti-Semite. And because I know this, I do not speak up. But I fear that some want to create anti-Semitism in Poland, and this is why I do not like this."

The priest's remarks, coupled with Walesa's ambivalent reaction to them, raised concern and outrage among Jews and drew protest from other quarters.

Konstanty Gebert, a noted Jewish journalist, wrote in the Polish newspaper *Gazeta Wyborcza* on Tuesday that Walesa "has given his official blessing to anti-Semitism and has attempted to gag its critics through blackmail."

Gebert said it was "shameful and grotesque" that Jankowski maintained that he was not an anti-Semite while making anti-Semitic pronouncements.

The Polish PEN Club, a writers group, appealed to all authorities and

organizations to express a clear stand on this "blind anti-Semitic hatred."

Some Church officials voiced disapproval of Jankowski's statements, but as of Monday night, the Polish Episcopate Conference had not spoken out.

But the secretary of the Roman Catholic episcopate, Bishop Tadeusz Pieronek, told *Gazeta Wyborcza* that the sermon "was irresponsible" and "in one move ruins the achievements of a long work of cooperation between the church and the Jews."

Gdansk Archbishop Tadeusz Goclawski told a radio interviewer that he deplored Jankowski's words.

"That utterance was wrongful, and I, as the bishop of Gdansk, want to apologize," he said.

Also, the Polish Episcopate's Commission for Dialogue with Judaism issued a statement last Friday, which, while it did not mention Jankowski by name, clearly condemned his statements.

"It does not do good to the church or to the respect of human dignity to humiliate individuals, social or national groups, state or religious symbols," the commission said.

"On those who preach God's word rests an exceptional responsibility, because their vocation is to teach how to overcome evil by goodness.

"We ask for forgiveness especially from those who felt harmed by the words uttered and are fearful. At the same time we express our hope that the Catholic-Jewish dialogue, conducted despite many difficulties, will not weaken," the commission said.

#### **Incident provokes international criticism**

Jews and others who protested the affair condemned the overall lack of a strong response.

"It is a very painful thing," said Mira, a Jew in Krakow. "The worst of it is that Walesa seems to applaud what Jankowski said. It is very worrying."

Krajewski of the AJCommittee and the Polish Council of Christians and Jews said, "The affair marks an introduction of anti-Semitic rhetoric from the margins to the center of Polish politics, and the only way to push it away is to have strong authoritative public statements by the church leaders and the president."

"The later it is done, the weaker the result will be," he said.

The incident has also provoked a storm of international criticism. Serge Cwajgenbaum, the secretary-general of the European Jewish Congress, addressed a formal letter of protest to Walesa and to Jozef Glemp, the primate of Poland and archbishop of Warsaw.

"This type of sermon and the ambiguous attitude of certain members of the Polish episcopate, as well as of political figures, tarnish the image of Poland and undermine the dialogue between Jews and Poland," Cwajgenbaum wrote.

In Israel, Knesset speaker Shevach Weiss telephoned Walesa this week to ask him to clarify what happened. In an excerpt of the telephone conversation, which was broadcast in Polish on Israel Radio, Walesa said that as long as he is president, there will be no anti-Semitism in Poland.

"The Jews have already paid a dear enough price for it to happen again," he said.

Weiss said he believed that the Polish leader was being sincere. "From what he said in our conversation, I got the sense that he is sorry for these developments," Weiss told Israel Radio.

American Jewish groups blasted both Jankowski and Walesa.

"The recent disgraceful and outrageous anti-Jewish sermon of Father Henryk Jankowski in Poland represents

the dark, ugly side of a murderous pathology that has persisted for centuries," Rabbi A. James Rudin, interreligious director for the American Jewish Committee, said in a statement.

The Anti-Defamation League addressed a letter to Walesa criticizing him for not repudiating Jankowski's comments. "As president, you have an opportunity to shape the attitudes and standards of the people of Poland," ADL National Chairman David Strassler and Abraham Foxman, the group's national director, said in the letter.

"Unfortunately, your silence in the past week regarding Father Jankowski's statements has given his racist words greater legitimacy," they wrote. □

(JTA correspondents Michel Di Paz in Paris and Naomi Segal in Jerusalem contributed to this report.)

#### **Hungarian rightists express views at treaty remembrances**

By Agnes Bohm

BUDAPEST, June 21 (JTA) — Hungarian ultra-nationalist Istvan Csurka, who in the past was ejected from Parliament for his anti-Semitic statements, reiterated some of his sentiments at a recent public commemoration in Budapest.

In the vicinity of Budapest's Parliament building, a huge crowd of nationalists gathered to remember the 75th anniversary of the signing of a treaty that led to the loss of Hungarian territory.

In June 1920, a treaty was signed in Trianon, France, which, among other things, resulted in the loss of two-thirds of Hungarian territory.

Csurka, known for his anti-Semitic diatribes and for an anti-Semitic speech on the floor of the Hungarian Parliament, failed in a recent attempt at re-election.

Before the 5,000 to 6,000 people at the commemoration, Csurka said that "the present political situation is equal to the tragic event of the Trianon peace treaty, which meant the death of the Hungarian nation."

He added that all key political positions are "held now by liberals, and while the number of Hungarians is gradually diminishing, the number of the immigrant Jews, and the Russians, and the Ukrainians are increasing."

During his speech, Csurka predicted that Hungary would one day be inhabited only by Russians, Ukrainians, Jews and Gypsies.

The ultranationalist has often said that Jews run the country and that they, along with Jews around the world, seek to dominate Hungary.

Csurka's Hungarian Truth and Life Party is against Hungary's membership in the European Union, which is a goal of the liberal coalition now in power.

Relatedly, about 100 people gathered recently to listen to Albert Szabo, who oversees the organization of the neo-Nazi followers of Ferenc Szalasi, the Fascist leader of the Hungarian Arrow Cross Party during the 1940s. Szalasi was executed after World War II as a war criminal.

Meanwhile, in the town of Debrecen in northeastern Hungary, skinheads recently held a meeting to remember the treaty signing.

One of those who spoke at the event, Andras Ris, has been charged in connection with the February burning of Torah scrolls in the Debrecen Synagogue.

According to some Jewish activists and observers, it was not a coincidence that the nationalistic commemorations took place while Hungarian Prime Minister Gyula Horn and his liberal team were on their first official visit to the United States.

One topic of discussion during the trip was restitution for Hungarian Jews victimized during World War II.

More than 100,000 Jews now live in Hungary. □

## Orthodox group issues ruling on land and the Palestinians

By Larry Yudelson

NEW YORK, June 21 (JTA) — Having ruled that the Israeli government's peace policies violate Jewish law, a group of Orthodox rabbis has issued a similar ruling aimed at the U.S. government.

Jewish law prohibits funding of the Palestine Liberation Organization "without the closest scrutiny as to whom the money is reaching," the International Rabbinical Coalition for Israel said here Monday.

The United States has provided financial assistance to the Palestinian Authority in the wake of its accords with Israel. Continued financial support is up for renewal in Congress at the end of the month.

But the rabbis, who also reiterated earlier objections to Israeli withdrawal from any part of Eretz Yisrael, or the Land of Israel, are split over whether it is halachic, or permitted under Jewish law, to assassinate Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres.

Rabbi Avraham Hecht, president of the Rabbinical Alliance of America, a group of a few hundred stringently Orthodox rabbis, said that by handing over Israeli land and property, the leaders of the Israeli government "and all who assist them" fall in the category of "moser," people who betray Jews to Gentiles.

According to Maimonides, such people not only deserve the death penalty but should be killed before they can perform the deed, Hecht said.

Rabbi Aharon Soloveichik, however, insisted that "we should refrain from any violence, even verbal violence" against the Rabin government and other Jews.

Soloveichik, the leading Talmudic authority at Yeshiva University, said non-violence would be the most effective way for settlers to fight any possible eviction by the Israeli government. If the settlers put up passive resistance and end up in Israeli jails, "the world will not be silent in the face of such a horrible sight," he said.

### Group founded to oppose peace accords

Soloveichik is a member of the presidium of the International Rabbinical Coalition for Israel. The group was founded in 1993 to oppose the accords signed between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization.

The group claims 3,000 members worldwide — including the more than 1,000 members of the Rabbinical Council of America, the largest American Orthodox rabbinical association.

But RCA President Rabbi Rafael Grossman said the coalition did not speak for the RCA. He said even though the RCA endorsed the coalition's recent lobbying in Washington against U.S. financial aid to the Palestinians, the RCA did not necessarily endorse its other rulings.

"The Rabbinical Council's position in all matters of halachah regarding Israel is that we support and abide by the decision of the incumbent chief rabbinate" of Israel, Grossman said.

And the incumbent chief rabbis have not ruled on these current issues, Grossman said.

However, former Ashkenazi Chief Rabbi Avraham Shapira is on the presidium of the international coalition and endorsed its statements this week.

Hecht is a member of the group's American rabbinical committee, whose seven other members include three rabbis from Yeshiva University's faculty.

Hecht himself implicitly acknowledged that many in the Orthodox community do not share his zealous opposition to the Israeli government as he lamented the failure of the rabbinical group to draw more than 60 people

to a conference Monday in the basement chapel of a Manhattan synagogue.

The conference came less than two weeks before Israel and the PLO are scheduled to reach an agreement that would lead to an Israeli withdrawal of troops from at least some West Bank cities.

In a statement, the rabbinical coalition said the Torah's commandment "to not stand idly by while your brother's blood is shed" mandates action in the event of "an evacuation of military and security forces from cities in Judea, Samaria and Gaza." Uprooting settlements "is a national crime, and it is forbidden for a Jew to lend a hand to such a deed," said the statement.

With regard to the PLO, the statement added: "All those who act to thwart" continued funding of the PLO "are observing the rabbinic dictum: 'Anyone who saves a single Jewish life, receives merit as if he saved the whole world.'"

Rabbi Hershel Schachter of Yeshiva University told the conference that Israel's current leaders hate God, the Torah — and consequently, themselves.

It is this "low self-esteem," he said, that has generated the movement toward "national suicide."

"We have to retain our national pride," Schachter said. "Are we prepared to go to war over this? Of course. All countries go to war for national pride." And as the chosen people, "we have what to be proud of," he said.

Responding to the rulings, Rabbi Shmuel Goldin, chairman of Shvil Hazahav, an Orthodox group that supports the peace process, said: "Numerous halachic luminaries have indicated that territorial concession is within the confines of halachah when such concessions can save lives. They represent who they represent."

In Jerusalem, meanwhile, Religious Affairs Minister Shimon Shetreet urged the rabbis to stick to religious issues and stay out of political affairs. □

## Court backs harsher sentences for vandals of houses of worship

By Jennifer Batog

WASHINGTON, June 21 (JTA) — States can continue to impose harsher punishments for people who vandalize places of worship than for those convicted of other types of vandalism, the Supreme Court declared this week.

By refusing to hear an appeal of a Florida case, the high court upheld a state law allowing for stricter punishments when places of worship are vandalized.

The American Jewish Congress, which filed a friend of the court brief supporting the state, welcomed the decision.

"The challenged statute violates neither the Establishment Clause nor the equal protection provisions of the U.S. and Florida constitutions," said AJCongress President David Kahn.

Under the Establishment Clause, which serves as the basis for the separation of church and state, the government can make no laws favoring a particular religion.

Two Florida men, convicted of spray painting anti-religious sentiments on three churches, challenged a state statute making it a felony to deface religious buildings, such as churches, synagogues and mosques.

Jason Todd and Joseph Hutchinson, given 15 years probation, argued that the law was unconstitutional. Under the Florida statute, the maximum penalty for vandalizing houses of worship is five years in prison.

The court's refusal to hear the cases, Todd vs. State of Florida, and Hutchinson vs. State of Florida, upholds a 1994 Florida 1st District Court of Appeals ruling. □

## Report: Islamic fundamentalism threatens global Jewish security

By Debra Nussbaum Cohen

NEW YORK, June 21 (JTA) — Anti-Semitism rooted in radical Islam poses an increasing threat to Jewish security worldwide, according to a newly released analysis of global anti-Jewish bias.

The report, titled "Antisemitism: World Report 1995," was published jointly on Wednesday by the London-based Institute for Jewish Affairs and the American Jewish Committee, which is based in New York.

The analysis reports that the climate for Jews deteriorated over the past few years in several countries — including Belgium, Italy, the Netherlands and Turkey — and improved in others — including Hungary, Mexico and Sweden.

But in most nations of the world, the level of acceptance or hatred of Jews has remained fairly stable, though for some nations there is too little data available to provide a comparison, according to the report.

In Europe and the states of the former Soviet Union there is also concern about the mainstreaming of far-right political parties that is considered "a kind of yuppie fascism," said David Singer, AJCommittee's director of research and editorial consultant for the study.

The 300-page book covers anti-Semitic incidents and trends in 61 countries, from Argentina — where the Jewish community's central building was bombed in July 1994, resulting in the death of 99 people and injuries to 200 more — to the United Arab Emirates.

Each chapter gives basic demographic data about a nation's general and Jewish populations (there are an estimated 10 Jews in the Philippines, 20 in Bahrain, 60 in Namibia and 1,000 in Norway), a brief overview of the current political scene, the history of the general population's relationship with its Jews, a snapshot of the effects of anti-Semitism and recent steps taken to counter hatred of Jews.

### 'Jews need to take threat more seriously'

Singer said the most important trend documented in the report is the threat that radical Islam poses to Jewish security worldwide.

The Jewish world needs to take this threat more seriously, he said.

The threat used to be cloaked as anti-Zionism, but "now we are talking about plain raw anti-Semitism, hostility to Jews everywhere and anywhere based on an Islamic outlook," he said.

"There was clearly anti-Semitic and xenophobic rhetoric being used by Islamic movements in Algeria, Egypt and Jordan," according to the report.

And in Western countries, Islamic groups such as England's Hizb al-Tahrir stepped up their propaganda offensive and included calls for the murder of Jews.

In the most concrete and damaging manifestation of Islamic radicalism in the Western world, the bombing of the AMIA building last July in Buenos Aires is believed to be the work of Muslim fundamentalists, though no one has been charged.

That same week, the Muslim fundamentalists car-bombed the Israeli Embassy and offices of the Joint Israel Appeal in London.

The rhetoric articulated by like-minded Muslim fundamentalists characterizes Jews as "in control of everything, including the media, and the source of all the problems the Islamic world faces," Singer said.

"It is a demonization of the Jews, a full-fledged conspiracy theory which has shown a very strong propensity for violence," he said.

"This then makes any Jewish institution a potential target."

In many cases, Singer noted, terrorists "are not being exported from the Middle East, but in many of these countries you are talking about large native Islamic populations where there is a very pronounced anti-Semitism."

In Great Britain, the concern is so great that at a daylong conference devoted to "Anti-Semitism in the Contemporary Islamic World" in London last March, several participants, including non-Jewish scholars, did not want their names printed on the program for fear of being targeted for violent retribution by Muslim fundamentalists.

The conference was sponsored by the AJCommittee and the Institute of Jewish Affairs, which works in partnership with AJCommittee.

Singer said American Jews do not appreciate the degree to which radical Islam may threaten them.

"There is a kind of lag here," he said. "While American Jews are aware of incidents, they don't tend to think of this as a full-fledged trend, though it is clearly visible on the European scene."

"It is a rising phenomenon with direct implications in the U.S. and significant potential [for harm] in the U.S.," he said.

Although American Jewry is well aware of anti-Semitism in the black community and is concerned as well about the Christian right, he said, "Within the Jewish community there is not yet the realization that radical Islam is something distinct which requires very serious attention."

"Thank God we haven't had the equivalent of the AMIA incident in the U.S.," Singer said, "but we have had the World Trade Center and the murder of Meir Kahane," referring to two incidents linked to Islamic fundamentalists.

As increasing evidence of Islamic fundamentalist activity in the United States emerges, he said, Islamic anti-Semitism "as a distinctive strand" will take on greater saliency.

This week's report is very similar to one published in April in a joint collaboration of the Anti-Defamation League, the World Jewish Congress and Tel Aviv University.

When asked about the overlap of effort and resources, Singer said, "When you're dealing with anti-Semitism, duplication is not an issue."

"Far from having too much, we need more of these kinds of assessments," he said.

"It isn't as if we're drowning in information about anti-Semitism. We need to have a serious monitoring process taking place." □

## Former Soviet republic to open Jerusalem embassy

By Naomi Segal

JERUSALEM, June 21 (JTA) — The former Soviet republic of Georgia will open an embassy in Jerusalem, according to the country's president, Eduard Shevardnadze.

He made the announcement Monday at the Prime Minister's Office in Jerusalem, where he and Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin signed a cooperation agreement covering culture, communications and agriculture.

Earlier in the day, the visiting leader toured Jerusalem's Old City and the Yad Vashem Holocaust Memorial.

Only a handful of countries maintain an embassy in Jerusalem, with most preferring to maintain their diplomatic headquarters in Tel Aviv. □