

**NEWS AT A GLANCE**

■ Jewish groups applauded President Clinton's resounding defense of affirmative action, which he coupled with a directive to review race- and sex-based preference programs. [Page 3]

■ Vice President Al Gore fired a speech writer after learning that the man, a Harvard University professor, had compared Israel's domestic intelligence agency to the Gestapo in a 1992 book review. [Page 3]

■ More than 40,000 Argentines gathered in Buenos Aires to remember the victims of last year's terrorist attack. Meanwhile, Rabbi Avi Weiss of New York was taken to task by Argentine officials for his allegations that top Argentine officials are covering up for those responsible. [Page 4]

■ Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres called his meeting in Alexandria, Egypt, with Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat and Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak time "productively spent." Peres was hopeful that Israeli and Palestinian negotiators would meet the July 25 deadline for concluding an agreement on the next phase of Palestinian self-rule. [Page 4]

■ Two teen-agers, one an American girl visiting from Los Angeles, were crushed to death in a riot outside a music festival in the southern Israeli town of Arad. The annual summer festival, which attracts thousands of youth from around the country, was cancelled. [Page 3]

■ Jewish groups reached an agreement with Hungary to set up formal procedures concerning the restitution of Jewish property seized during World War II. Hungarian Prime Minister Gyula Horn followed through on the proposals he presented at an earlier meeting in New York with World Jewish Congress officials.

■ President Clinton berated Polish President Lech Walesa for taking too long to condemn anti-Semitism following offensive remarks made by his Catholic priest. His remarks came in a letter to the World Jewish Congress.

**AROUND THE JEWISH WORLD****Aboard the 'Exodus' voyage, Jewish teens recreate history**

By Matthew Dorf

ATLIT, Israel (JTA) — Elite military forces fighting for a Jewish state in Palestine rescued 600 Jewish teen-agers from their British captors after a daring sea journey that brought the refugees to the shores of Palestine from war-torn Italy.

The rescue on the shores of the Mediterranean Sea unfolded not in 1947, but earlier this month. It was all part of an elaborate re-enactment of a dramatic chapter of Zionist history staged for American Jewish teens traveling to Israel for summer programs.

The only difference was — this time they made it. Unlike the 4,500 refugees aboard the Exodus '47 who never made it to Palestine, these teens did.

The simulation capped off a four-day exodus, complete with gunboat escorts and a vintage British scout plane.

The Youth and Hechalutz Department of the World Zionist Organization brought the teens to Israel as a way of tracing the footsteps of the tens of thousands of Jewish refugees who fled Europe after the Holocaust.

The voyage taken by the Exodus '47 — made famous by Leon Uris' novel and the subsequent movie starring Paul Newman — was one of the many ships engaged in Aliyah Bet, the illegal immigration of Jews to pre-State Israel during the 1930s and 1940s.

"The Exodus was a pivotal point in Jewish history and to re-experience it is a remarkable experience," said Stephen Steinberg, 16, who was on his way to an Israel program sponsored by the Jewish Federation of the Greater East Bay in Oakland, Calif.

More than 15 summer programs came together to transport teens from across the United States on the weeklong Exodus '95 program.

A total of 1,800 American teens traveled via ship. Two of three ships left from Brindisi, in the south of Italy. A third ship sailed from Athens.

In addition, a fourth ship is scheduled to set sail with French Jewish teens at the beginning of August.

**'It's amazing to come to Israel this way'**

Intended as a first-hand account of the impact illegal immigration had on the founding of the State of Israel, teens on the first boat from Italy hailed the trip as a great success.

"It's amazing to come to Israel this way. We're thinking what they were thinking, like brothers and sisters, but different," said Adam Magnus as the ship approached the shores of Israel.

Magnus, 16, of New Orleans, was heading to Israel to participate in a summer program of the National Federation of Temple Youth, the youth movement of Reform Judaism.

Randy Schapiro, 16, of Buffalo disagreed somewhat.

"It does a disservice to say we're in their shoes," he said, referring not only to the different historical circumstances but also to the fact that the refugees aboard the ship in 1947 were blocked by the British and sent to France and later to Germany.

"I won't say that I understand what they went through," Schapiro said. "But now I can appreciate it on a different level."

The weeklong adventure began with a two-day tour of Rome, where the teens learned briefly about the history of Italian Jewry.

Groups visited the Arch of Titus, erected to honor the general who brought the spoils of the First Temple from Jerusalem to the Roman Empire. The teens, singing "Hatikvah," Israel's national anthem, then re-enacted the triumphant march through the arch by Italian Jewish Holocaust survivors after World War II.

The march was followed by a visit to the Jewish ghetto in Rome to show where some of the refugees originally came from.

Once on the boat, the teens met American volunteers who served on the original Exodus crew and a Polish refugee who came to Israel on another ship in 1947.

"It tears me apart to see this," said Frank Lavine, who worked in the

engine room of the original Exodus. "The ship is not the same and these are kids, but seeing this and the shore of Israel is an indescribable feeling."

As a British scout plane spotted the ship about 20 miles off the coast of Haifa, the "ma'apilim," or illegal immigrants, as the teens were known throughout the journey, posted signs across the deck for the British blockade to see.

"Down with the Brits."

"Live free or die."

"The Promised Land is ours."

As all 600 teens on the deck of the ship chanted "Eretz Yisrael" and sang "Hatikvah" and "Oseh Shalom," members of USY, the Conservative movement's United Synagogue Youth, danced with a Torah they had brought on board.

"The Exodus did not survive without a fight," the veteran Lavine rallied the teens. "Do not submit to the British."

For the teens, recreating the refugees' experience was only part of what they gained during their four-day voyage. "I feel a stronger connection to my religion now that I get to see where everyone is from," said Michelle Suarel, 17, of St. Petersburg, Fla.

Janice Brodsky, 15, of Berkeley, Calif., added, "It's really great when you say 'Hi, I'm from San Francisco' and someone else is from Memphis, Tennessee. Who would have thought there are Jews in Memphis, Tennessee?" she said.

As the ship approached the shores of Palestine, mock British gunboats escorted the Exodus to port.

On seeing the shores of Israel, Jason Gold, 16, of Columbus, Ohio, said he "began to understand the struggle" of the original Exodus.

"It's like a dream that doesn't seem real," said Justin Axelroth of Little Rock, Ark., adding, "I've waited a long time to see the State of Israel."

"This is a very emotional experience. We're seeing Israel as they would have seen it," added Samantha Evian, 17, of Philadelphia.

After "escaping" from British prison camps and hiking the beach in Atlit in the footsteps of original ma'apilim, the teens sang "Shehecheyanu," the traditional prayer of thanks, as an emblazoned "Exodus '95" sign lit the dark sky around the memorial site at Atlit.

"You don't really know how emotional it is until you see Israel because it's our land," said Brad Saks, 17, of Cranbury, N.J.

After landing, the groups went their separate ways. Their summer Israel programs had begun. □

## Barak, Beilin join Cabinet after gaining Knesset approval

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, July 19 (JTA) — The Israeli Knesset has formally approved Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's nomination of Deputy Foreign Minister Yossi Beilin and former Israel Defense Force Chief of Staff Ehud Barak to assume positions in his Cabinet.

Beilin is the new minister of economic affairs and planning. Barak will head the Interior Ministry. The Knesset vote was 53 to 35, with three abstentions.

Knesset member Eli Dayan is expected to replace Beilin as deputy foreign minister.

Shimon Shetreet, who relinquished the Economics Ministry, will remain minister of religious affairs.

Barak, who stepped down as the IDF's top officer at the start of the year, officially joined the Labor Party on Sunday, prior to the Labor Party Central Committee's endorsement of his nomination.

He replaces David Libai, who will continue in his role as justice minister.

The move marked what Barak described as "the first step in my civil and political life."

Barak, 53, said he felt fully "at home" in the Labor Party and intended to make a major contribution to the party's election campaign next year.

Many observers see Barak as Rabin's chosen successor to head the Labor Party.

They say Barak's appointment to a senior ministry is Rabin's way of presenting him with an opportunity to prove himself in civilian life.

Regarding Beilin, Rabin told Labor central committee members that he had his differences with the young deputy minister in the past, "but his time has now come to be a minister."

Beilin, 47, is a longtime close disciple of Foreign Minister Shimon Peres and an architect of the Israeli-Palestinian self-rule accord.

The central committee's show of support for Barak was significant because it came in the midst of a political firestorm caused by a report earlier this month in the Israeli daily Yediot Achronot, which had accused him of abandoning wounded soldiers during a military training accident.

Barak was among three top-level IDF officers present at the IDF's Tze'elim training and practice area in the Negev on Nov. 5, 1992, when a military exercise went awry, killing five Israeli soldiers and wounding six others.

### Barak denies newspaper report

During the practice operation, a live missile was fired accidentally, causing the fatalities. The accident was subsequently known throughout Israel as Tze'elim-2, because two years earlier another fatal training accident had occurred at the same location.

According to a report in the London Sunday Times, published in January 1994, the exercise was a rehearsal for an operation aimed at assassinating Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein.

In October 1994, an Israeli military court found two mid-level army officers guilty of negligence in the training accident.

The court absolved of responsibility Barak and the other two top officers — the recently retired IDF chief of intelligence, Maj. Gen. Uri Saguy, and Maj. Gen. Avraham Levine, who was in charge of the training exercise.

Levine was later named the IDF commander in charge of the northern sector, which includes operations in Lebanon, in November.

In its July 7 story, Yediot probed the events that led to the accident, the reaction of the military's top echelon to it at the time and the accident's aftermath.

The article, which painted a grim picture of the IDF's top command, alleged misconduct on the part of some of the top commanders present at the incident.

According to the article, Barak was among those who stood by in stunned paralysis while other generals did their best to assist the wounded.

The report also alleged that Barak left the area in his helicopter without taking any of the wounded soldiers with him. The article also alleged that certain generals kept changing their statements and that a cover-up was planned by at least one of the commanders involved.

According to the paper, threats and pressure were employed by top army brass to hide or change certain facts and evidence was tampered with. The report also alleged that the officers who stood trial refrained from divulging the whole truth about the incident.

Last week, Barak vehemently denied the Yediot account. "It is untruthful, distorted, mistaken and very harmful for me and all of the army," he told reporters. □

**Clinton echoes Jewish views in comments on affirmative action***By Matthew Dorf*

WASHINGTON, July 19 (JTA) — When President Clinton issued his resounding defense of affirmative action, coupled with a directive to review race- and sex-based preference programs, he was echoing many of the views found in the organized Jewish community.

Standing before the Declaration of Independence at the National Archives here, Clinton defended the broad need for affirmative action.

"When affirmative action is done right, it is flexible, it is fair and it works," Clinton said in his speech.

Jewish organizations hailed Clinton's defense as well as his directive to all federal departments to eliminate or reform any program that "creates quotas, creates preferences for unqualified individuals, creates reverse discrimination or continues even after its equal opportunity purposes have been achieved."

In welcoming the president's directive, Rabbi David Saperstein, director of the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism, said: "We Jews bitterly remember how people both here and abroad have used quotas to exclude us."

"On the other hand, we Jews remember all too well what it was like to be told, with a wink and nudge, that this particular promotion, or that particular raise, really was not suitable for 'your kind of people,'" he said, underlining his belief that some affirmative action programs are necessary.

Saperstein, who sits on the executive board of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, was one of about 18 civil rights activists who met with Clinton last week as he put the final touches on his initiative.

Lawrence Rubin, executive vice chairman of the National Jewish Community Relations Advisory Council, also attended the White House meeting last week.

"The president struck the right balance," Rubin said after Clinton's speech Wednesday.

"We believe affirmative action is essential and important in opening opportunities," Rubin said.

NJCRCAC, an umbrella organization of local community councils and national agencies, recently reaffirmed its 2-decade-old policy supporting affirmative action and opposing quotas.

**Gore tapped for set-aside program**

"NJCRCAC has consistently favored affirmative action in employment and education as a central and legitimate approach in attempting to achieve equal opportunity for individuals disadvantaged by discrimination and deprivation in ways that do not victimize others or unjustly infringe upon their rights," NJCRCAC chair Lynn Lyss said in a statement Wednesday.

In addition to the broad-scale federal review, Clinton also called for a new federal set-aside program to benefit businesses, regardless of their owners' race or sex, that are located in distressed areas.

Independent of the Small Business Administration program that reserves contracts for minority- and women-owned businesses, his plan for a new program is designed to head off Republican calls to end affirmative action altogether.

Clinton tapped Vice President Al Gore to head a community empowerment board to develop the set-aside program.

Now that the initiative is out there, some Jewish groups are waiting to see how federal agencies respond.

While welcoming the general direction of the

president's initiative, the Anti-Defamation League said, "The devil is in the details."

"The principles the president has outlined must be applied in a manner which will ensure that race or gender not become the predominant factor in employment or other decisions," said ADL's National Chairman David Strassler and National Director Abraham Foxman in a statement. □

**Gore fires speech writer who compared Shin Bet to Gestapo***By Matthew Dorf*

WASHINGTON, July 19 (JTA) — Vice President Al Gore has fired a speech writer after learning that the Harvard University professor compared the Israeli domestic intelligence agency to the Gestapo in a 1992 book review.

Richard Marius, 62, who heads the expository writing program at Harvard, where he has worked since 1978, was let go only days before he was to begin working at the White House full time.

The professor has written numerous speeches for the vice president, including his recent address commemorating the anniversary of the Warsaw Ghetto uprising.

But his work did not dissuade the vice president's office from rescinding its employment offer after learning about a book review in the March-April 1992 issue of Harvard Magazine, a publication for alumni.

In his review of Helen Winternitz's book "A Season of Stones," Marius wrote, "Many Israelis, the Holocaust fresh in memory, believe that that horror gives them the right to inflict their horror on others."

"Winternitz's account of the brutality of the Shin Bet, the Israeli secret police, is eerily similar to the stories of the Gestapo, the Geheimstaapoltizei in Nazi occupied territories in World War II," he also wrote.

Marius set up his equation of the Shin Bet to the Gestapo by citing a 1992 article written by New York Times columnist A.M. Rosenthal calling for a democratic society in the former Soviet Union.

"All dictatorships are contemptuous of their subjects' minds and bodies. To stay in power rulers think of them as objects to be manipulated and put to their own service," Marius quoted Rosenthal as writing. Marius called on Rosenthal to apply this philosophy to Israel and in turn to the Palestinians living in the West Bank.

Refusing to enter the flap over the White House position, Rosenthal said of Marius' comparison, "Sure there are things wrong with Israel as there are with any democracy. But to compare it to totalitarianism or fascism is moral equivalency and intellectual perversion." □

**Two teens, including an American, crushed at Israeli music festival***By David Landau*

JERUSALEM, July 19 (JTA) — Two teen-agers, including one American, were crushed to death and hundreds more were injured at a rock festival in the Negev town of Arad on Tuesday night.

One of the two was Chen Yitzhak, a 16-year-old girl from Los Angeles. The other was Eitan Peled, 17, of Beersheba.

The disaster struck as thousands of youngsters without tickets milled around the entrance to an outdoor concert area, where a popular local group was about to perform. The gates were shut, and a melee broke out.

Culture Minister Shulamit Aloni has set up an inquiry commission.

The management of the annual Arad Festival came under heavy criticism Wednesday for failing to announce its immediate closure after the incident. □

## Argentines rally for justice as they remember bomb victims

By Cristina Asch

BUENOS AIRES, July 19 (JTA) — More than 40,000 people gathered on the streets of Buenos Aires this week to demand that those responsible for last year's bombing of the Jewish community's central headquarters be brought to justice.

Exactly one year after the devastating attack, Argentines paid tribute to the 86 Jews who died in the July 18, 1994, explosion.

The crowd listened as the names of the victims were read.

A moment of silence was then observed.

Tuesday's rally and memorial service that followed were two of dozens of ceremonies across the country.

Commemorations were also held elsewhere around the world.

In New York, the Anti-Defamation League sponsored a tree-planting ceremony and memorial service.

The anniversary commemoration in Buenos Aires was attended by former Argentine President Raul Alfonsin, Israeli member of Knesset Benny Temkin of Meretz, Argentine opposition politicians and government ministers and officials.

Reflecting the frustration of the crowd at the lack of progress in the investigation of the attack, Argentine Interior Minister Carlos Corach — himself a Jew — was booed.

Argentine President Carlos Menem did not attend.

Luis Czyzewski, the father of Paola, a 21-year-old victim of the bombing, accused the Argentine government of neglecting to investigate anti-Semitic threats and discrimination in the country, thus making it possible "for murderers to operate here."

"My daughter died because this country opened its doors to those who carried out the Holocaust 50 years ago," Czyzewski said. "She died because impunity is rampant here and that makes Argentina an ideal target for terrorists."

Ruben Beraja, president of DAIA, the umbrella political organization of the Argentine Jewish community, said although "we have faith in our democratically elected authorities, we have to push them to investigate the bombing and catch the culprits."

### 'Bomb did not destroy Jewish life'

"There is suspicion of neo-Nazi complicity, of conspiracies, of anti-Semitic elements blocking the investigation," he said.

Alberto Crupnicoff, the president of AMIA, the community's social service agency and the main occupant of the building that was destroyed in the terrorist attack, sounded a note of resolve in the community.

The bomb "did not destroy Jewish life in Argentina," he said.

"We have a 1,000-year-old experience in rebuilding ourselves, and AMIA is functioning again," he said.

Later in the evening, Rabbi Avi Weiss of New York was taken to task for his allegations that top Argentine officials are covering up for those responsible for the attack.

Menem rejected the charges, which first appeared by Weiss in *La Nacion*, Argentina's most respected newspaper.

Argentine Jewish leaders also distanced themselves from his remarks.

Judge Juan Jose Galeano, who is heading the investigation, reportedly summoned Weiss on Wednesday to present proof of his charges. □

## Argentina denies attempt to sell Syria nuclear reactor

By Tom Tugend

LOS ANGELES, July 19 (JTA) — Argentina has denied trying to sell a nuclear reactor to Syria after Israeli media reported that such a deal was in the making.

According to a wire service report, an unidentified source in the Foreign Ministry in Buenos Aires said Tuesday that a 1992 law forbade nuclear sales to countries with which Argentina did not have a nuclear cooperation treaty specifying what could be sold.

On Monday, a letter from the Los Angeles-based Simon Wiesenthal Center was hand-delivered to Argentine Foreign Minister Guido Di Tella, expressing concern about reports that his government was considering the sale to Syria of a 5 megawatt research reactor fueled by enriched uranium.

The Buenos Aires denial was less than categorical. For one, the same unidentified source acknowledged that talks about possible nuclear exports to Syria had taken place in the early 1990s, before passage of the 1992 law.

The source also speculated that if Argentina were to sign a nuclear cooperation treaty with Damascus, Argentina would analyze what sort of exports could be made in line with the development of peace in the region.

Di Tella is scheduled to visit Israel soon, and it is believed that the question of Argentine-Syrian nuclear relations would be raised at that time.

But the mere fact that Syria has been shopping for nuclear know-how and equipment "is not a good sign for current negotiations between Israel and Syria," said Rabbi Abraham Cooper, associate dean of the Wiesenthal center.

The ambiguity of the reported Argentine response shows "that a lot more explaining has to be done," Cooper added. □

## Peres hopeful about deadline after talks with Arafat, Mubarak

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, July 19 (JTA) — Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres emerged hopeful from a lengthy three-way meeting Wednesday in Alexandria, Egypt, with Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat and Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak.

Peres said several problems had been resolved and the meeting had been "productively spent."

As the three leaders met, dozens of Israeli and Palestinian negotiators continued their grueling — and apparently dispute-ridden — efforts to wrap up the second-phase self-government agreement in time for the July 25 deadline.

The talks have been proceeding at a secluded hotel in Zichron Ya'acov, between Tel Aviv and Haifa, but the Palestinians want them shifted to Cairo.

At the start of the meeting in Alexandria, Arafat condemned Tuesday's terror killings in Wadi Kelt, in which two Israeli hikers were fatally shot. Arafat pledged the support of his security service in finding assailants.

Israel Television reported Wednesday evening that the Palestinian Authority had made arrests in Jericho among known members of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, the radical group that had claimed responsibility for the murders. According to the television report, Peres told Arafat that the tracks from the murder scene did not appear to lead into Jericho.

At the funerals of the two slain hikers, thousands of mourners pledged that they would continue touring and hiking throughout Israel despite warnings by the Israeli army that places such as Wadi Kelt are unsafe. □