

NEWS AT A GLANCE

■ Israeli and Palestinian negotiators resumed their talks in Eilat after two victims of Monday's terrorist bombing were laid to rest. Two of the five victims have not yet been identified, but police believe that at least one of them is the suicide bomber. [Page 2]

■ Secretary of Agriculture Daniel Glickman assured Jewish groups that the federal government would not impose guidelines on meat preparation that would eliminate kosher meat in the United States. [Page 4]

■ Secretary of State Warren Christopher praised Robert Frasure, one of three U.S. diplomats killed this week in Bosnia, for enabling the immigration of Ethiopian Jews to Israel. Jewish activists also remembered him as a good friend to Jews. [Page 4]

■ An Arab woman from eastern Jerusalem attempted to stab an Israeli border police guard at a checkpoint near the Mount of Olives in Jerusalem. The border guard shot the woman in the leg when she came at him, wielding a knife.

■ Palestinian security forces in the Gaza Strip discovered an underground cache of weapons. Militants from the Islamic Jihad or Hamas fundamentalist organizations reportedly planned to use the weapons to carry out acts of terrorism.

■ The Jerusalem Magistrates Court extended by seven days the detention of the settler believed responsible for the Aug. 13 shooting death of a 22-year-old Arab during a clash between Palestinians and settlers at a hillside encampment near the West Bank settlement of Beit El.

■ Austrian Chancellor Franz Vranitzky affirmed his commitment to Austria's \$48 million Fund for the Victims of National Socialism. But the World Jewish Congress, the recipient of an unsolicited letter from the Austrian leader, said the statement did not remove some of the ambiguity that continues to surround the fund.

NEWS ANALYSIS**Rabin's commitment to policy on peace signals a major shift**

By David Landau

JERUSALEM (JTA) — Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin has come to believe, at last, in his own peace policy.

Even after a Hamas terrorist bomb ripped through two commuter buses in the northern Jerusalem suburb of Ramat Eshkol on Monday, Rabin spoke of the necessity of keeping the peace process on track.

He temporarily suspended the Israeli-Palestinian negotiations for reaching an interim self-rule agreement so the victims could be buried, but by Tuesday, talks had resumed in Eilat.

Just hours after the bombing, he addressed the nation, urging Israelis to distinguish "between Palestinians who are the enemies of peace and those who seek a negotiated agreement."

Within hours of the attack that killed five people, including the suicide bomber, demonstrators congregated at the site of the disaster, chanting "Rabin the Murderer."

More civilized placards contended that "This is Not Peace — It is Terror."

But the prime minister held firm to his course.

And with negotiators working feverishly to iron out remaining differences on expanding self-rule in the West Bank, plans to hold a ceremony for signing the interim agreement in Washington are "still on," according to sources.

Radiating gritty confidence

Even in the face of this latest terrorist blow, Rabin is radiating a gritty confidence in — and commitment to — his peace process with the Palestinians.

He is defending it with vigor, scorning its opponents and seeking to assure the Israeli public that the policy — despite the unending series of bloody setbacks — is on the high road to success.

Sources close to Rabin suggested Monday night that the latest terror attack, far from arresting the pace of progress, would catalyze it.

Rabin's apparent steadfastness represents a major change.

Until recently, the prime minister projected a sense of doubt and misgivings about his own policy.

From his less-than-wholehearted handshake with Palestine Liberation Organization leader Yasser Arafat on the White House lawn in September 1993 until this summer, Rabin's rhetoric and body language broadcast the distinct impression that he was uncomfortable with the evolving peace process and that he still harbored concerns about its ultimate success.

The political opposition was quick to pick up on Rabin's seeming ambivalence, especially his undisguised dislike, even contempt, for the PLO leader.

Likud spokesmen charged that the prime minister — long cast as a middle-of-the-road figure in Israeli politics — was being dragged along by his foreign minister, Shimon Peres, and by the dovish wing of his Labor-Meretz coalition Cabinet.

In practice, Peres — flanked by Police Minister Moshe Shahal and Environment Minister Yossi Sarid, both quite dovish — did most of the high-level negotiating with the Palestinians.

Although these ministers were seen as wholly committed, the prime minister himself appeared somehow to be holding back.

Along with so many ordinary Israelis, Rabin seemed torn by doubts and apprehensiveness.

On the one hand, he was seeking a lasting peace. On the other, he openly distrusted Arafat and his fledgling Palestinian Authority.

The change in the prime minister has been dramatic.

Columnist Yoel Markus of the Israeli daily Ha'aretz summed it up in a piece this weekend in which he said the prime minister had become "More Peres than Peres," a reference to the foreign minister's unabashed zeal for the peace process.

The change in Rabin has come, analysts believe, in response to the

Palestinian Authority's growing effectiveness in stemming Islamic fundamentalist terror from within the confines of the Gaza Strip.

Notwithstanding this week's attack, Palestinian security forces and their legal system have come into their own this year, cracking down hard on fundamentalist extremists.

Their behind-the-scenes cooperation with Israel's Shin Bet domestic security service has resulted in successes in averting terrorist attacks, many of which have been unpublished.

For Rabin, security has always been the key measure of the peace process' viability — and of its marketability to the Israeli public.

Pollsters and academic experts agree that personal security is also the key criterion that sways middle-of-the-road voters toward supporting or rejecting the government's peace policy.

Security concerns among Israelis during the winter and spring, when a wave of terror attacks took scores of civilian lives, certainly threatened to sweep away both the process and the Rabin government in a wave of massive public discontent.

And the prime minister's own reaction to the repeated acts of carnage was to berate the Palestinian Authority, demanding firmer action on its part and effectively suspending the process until such action was taken and produced results.

Indeed, the 14-month delay in concluding the second phase of interim self-rule has been principally due to the terror-and-security crisis.

The Israeli public got its first look at the dramatic turnabout in Rabin's attitude to the peace process in the aftermath of the July 24 terror bombing of a bus in Ramat Gan.

Seven people were killed in that attack, including the suicide bomber.

In a sharp reversal of his previous reactions, Rabin praised Arafat and the Palestinian Authority for their efforts to crush the fundamentalist terrorism of Hamas and Islamic Jihad.

Two Palestinian security officers had recently been killed in the course of these efforts, the premier told reporters.

The Palestinians were cooperating with the Shin Bet, he added, and fundamentalist activists were being arrested and jailed.

Success over the weekend

This week, too, he said that there could be no such thing as an infallible security net.

But over the weekend there was a success, when Palestinian security forces hunted down and arrested three fundamentalists in Gaza City who had been targeted by the Shin Bet as actively planning a suicide-bomb attack inside Israel.

Likud politicians, responding to the evident change in Rabin, speak now of the "mask of moderation having been stripped off him" — revealing an out-and-out peacenik in the Peres mold.

But on the Labor side, some insiders argue that Rabin's firmer, unequivocal defense of his own peace policy will ultimately serve him well in next year's national elections.

The public wants above all a spirit of conviction and commitment from its leaders, they say, and Rabin's recent declaration, a la Peres, that "we want to stop ruling over another nation," is the kind of pointed and purposeful message that voters can appreciate.

By the same token, Rabin's new outspokenness in praise of peace and compromise may lend greater credibil-

ity to his insistence that certain basic positions are not open to bargaining.

Among those "red lines" that he will not cross, as he pointed out in an interview with *The Financial Times* of London over the weekend: "I by no means intend to return behind the 1967 lines."

He also spelled out his vision of an Israel at peace with a neighboring Palestinian "less-than-independent state," in which the area of Greater Jerusalem and the strategic Jordan Valley would be permanently annexed as sovereign Israeli territory. □

Negotiations resume in Eilat as 2 bomb victims are buried

By Naomi Segal

JERUSALEM (JTA) — A day after Hamas terrorists made their latest attempt to derail the peace process, Israeli and Palestinian negotiators resumed their talks in Eilat.

The resumption of negotiations to hammer out an accord for extending Palestinian self-rule in the West Bank affirmed Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's vow Monday that the peace process would continue despite the latest terror attack.

Negotiators met after two of the five victims of the suicide bombing were laid to rest.

Rivka Cohen, 26, a student volunteer at Hadassah Hospital, was buried in Jerusalem on Monday night; Noam Eisenman, 35, a police officer, was buried Tuesday.

Relatives of the American victim of the attack, Joan Davenny, were expected to arrive in Israel on Wednesday for her funeral.

Davenny was a teacher at a Jewish school in Woodbridge, Conn., who was spending the year in Israel on a special program for Jewish educators.

Two other bodies, one male and the other female, have not yet been identified, but police believe that at least one of them is the suicide bomber.

Of the more than 100 people injured in the blast, 27 remained in local hospitals Tuesday.

Three people were said to be in serious condition and one in critical condition.

A closure imposed on the Gaza Strip and West Bank in the wake of the attack was scheduled to be lifted Wednesday.

Israeli and Palestinian negotiators who resumed their meetings in Eilat were reportedly planning around-the-clock discussions in an effort to conclude an agreement as soon as possible.

Although the Israeli-Palestinian negotiations were suspended Monday after the bus bombing, Agriculture Minister Yakov Tsur and Palestinian delegation head Abu Alla met Monday morning to discuss water rights in the West Bank.

Tsur had joined the talks this week in the hope that upgrading them to a ministerial level could yield some forward movement.

But after his discussion with Abu Alla, he said there was no progress.

"Unfortunately, it is impossible to say that there has been any breakthrough on the water issue, despite Israeli proposals I presented," he said.

Israel has proposed putting off the actual definition of water rights until the permanent-status talks, focusing instead now on dealing with specific problems surrounding water supplies during the interim phase of Palestinian self-rule.

According to Tsur, the Palestinians stood fast in their demand that their rights to the aquifers and the Jordan River sources be declared now. □

BEHIND THE HEADLINES

Dream of a lifetime ends in tragedy for Jewish educator

By Natalie Weinstein

Jewish Bulletin of Northern California

SAN FRANCISCO (JTA) — Joan Edelstein Davenny arrived in Jerusalem in late July for what was supposed to be one of the best years of her life.

A teacher at a Connecticut Jewish day school, Davenny was taking a year's sabbatical on a prestigious fellowship to study at The Hebrew University's Melton Center for Education.

The San Francisco native was finally near her parents and two of her sisters, all of whom had made aliyah years earlier.

And Davenny's 18-year-old daughter, Maya, was scheduled to arrive in September for a yearlong program in Israel.

"Joan was extremely excited. It was her dream to be in Israel for a year," Davenny's brother-in-law, Amiel Malale, said from his home in Manhattan.

But on Monday morning, Davenny stepped onto a bus heading to The Hebrew University to attend her second week of Hebrew ulpan classes.

A suicide bomber stepped onto the same bus, and Davenny became one of the five fatalities in the explosion.

She celebrated her 47th birthday just last week.

Family and friends in the United States and Israel recalled a energetic woman who loved teaching, Judaism and the Jewish state.

"She was very vivacious and gregarious," her mother, Betty Edelstein, said in a telephone interview from her Jerusalem home.

"She was full of life."

For the past decade, Davenny had taught language arts and social studies to sixth-, seventh- and eighth-graders at Ezra Academy, a Conservative day school in Woodbridge, Conn., a suburb of New Haven.

Rabbi Jesse Fink, vice principal of Ezra Academy, said Davenny had a special talent for working with young people.

"She had not only an enthusiasm, but she had an ability to relate to children at the most miserable age for them," Fink said.

No stranger to Israel

In the evenings, she also instructed classes at Makom, a religious-education program for teen-agers that is New Haven's equivalent of an after-school Hebrew high school.

"She was dynamic, totally energized for any subject. But her specific love was for Israel," the rabbi said.

Four years ago, she began taking eighth-graders on a two-week trip to Israel.

Fink said Davenny hoped that the trip would "sow seeds of love of Israel" in her students.

The trip worked so well that it was later expanded to three weeks.

Davenny was no stranger to Israel.

She had lived on a kibbutz for a year during the 1970s and had visited the Jewish state at least two dozen times.

Friends and relatives also said Davenny supported the peace process. Sharon Kaufman, one of her closest friends since childhood, said Davenny "had a very sophisticated and in-depth knowledge of the Israeli scene," but that she was also "devastated by all the horrific incidents."

Kaufman, who lives in San Anselmo, Calif., also said, "Ultimately, like everyone, she was optimistic."

Sounding weary, Betty Edelstein said her daughter was "strongly in favor" of the peace process.

"She felt it was the right way to go," she also said.

Also a backer of the peace process, Edelstein said she would not allow the tragedy to shake her views.

"It's strictly a personal loss," she said, adding of the peace process: "I very much feel it should go on."

Maurice Edelstein, an uncle of Davenny's who lives in San Francisco, said he felt the same way, adding that he supported Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, Foreign Minister Shimon Peres and the "whole peace process."

"It's hard to be for it after a thing like this," he said.

"But I want things like this to stop."

Funeral services were planned for Wednesday in Jerusalem, after Davenny's family members, including her daughter, arrived from the United States.

Davenny would likely be buried in Jerusalem, her mother said.

Memorial services were being planned in the San Francisco Bay area and in New Haven.

The oldest of four sisters, Davenny attended religious school and confirmation class at Reform Congregation Emanu-El in San Francisco.

Her parents later joined San Francisco's Conservative Congregation Beth Sholom.

Davenny attended George Washington High School in San Francisco.

But she headed to New York to spend her senior year with an artist's family and graduated from high school there.

She attended several colleges and universities, traveled through Europe and Israel, married and divorced, and was employed as a social worker before becoming a teacher.

When Davenny arrived in Israel last month, she moved into a studio apartment that was about a 20-minute walk from her parents' home.

'Nothing dull about Joan'

She was in Jerusalem with other Jewish educators to learn more about Israel and how to apply the knowledge to secular curricula.

Emily Honig, a childhood friend who was also Davenny's neighbor in New Haven for several years, said she had just received her first e-mail message from Davenny.

Davenny wrote that she was working hard on her Hebrew and adored her apartment's tiny living room because of the view.

"She loved sitting there and watching the city," said Honig, who now lives in Santa Cruz, Calif.

But then again, Davenny was enthusiastic about almost everything, friends and family said.

"She was a person who just had an extraordinary amount of passion for literature, reading, learning, history and people," Honig said. "There was nothing dull about Joan."

Davenny made her final trip to San Francisco last summer to visit Pauline Edelstein, her grandmother and a longtime Jewish community activist who died at age 95 last September.

Pauline Edelstein, a Zionist, was alarmed whenever she heard about terrorist attacks in Israel.

"She would always go into a complete panic until she found out for sure none of her relatives were involved," Beth Sholom's Rabbi Alan Lew said.

"She was so worried one of her kids or one of her grandkids would show up on a victims' list." □

Agriculture secretary assures groups on new meat guidelines

By Matthew Dorf

WASHINGTON (JTA) — The federal government will not allow new regulations that would eliminate kosher meat in the United States, the secretary of agriculture has assured Jewish groups.

Fearing the impact of proposed meat preparation regulations that deal with the washing and cooling of raw meat, Orthodox Jewish groups and kosher meat producers brought their concerns straight to Secretary of Agriculture Daniel Glickman on Tuesday.

According to participants in the meeting, Glickman said, "Obviously, we're not going to permit kosher meat from being eliminated."

Glickman's remarks formally signaled that the proposed regulations by the U.S. Department of Agriculture would undergo changes before becoming law.

Designed to reduce disease-causing bacteria in meat and poultry, the proposed regulations as they now stand would affect the salting and rinsing processes, or *m'lichah* and *haddachah*, according to rabbinic experts.

The new rules, known as Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points, would not affect ritual slaughter, or *shechitah*, necessary to make meat kosher.

The directives, introduced in February as a way of responding to recent outbreaks of food-borne illnesses, deal with post-slaughter procedures.

They call for washing all meat and poultry in an anti-microbial solution and storing the food below 40 degrees Fahrenheit through the handling, holding and shipping process.

Jewish activists have expressed fear that the anti-microbial treatment wash would endanger the ritual salting and rinsing of meat, making kosher meat and poultry scarce or more expensive.

Glickman refused to discuss specific issues related to the regulations with the Jewish leaders, according to participants in the meeting.

Instead, the secretary referred the group to hearings scheduled to begin next month.

"There was an understanding that the regulations will accommodate both religious requirements and health and safety concerns," said Abba Cohen, Washington director and counsel for Agudath Israel of America.

Cohen said he plans to speak out at the September hearings.

"This is the beginning of the process," said Rabbi Menachem Genack, rabbinic administrator of the Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations of America.

Genack also expressed optimism that the final regulations would not adversely affect the kosher community.

Representatives from the Rabbinical Council of America, Empire Poultry and Star K Kosher Certification of Baltimore also attended the 35-minute meeting in Glickman's office.

A period for public comment on the regulations expires 30 days after a series of public hearings scheduled to last through September. Officials hope to have the new regulations in place by early next year. □

U.S. envoy who died in Bosnia aided exodus of Ethiopian Jews

By Matthew Dorf

WASHINGTON (JTA) — Fleeing a civil war and hoping to make their way to Israel, 20,000 Jews arrived in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, five years ago with no place to live and little to eat.

Robert Frasure, then deputy chief of mission at the U.S. Embassy in Ethiopia, hopped on a truck and helped embassy staffers unload tents and high-protein food rations for a makeshift refugee camp.

He later helped bring about the agreement with the Ethiopian government that enabled the 1991 dramatic secret airlift of Ethiopian Jews to Israel, known as Operation Solomon.

Frasure, 53, was one of three U.S. diplomats who died outside Sarajevo on Saturday.

The armored vehicle the three American diplomats were traveling in skidded off a mountain road and exploded.

Frasure, the deputy assistant secretary of state who served as special American envoy to the former Yugoslavia, was killed as he tried to bring his peacemaking skills to the Balkan conflict.

Back in May 1990, at the height of the Ethiopian civil war, 20,000 Jews fled the Gondar Province.

When they arrived in Addis Ababa in June and July of 1990, U.S. groups working for Ethiopian Jewry turned to the U.S. Embassy to help set up a temporary camp to process and house the refugees while they waited to depart for Israel.

Jewish activists involved with Operation Solomon praised Frasure for his instrumental efforts in securing the exodus to Israel.

"He fully understood the Jewish community's desire to go to Israel and he did everything he could to help," said William Recant, who was serving at the time as the director of the American Association for Ethiopian Jews.

"He was a true humanitarian and friend of the Jewish people," said Recant, now the Washington representative of the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee.

Former Sen. Rudy Boschwitz (R-Minn.), who headed the U.S. government's efforts to resolve the conflict in Ethiopia, said, "We Jews lost a good friend in that man. Not everyone in the State Department and the National Security Council were committed to [rescuing] the black Jews of Ethiopia."

"He was totally committed because he thought it was his job and the right thing to do," Boschwitz said in a phone interview.

At Frasure's funeral service Tuesday, Secretary of State Warren Christopher praised him for making possible the immigration of Ethiopian Jews to Israel.

"A great part of Bob's public legacy can be seen in the solutions he helped define," the secretary of state said.

President Bush awarded Frasure the Presidential Medal for Exceptional Service for his efforts to bring peace to Ethiopia and for his humanitarian work that allowed safe passage for Ethiopian Jews to Israel.

Joseph Kruzel, 50, deputy assistant secretary of defense for European and NATO affairs, and Air Force Col. Samuel Nelson Drew, 47, a National Security Council aide, also died in the crash. □

Head of Oslo Jewry dies

COPENHAGEN (JTA) — Kay Feinberg, 73, the chairman of the Jewish community in Oslo, was found dead in his Oslo apartment over the weekend.

Police were called to his home after he failed to appear at several appointments.

Feinberg, a Holocaust survivor, apparently died of natural causes.

There were no signs of criminal mischief in his apartment. □