



NEWS AT A GLANCE

■ A Jewish settler was killed and his pregnant wife was seriously wounded in a terror attack on the West Bank settlement of Ma'aleh Michmas, located near Ramallah. Settler leaders reacted to the attack, which also caused the loss of the pregnancy, by calling for a halt in the Israeli-Palestinian negotiations for extending self-rule in the West Bank. [Page 4]

■ Israelis and Egyptians meeting in Cairo failed to resolve a dispute over allegations that Israeli soldiers killed Egyptian POWs during the 1956 Sinai Campaign and the 1967 Six-Day War. Egypt wants Israel to try those suspected of the killings. But Israeli officials have rejected calls for an investigation, claiming that the statute of limitations on the alleged crimes has expired.

■ An Australian federal court upheld the government's refusal to issue a visa to Holocaust denier David Irving. In making his decision, which blocked the London-based writer from entering Australia, the federal judge stressed that Irving's record of contempt for the law in a number of jurisdictions was the cause for the ban, not his views. [Page 3]

■ The Christian Coalition's 10-point Contract with the American Family is "dead wrong," according to a report released by the American Jewish Congress. The report, titled "Whose American Family?" seeks to refute the coalition's legislative agenda, which includes a call for a religious equality amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

■ Jordanian officials delayed the signing ceremony for a transportation accord with Israel that was scheduled to take place this week. Israeli officials said Jordan wanted to resolve security issues for passenger planes before signing the accord.

■ Israel Aircraft Industries won a contract to upgrade 54 Phantom F-4 jets for the Turkish air force. The weapons deal was seen as a sign of strengthened ties between the Jewish state and Ankara.

FOCUS ON ISSUES

UJA, CJF discuss merger plan to form one fund-raising agency

By Cynthia Mann

NEW YORK (JTA) — A dramatic proposal to merge the central American Jewish fund-raising organizations has surfaced as the latest effort to make communal institutions more responsive to the changing needs of the Jewish world.

The plan could profoundly affect the distribution of American Jewish money to Israel, to other places overseas and to programs at home.

The proposal calls for the consolidation of the Council of Jewish Federations, the United Jewish Appeal and the United Israel Appeal, the agencies that oversee a national \$725 million annual fund-raising campaign for both local needs and humanitarian projects abroad.

The plan will be high on the agenda of the CJF quarterly meeting next week in Detroit.

The architects of the proposal stress that it is now only preliminary, and that there are serious concerns which must be addressed before the plan can win the consensus needed for its implementation.

The biggest challenge is finding a way to ensure that enough money will continue to flow to Israel and to Jewish projects overseas at a time when local Jewish needs are assuming a higher priority. Pressure to direct more funds locally will only intensify as pending federal budget cuts are put into place.

Most insiders say resolution of this issue is the key to winning support for the plan from organizations whose primary focus is overseas.

Critics fear that the plan could jeopardize the Israel-Diaspora partnership by not providing for enough representation in the governing bodies for advocates of overseas interests, even though this is a stated goal of the plan. They also express concern that too much power will be concentrated in too few hands.

But proponents maintain that the current national structure is outmoded and that not making a dramatic change risks rendering the organized Jewish world irrelevant.

Most radical proposed change

Leaders from key agencies were in Chicago last week to press their concerns with the authors of the plan in advance of the CJF quarterly.

The proposed merger is the latest plan by the Committee to Study the National Structure, formed in the spring of last year under the auspices of the CJF and UJA. Members were charged with examining the structure, accountability, function and performance of the major national philanthropic organizations: the UJA; CJF; UIA; the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, also known as the JDC; and the Jewish Agency for Israel.

They also looked at the relationship of these organizations to local federations.

After concluding that a more efficient national organizational structure was needed and would save considerable sums of money, the committee devised a series of models. But the merger idea, unveiled this summer, reflects the most radical proposed change.

"What's occurring in the Jewish world is cataclysmic," said Joel Tauber, president of the UJA and co-chairman of the committee. "If we do nothing" to reform the structure, "the organized Jewish community could become irrelevant."

"For the last 50 years, the needs have been survival, of Israel," and of Jews in distress, Tauber said.

"But we are entering a new era," he said. "The rescue of Jews will always be a paramount priority, but Israel is more secure economically and militarily, while anti-Semitism has decreased, at least in the United States."

The new crisis is Jewish identity, Tauber said. Although the old organizations "did a marvelous job, it takes a different organization" to carry out the new mission of building and preserving Jewish identity, he said.

"We are changing our rescue efforts," he said. "We now need to rescue our spirituality" and identity.

The Israel Experience program is a prime illustration for Tauber of

the need for reorganization. Its target is 50,000 U.S. Jewish youths annually, but only 5,000 to 6,000 youths are participating.

For the program to succeed, it needs a national marketing campaign, massive community outreach and "interesting programs in Israel to attract the kids," Tauber said.

That now requires the involvement of the UJA, CJF and UIA. Instead, "we need one organization responsible" so "crossing the lines and getting the approval of three different boards" can be avoided, he said.

Tauber also said the UJA in its current form simply is not equipped to meet the challenge of fund raising in the future. "More than \$1 trillion will go from one generation to the next in the next 30 years" in the Jewish world, he said, and "we don't have the structure to deal with this. We don't have the franchise to deal with endowments and testamentary giving. This has never been our bailiwick."

The CJF is the association of Jewish community federations, which raise money in concert with the UJA. Federations autonomously decide how much money to keep at home for local needs, which they disperse, and how much to allocate overseas.

The overseas allocation is given to the UJA, which is independently governed; this year that allocation was 42 percent of the gross amount of money raised.

The UJA then decides how much it needs for operational expenses and divides the rest between the UIA and JDC, which provides humanitarian relief for Jews around the world, including Israel.

That division is decided on the basis of a negotiation between the UIA and JDC, both of which own the UJA. The UIA's function is to distribute and monitor its share of funds to the Jewish Agency for Israel for social services in the Jewish state.

The UJA also gives money to the New York Association for New Americans, which helps resettle immigrants in the United States.

The overseas portion of federations' allocations traditionally was roughly 50 percent, but it has dropped in recent years, frustrating and angering some who believe that Israel is the biggest draw of the campaign.

Merger outlined in Aug. 2 memo

Federations, in turn, are increasingly preoccupied by the question of Jewish continuity in the United States and will be further pressed to meet local community demands to compensate for anticipated sharp cuts in funds from the federal government.

The proposed merger was roughly outlined in an Aug. 2 memo to federation leaders by Tauber and the other committee co-chairman, Charles Goodman, who is immediate past president of the CJF. Goodman was unavailable for comment.

Under the plan, the UJA, UIA and CJF would become a "new single organization." The JDC, as a direct-service organization, would remain independent.

The plan calls for a breakdown of the new mega-entity into four departments: one for fund raising, one for domestic affairs, one for overseas affairs and one for finance and administration.

Each department would have a lay and professional head and a lay board. All the departments would be accountable to an assembly, a "superboard" and an executive committee, headed by a lay chair and a professional.

The outline in the memo emphasizes that the governing bodies of the new organization would "be balanced between representatives of the federation system and of overseas interests."

It also says there would be "some means of

assuring an appropriate share of funds for overseas purposes."

The advocates of overseas interests "need assurances that we'll have the funds to get through the change and take care of our recipients," the JDC and the Jewish Agency, Tauber said. He conceded that the transition would be "rough."

For UIA Chairman Shoshana Cardin, the question is: "What level of assurance gives us enough security to move forward" with the proposed restructuring? Cardin, in an interview from Israel, said she welcomes a new national Jewish "construct" but is not sure that this is it.

Local federation executives were reluctant to speak about the plan, and many are expected to resist a specified commitment to overseas programs at the expense of local needs, such as day schools, Jewish community centers and family services. Under the current proposal, federations would continue to decide how to divide the campaign funds between local and overseas needs. But they would be urged to allocate to overseas programs half of any money collected above the level of the current year's campaign.

Some insiders who favor the plan expect or at least hope that federations will embrace the responsibility for overseas interests when they see the UJA and UIA as true partners accountable to the same governing bodies.

'We are at a new point in Jewish life'

"We are making a strong appeal to federations to regard the overseas portion as an equal partner," said one insider. "The inducement is they'll be in the same tent, so they'll feel more responsibility" for the overseas causes.

Cardin expressed concern about how restructuring will affect the UIA's stewardship over \$80 million in annual U.S. government grants for the Jewish Agency.

"These are delicate, sensitive negotiations built on trust" with familiar players," she said. Scrapping the UIA would pose a "serious" risk to the grant process, she said.

Cardin said the restructuring study has been "long and tedious" as well as "flawed" because it failed to include all of the players in significant numbers in time for meaningful consultation.

However, after the concerns of the UIA and JDC were thoroughly aired at the Chicago meeting, Cardin said she is confident that the process would move faster.

Milton Wolf, JDC president, said his agency has an "open mind" on the issue. "While we are against change for change's sake, we are not averse to actions that might improve the efficacy of the national philanthropic system and raise more dollars for the campaign," he said in a statement.

"I would hope that current deliberations would also analyze what other factors, beyond questions of mere structuring, should be addressed to strengthen our community," he said.

Rabbi Brian Lurie, UJA executive vice president, said he believes that the community cannot afford to miss this chance for reform. "Conventional wisdom [calls for] incremental change, change at the edges," he said. But "we are at a new point in Jewish life" when it is "time for dramatic change. It's a once-every-50-years opportunity and we have to seize it."

Members of the study committee plan to meet with federations across the country in the fall and early winter. They expect then to make changes in the plan before it is submitted to the boards of the CJF, UJA, UIA and JDC, which must approve it before it can be implemented.

CJF leaders, meanwhile, emphasized that they do not advocate a particular reform plan. Maynard Wishner, CJF president, would say only that "of the various models advanced, this one seems to draw the broadest support, although many issues remain to be addressed." □

Jerusalem 3000 festival begins, but U.S. ambassador stays away

By Michele Chabin

JERUSALEM (JTA) — A 15-month festival celebrating the 3,000th anniversary of the founding of Jerusalem came in with a bang Monday, as government officials and the Israeli public paid tribute to their capital.

Determined to make this a celebration to remember, Israeli officials shrugged off charges recently lodged by the European Union and the Palestinian Authority that the event focuses on Jewish contributions to the city at the expense of other religions.

The Jerusalem 3000 celebration, originally conceived strictly as a vehicle to attract tourists, has increasingly taken on political overtones as the dispute between Israelis and Palestinians over the status of Jerusalem escalates.

It was no surprise that Palestinian leaders and European ambassadors would not be in attendance, but the absence of U.S. Ambassador Martin Indyk created a stir.

American Jewish leaders, who had helped organize Jerusalem 3000, were particularly upset by Indyk's absence.

"There was concern that a decision had been taken not to participate," said Malcolm Hoenlein, the executive director of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations who serves as American executive vice chairman of Jerusalem 3000.

"Everyone came up to us and asked, 'Where is your ambassador?'"

Hoenlein said that immediately after the ceremony, he telephoned Indyk for an explanation.

"I spoke to Martin, and he assured me that there is no boycott and that he plans to participate in future Jerusalem 3000 events," Hoenlein said. "Nonetheless, we were disappointed that he didn't participate, if only to avoid any misunderstanding and the feelings engendered by his absence."

Hoenlein noted that Indyk "did have other functions to participate in last night."

Indyk was attending a Labor Day barbecue and a benefit for an Israeli women's shelter. A senior cultural affairs official attended the Jerusalem 3000 events in his place.

Israeli officials invited 70 ambassadors to Monday night's ceremony, but only 17 attended.

'Abandoned' ceremony

Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin was unhappy that the ceremony had been "abandoned" by diplomats, including Indyk, said spokeswoman Aliza Goren.

Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert said Indyk's decision not to attend the opening ceremony proved that "Jerusalem is like an open wound in the relations between us and the United States."

Refusing to allow any controversy to diminish the Jerusalem 3000 extravaganza, Rabin, Olmert and Tourism Minister Uzi Baram kicked off the festival at the City of David, an archeological site outside the Old City where King David is believed to have first settled Jerusalem.

"We are opening our celebrations here, in the original City of David, to tell ourselves, and the entire world, that our roots in this land predate Zionism, predate the Diaspora and even predate the Holy Temples," Olmert said.

Later, more than a thousand Knesset members, clergy and invited guests, many of whom had flown in for the event, attended an outdoor ceremony at the Knesset.

In his Knesset address, Olmert said Jerusalem must stay united under Israeli rule.

He then surprised many by delivering a lengthy tribute to former Jerusalem Mayor Teddy Kollek. It is no secret that the past and current mayors do not get along.

In his address, Rabin stressed the need for goodwill on all sides and reiterated his stand on the future status of Jerusalem:

"Three thousand years of Jerusalem are for us, now and forever, a message for tolerance between religions, of love between peoples, of understanding between nations, of the penetrating awareness that there is no State of Israel without Jerusalem, and no peace without Jerusalem united — the City of Peace.

"United Jerusalem is the heart of the Jewish people and the capital of the State of Israel. United Jerusalem is ours. Jerusalem forever."

After Rabin's address, an array of fireworks and laser lights, choreographed to music, lit up the night sky.

While those at the Knesset watched from the balcony, tens of thousands of families clogged the streets nearby to catch the display.

As upbeat as the evening was, the question of Jerusalem's future preoccupied many in the crowd.

"Those were amazing fireworks," said a teen-ager named Tzvi, "but these festivities will be meaningless if the city is divided."

Others, such as a young mother named Leah, struck a more upbeat note.

"If anyone had doubts that Jerusalem is the capital of the Jewish State of Israel, Jerusalem 3000 should set them straight." □

Australian court upholds denial of visa to Holocaust denier Irving

By Jeremy Jones

SYDNEY, Australia (JTA) — A federal court has dismissed the appeal of Holocaust denier David Irving, blocking the London-based writer from entering Australia.

Irving, who was appealing two government decisions not to grant him a visa, also was ordered to pay court costs. In a statement from London, Irving said he would appeal the court ruling.

In making his decision, the federal judge stressed that Irving's views were not the cause for the ban, despite the claim by Irving and his Australian supporters that he had been the victim of censorship.

Rather, the judge said, Irving's record of contempt for the law in a number of jurisdictions was sound legal reason for him to be refused entry to Australia.

The judge was referring to actions that include a conviction in Germany for remarks denying the Holocaust, and deportation from Canada for lying under oath to immigration officials.

Irving was appealing the May 1994 decision of Nick Bolkus, a senator and federal minister for immigration, not to approve a visa for Irving. That decision reaffirmed a 1993 decision by then-Immigration Minister Gerry Hand.

In 1994, a federal court prosecutor had said Irving was refused a visa to Australia because he was considered a liar, unreliable and a threat to the national security of another country, rather than for the views he espoused in his lectures.

Irving was refused entry in December 1992 on the grounds that he "did not meet the good character requirements" of Australia's Migration Regulations.

Irving, whose books are available in Australia, has said the facts of the Nazi Holocaust are myths created by the Diaspora and the State of Israel for propaganda purposes. The Australian Jewish community has strongly protested Irving's efforts to enter the country. □

Concern for settler safety grows after attack on West Bank family

By Naomi Segal

JERUSALEM (JTA) — Settler groups launched protests and called for a suspension of the Israeli-Palestinian peace talks after a terrorist attacked a West Bank settler family.

A Palestinian infiltrated the West Bank settlement of Ma'aleh Michmas, located near Ramallah, early Tuesday morning, stabbing to death one of the residents and seriously wounding his pregnant wife.

The settler was identified as Daniel Frei, 28, who emigrated from London seven years ago.

He was buried at Jerusalem's Har Hamenuhot Cemetery on Tuesday night.

His wife, Mara Frei, 29, a new Israeli immigrant from Chicago who was three months pregnant, was listed in serious but stable condition at Hadassah Hospital in Ein Kerem.

She suffered stab wounds to the upper body. The pregnancy was not saved.

About 150 families live at Ma'aleh Michmas. Unlike other settlements in the West Bank, there is no fence surrounding the community.

Local leaders said they had opposed the idea of a fence because of the limit it would place on the settlement's expansion.

But after the day's events, they were reportedly considering putting up a fence.

Settler leaders warned that the predawn stabbing was a sign of things to come when the Israel Defense Force redeploys in the West Bank under the next phase of Palestinian self-rule.

"Just as Jericho, as we warned, turned into a hothouse and place of refuge for Arab terrorists, the same thing is going to be repeated in the seven major cities the government is attempting to turn over" to Palestine Liberation Organization leader Yasser Arafat in the West Bank, said Yehiel Leiter, who is a member of the Yesha Council.

The council represents settlers in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

'There will be even more terror'

But Foreign Minister Shimon Peres rejected demands to halt the negotiations with the Palestinians.

"There was terror before the peace process, and if there will not be peace, there will be even more terror," he told Israel Radio.

The incident occurred about 2:30 a.m., when a terrorist entered the settlement.

Daniel Frei heard a noise outside his home, and when he walked out to investigate, he was stabbed to death.

When his wife followed him outside, she, too, was attacked.

The couple's 19-month-old daughter was asleep in the house when the attack took place.

She was not harmed.

Security forces launched searches for the attacker, who fled the scene.

Israeli security forces imposed a curfew on some of the surrounding Arab villages.

Israel Radio reported that an anonymous caller phoned a news agency in Jerusalem and claimed responsibility for the attack in the name of George Habash's Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine.

Right-wing demonstrators tried to block roads at various intersections in the West Bank and Jerusalem on Tuesday night to protest the attack.

Police dispersed them, detaining some for questioning.

Members of the Yesha Council met with Interior Minister and former IDF Chief of Staff Ehud Barak on Tuesday night.

Although the meeting had been scheduled before Tuesday's attack, the incident brought into sharp focus their concerns about security when Palestinian self-rule is extended in the West Bank.

Israeli-Palestinian negotiations on the interim phase agreement have recently been deadlocked on a number of issues.

Those issues include security arrangements in the West Bank town of Hebron and Palestinian prisoner releases.

Issues surrounding the holding of Palestinian elections are also deadlocked.

Peres and Arafat were reportedly scheduled to meet later this week in the Egyptian Red Sea resort of Taba in an effort to overcome the obstacles.

The evolving accord has prompted criticisms from the IDF commander in charge of the West Bank, Maj. Gen. Ilan Biran, who said that after an IDF troop redeployment in the West Bank, "it will be much more complicated" to prevent terror attacks on Israelis. □

Costa Rican diplomat in U.S. 'hopeful' about Koziy expulsion

By Alissa Kaplan

NEW YORK (JTA) — The Costa Rican ambassador to the United States is "hopeful" that the extradition of accused Nazi war criminal Bodhan Koziy will take place soon.

"We are very sorry that this case has not still been resolved," Ambassador Sonia Picado said in a written statement.

According to the statement, the Costa Rican minister of foreign affairs, Fernando Naranjo, has been in "constant contact with the Jewish community which is working hard in order to get a request for extradition from the Ukrainian government."

The ambassador's statement comes as pressure has increased for Costa Rica to extradite Koziy to Ukraine.

Most recently, U.S. Rep. Michael McNulty (D-N.Y.) hand-delivered a letter, signed by some 60 other congressmen, to the Costa Rican president demanding that the accused Nazi be extradited.

"Judges in the United States and prosecutors in Germany affirmed that Koziy was a Nazi policeman in Ukraine, where he shot and killed — amongst others — a 4-year-old," the letter to President Jose Figueres said.

Koziy, who apparently has been living in a suburb of the capital city of San Jose for the last decade, was a Ukrainian police official during World War II.

The former owner of a motel in Fort Lauderdale, Fla., Koziy was stripped of his U.S. citizenship in 1982.

The U.S. Justice Department obtained a court order to deport him in 1984, but he fled to Costa Rica.

In 1986, Costa Rica refused the Soviet Union's request for Koziy's extradition.

A year later, the Costa Rican government overruled a local court order to extradite the accused Koziy to the Soviet Union.

If the Costa Rican government does not respond to the renewed effort to extradite Koziy, a formal complaint will be registered with the U.N. Human Rights Commission, and the U.S. Congress will be approached to take diplomatic action against Costa Rica, Elan Steinberg, executive director of the World Jewish Congress, said last week. □