

**NEWS AT A GLANCE**

■ Three Palestinians were arrested in connection with the Sept. 8 killing of a 22-year-old Palestinian in the West Bank town of Halhoul. Opposition leaders called for apologies from those government officials who had said the slaying was carried out by Jewish extremists. [Page 1]

■ The dedication of a new Jewish museum in St. Thomas, Virgin Islands, was postponed as a result of the onslaught of Hurricane Marilyn. The dedication was intended to launch the 800-member Jewish community's bicentennial celebrations.

■ German prosecutors posted a \$333,000 reward for information leading to the arrest of Alois Brunner. The target for years of fruitless search efforts, Brunner orchestrated the deaths of some 128,000 Jews from Austria, Greece, France and Slovakia during World War II. [Page 4]

■ World Jewish leaders extolled a meeting with the Swiss Bankers Association, calling it a first step toward returning Swiss accounts of Holocaust victims to their rightful heirs. Prior to the meeting, Swiss bankers in Bern released details of their plan to return the Jewish accounts.

■ Two Israel Defense Force soldiers were wounded in southern Lebanon when a roadside bomb exploded in the security zone. The Islamic fundamentalist Hezbollah group claimed responsibility for the attack.

■ Israel's cost of living index rose by 1.2 percent for August, largely as a result of housing costs. The Bank of Israel made no announcement about raising interest rates in light of the latest figures.

■ A Canadian immigration official ruled that a suspected war criminal who was intercepted when he tried to slip back into Canada should not be held while he awaits a second deportation hearing. The decision to release Konrad Kalejs, 81, outraged local Jewish groups, which accused Canada's Department of Immigration of bungling the case. [Page 2]

**Israel arrests 3 Palestinians in slaying of Arab in Halhoul**

By Naomi Segal

JERUSALEM (JTA) — A coordinated effort by Israeli security and army forces led to the weekend arrests of three Palestinians suspected of involvement in the Sept. 8 killing of a Palestinian from the West Bank town of Halhoul.

The arrests prompted President Ezer Weizman to call for apologies from those officials who had said the killing was carried out by Jewish extremists.

"All those that feel a need to apologize should do so," he said Sunday, noting that people should wait until all the facts are in before making generalizations.

Salman Zamareh, 22, was shot dead two weeks ago in his home in Halhoul, located near Hebron.

Witnesses reported seeing gunmen who were wearing Israeli army uniforms.

From the start, police announced that they were investigating all possibilities.

But speculation that Jewish extremists might be involved in the killing surfaced after Halhoul residents said some of the assailants spoke Hebrew, and after two small Jewish extremist groups, Eyal and the Sword of David, each claimed responsibility for the attack.

Israeli opposition leaders accused government ministers of exploiting the crime to lash out at Jewish settlers.

The Likud Party called on Foreign Minister Shimon Peres and Environment Minister Yossi Sarid to issue a public apology.

The Yesha Council, which represents settlers in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, said in a statement that even though two small Jewish extremist groups did claim responsibility for the attack, "this should not direct the prime minister and members of the Cabinet to put a blemish on the entire settler population."

The Kiryat Arba Council, which represents Jewish settlers living near Hebron, said it was considering filing a libel suit because of the accusations, Israel Radio reported.

Peres said Saturday that he was relieved that the killers were not Jews.

"A load has been lifted from my heart," the foreign minister told Israel Radio.

Before the suspects were apprehended, members of Israel's government had expressed the fear that if the killers were Jewish, the Palestinian Authority would have added reason to demand an increased Palestinian security presence in the area surrounding Hebron.

Control over security in and around Hebron is among the major issues preventing Israeli and Palestinian negotiators from reaching an agreement for extending self-rule in the West Bank.

Intelligence information gathered by Israeli officials, as well as a bullet extracted from Zamareh's body, pointed the investigation in the direction of Palestinians.

**Postmortem helps investigators**

Zamareh's body was exhumed Sept. 14 for a postmortem examination after investigators expressed the hope that they would be able to get information on the killers by comparing the bullet in Zamareh's head with cartridges found at the scene.

Zamareh's family initially objected to the postmortem, but later agreed, demanding that a pathologist be present on their behalf.

The focus of the investigation shifted to the Palestinians after a bullet from a Karel Gustav submachine gun was removed from Zamareh's body.

That type of weapon is not used by the Israel Defense Force or Jewish settlers, police said.

The Israeli daily Ha'aretz reported that two of those arrested were twin brothers, and that the third suspect was their cousin.

Police were searching for a fourth person also believed to have been involved in the killing. Police suspect that the four killed Zamareh when he

entered his home in the middle of a burglary attempt. Prior to reaching Zamareh's house, the suspects ransacked other homes in Halhoul belonging to Palestinians, stealing money and jewelry.

Israeli police, during searches of the homes of three of the suspects, found clothing and other evidence connecting them to the slaying.

Police said the three detainees were cooperating with police and had confessed to taking part in previous robberies in the Hebron area.

The suspects also conveyed information during questioning that only people involved in the killing could have known, police said. □

### **Jewish Agency emissary denies desire to ban right-wing aliyah**

*By Cynthia Mann*

NEW YORK (JTA) — The head of the Jewish Agency's aliyah department in the United States has denied recent reports that he advocated a ban on the immigration of right-wing extremists to Israel.

A firestorm was set off in Israel late last week after an article in the Israeli daily Yediot Achronot claimed that Gad Ben-Ari called for revising the Law of Return to render right-wing extremists ineligible for immigration to the Jewish state.

Ben-Ari, who is now based in New York, said the remarks attributed to him were "completely misrepresented and express the exact opposite of what I said."

Ben-Ari, the former media adviser to Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, said he did favor a change in the Law of Return after the February 1994 massacre of Arabs in Hebron by U.S.-born Baruch Goldstein.

Ben-Ari said at that time that he thought that the law should be amended to bar the immigration of Jews active in organizations that are illegal in Israel, such as the extremist anti-Arab Kahane Chai.

But Ben-Ari said in an interview last Friday that it would be inappropriate to suggest such a change at this time, given the Israeli political climate, in which, he said, "there is a very vocal opposition to the government's policies."

"Any attempt to discuss any change in the Law of Return in the current atmosphere in Israel would automatically be interpreted as an attempt to use the law for political purposes, to try to influence the political scene," he said.

At the same time, Ben-Ari pointed to provisions in existing law that permit the Jewish Agency to bar immigrants deemed to "pose a danger to the state and to public safety."

"On the basis of current law, our duty is to see those people would not make aliyah," he said.

In practical terms, however, that is not applied to "politics or ideological positions," Ben-Ari said. □

### **Russian officials tell Rabin nuclear sale to Iran to proceed**

*By Naomi Segal*

JERUSALEM (JTA) — Russian officials told visiting Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin last week that they would go ahead with plans to sell nuclear reactors to Iran.

Russian Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev told Rabin on Thursday that the technology involved was of a peaceful nature and that the sale was well within the bounds of international law.

Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin, in a meeting with Rabin later in the day, repeated the stance,

adding that the nuclear sale would not threaten Israeli security.

During his meetings with Russian officials, Rabin asked them to use their ties with Iran to try to elicit information from Tehran on the fate of Israeli POWs.

On Wednesday, Rabin paid a state visit to Ukraine. It was the first visit there by a Jewish leader since the fall of the Soviet Union.

During his visit, Israel and Ukraine signed an agreement on military cooperation.

The two countries also signed separate agreements on agriculture, trade and customs.

Rabin reportedly told Ukrainian officials that Israeli aid to the country would be conditioned on Ukraine's halting its nuclear ties to Iran.

While in Ukraine, Rabin visited Babi Yar, where an estimated 34,000 Jews were killed by the Nazis and local Ukrainians in September 1941. □

### **Israel names Arab as ambassador**

*By Naomi Segal*

JERUSALEM (JTA) — For the first time in the history of the Jewish state, Israel's Foreign Ministry has named an Arab citizen to serve as an ambassador.

Adib Hassan Yihye, a lecturer at Tel Aviv University and the National Defense College, will serve as Israel's ambassador to Finland.

Yihye, 49, is a resident of Kfar Kara.

He was awarded an Israel Prize in 1986 for his work in education.

He also teaches Arabic and Hebrew at Ulpan Akiva, a residential language school in Netanya that was twice nominated for a Nobel Peace Prize for its work in Jewish-Arab relations. □

### **WWII killing unit officer free in Canada until hearing**

*By Gil Kezwer*

TORONTO (JTA) — An immigration official has ruled that a suspected war criminal who was intercepted when he tried to slip back into Canada should not be held while he awaits a second deportation hearing.

Because of the ruling last week, suspected war criminal Konrad Kalejs, 81, has been reunited in Canada with his common-law wife.

Kalejs was a key officer in the notorious Arajs Kommando unit of the World War II Latvian Security Police.

The decision to release Kalejs outraged area Jewish groups, which accused the Department of Immigration of bungling the matter.

No date has been set for the second hearing.

Kalejs has been detained since Sept. 3, when he was caught trying to sneak into Canada at Pearson International Airport here.

He had been scheduled for an Aug. 4 deportation hearing in Toronto.

But Kalejs voluntarily left the country on June 21 for Australia — hours before his visitor's visa expired.

After he left Canada, his name was added to a watch list of persons who would not be permitted entry into the country.

Kalejs, who is an Australian citizen, had been deported from the United States.

In 1993, a U.S. appeals court upheld a 1985 deportation decision in which he was identified as a high-ranking officer in the the notorious Arajs Kommandos, a mobile killing unit that murdered tens of thousands of Latvian Jews, Gypsies and Communists during the war. □

## Parents of terror victim honor daughter's memory

By Michele Chabin

JERUSALEM (JTA) — When Alisa Flatow was killed in a terrorist attack in April in Gaza, not all her dreams died with her.

A vivacious 20-year-old from New Jersey who was a student at Brandeis University, Flatow had hoped to work in the Jewish community after graduation.

Her plans were cut short by an April 9 suicide bombing of a bus in the Gaza Strip that claimed her life and the lives of seven Israeli soldiers.

"As Jews, it is our responsibility to help Jews less fortunate than we are," she once wrote.

Immediately after her death, her parents, Stephen and Rosalyn Flatow, put their daughter's words into practice by donating her organs to Israelis.

Alisa Flatow's heart was successfully transplanted into a 56-year-old man who had been waiting more than a year for one.

Her pancreas and one kidney were transplanted into a 42-year-old woman with kidney failure who was reported to have been waiting 20 years for the organs.

Flatow's lungs, liver and other kidney were transplanted into other patients.

Her corneas were donated to the eye bank in Soroka Hospital in Beersheba.

Because Israelis rarely donate organs, the Flatows' actions received vast media attention here and helped raise public awareness about the scarcity of organ donors in Israel.

Last week, the Flatows again honored Alisa's memory by creating a scholarship fund at Nishmat, the Jerusalem-based women's seminary she had been attending at the time of her death.

Another scholarship fund, intended for American high school graduates wishing to study Jewish topics in Israel, has already been established.

### 'Being here is bittersweet'

In Israel, for the first time since their daughter's death, the Flatows acknowledged that "being here is bittersweet."

In an interview prior to the unveiling of a memorial plaque at Nishmat, Stephen Flatow said, "We love the country, and it's good to see Israel under any circumstances. We identify with the many Israeli parents who have lost children.

"We're here because we're Jews and this is our home. We couldn't stay away from our home."

He also said, "The country is going through some changes right now. We're not happy with everything we see, and just hope that Israelis are walking toward their betterment, their improvement, to live in peace with their neighbors."

Rosalyn Flatow said her two younger daughters, ages 15 and 18, have both been to Israel since their sister's death.

"They wanted to be here now," she recently said, "but this is their first week of school, and that has to be their priority. They missed too much school this past year."

After the unveiling of the plaque, a small memorial ceremony was held, which was attended by Israeli officials, U.S. Consul General James Gray, Nishmat students and the recipient of one of Flatow's kidneys.

At the ceremony, her friends recalled an ebullient, confident young woman with a passion for Israel.

Noting how Alisa missed her family and friends back home, her friend Kate Ireland said, "Even being so

far away from her family, the humor and warmth of Alisa's relationships were obvious to me."

Perhaps the most emotional moment at the ceremony came when the Flatows met Aryeh Mendelsohn, the 44-year-old recipient of one of Alisa's kidneys.

Thin, but evidently in good health, Mendelsohn related how the kidney had saved his life.

"In 1989, my kidney failure became more acute," he said. "I had a kidney transplant, but it failed after 11 days. I was told I had no other chance of finding a kidney in Israel.

"In 1993, I went to Mt. Sinai Hospital in New York. They examined me, put me on their list, and then I returned to Israel to wait."

After being on home dialysis for many years, Mendelsohn said, his life has been transformed by the transplant.

"I'm feeling well, although it was a complicated transplant. I spent 2 1/2 months in the hospital due to complications, but I returned to work last month," he said.

He told the Flatows, "I want you to know how much I appreciate what you've done. It was a brave decision."

Appearing to be on the verge of tears, Stephen Flatow stressed that death at the hands of terrorists "isn't limited to the State of Israel."

Referring to terror attacks in the United States, he said, "They can find you on the Brooklyn Bridge, at the World Trade Center, in Oklahoma City."

He added, "terrorism will never defeat us." □

## Israel trade fair draws Syrians, Saudis

By Naomi Segal

JERUSALEM (JTA) — A recent medical equipment trade fair in Tel Aviv drew prospective buyers from Syria, Saudi Arabia and Yemen, as well as other countries that do not have diplomatic ties with Israel.

Four Syrians, two Saudis and at least one Yemenite reportedly attended the Medex 95 exhibit.

Since Israel signed accords with the Palestine Liberation Organization and Jordan, its ties with other entities in the Arab world have been quietly growing.

Some of the contact with the Syrians and Saudis was made through Israeli businessmen and others, media here reported.

These participants came via a third country that has diplomatic relations with Israel, apparently Egypt or Jordan.

The fair drew 500 people from 32 countries, including 60 buyers from the self-rule areas of the Gaza Strip and the Jericho enclave as well as other parts of the West Bank. □

## Arab-owned land available for roads

By Naomi Segal

JERUSALEM (JTA) — The High Court of Justice has cleared the way for Israel to expropriate Palestinian-owned land to build bypass roads.

The roads would be part of the plan to redeploy Israel Defense Force troops in the West Bank.

The court recently rejected a Palestinian petition, which asked that land past Nablus and Jenin not be used for the roads.

The court accepted the argument of the head of central command, Maj. Gen. Ilan Biran, who said the roads were essential for security in the redeployment plan.

He said the roads would be used by Jewish settlers in the region during the interim phase, as well as by security forces. □

## After 101 years, French army admits innocence of Dreyfus

By Naomi Segal

JERUSALEM (JTA) — More than a century later, the French army has openly admitted that Capt. Alfred Dreyfus, an Alsatian Jew convicted of treason and sentenced to life imprisonment, was innocent.

The declaration was made during a discussion convened by the French Jewish community at which Jean-Louis Moreau, head of the army's history department, said Dreyfus had been innocent of all charges against him and was persecuted because he was a Jew, the Israeli daily Ha'aretz reported.

The Dreyfus Affair, as it came to be known, was a "military conspiracy which led to the conviction and deportation of an innocent man, and partially on the basis of a falsified document," the historian said.

Moreau said his remarks were nothing new and that the army had recognized Dreyfus' innocence after the charges were dropped.

The French Supreme Court in 1906 overturned Dreyfus' 1894 conviction of spying for Germany, but the army had yet to openly state that the Jewish officer had not betrayed France, according to historical sources.

At the time of Dreyfus' conviction, the French army was rife with anti-Semitism.

Dreyfus had maintained his innocence, but his case did not gain public interest until evidence surfaced showing that another person spied for the German nation.

The suspect was acquitted quickly, prompting writer Emile Zola to publish an open letter, the famous "J'Accuse," claiming that the judges followed orders from the military.

One result of the Dreyfus Affair was to unite and bring to power the French left wing. Widespread anti-militarism and rabid anti-clericalism followed, leading to the separation of church and state in France in 1905, historical sources said.

The Dreyfus Affair remains controversial, even in the late 20th century. Last year, Moreau's predecessor was ousted after he suggested that Dreyfus was not innocent.

Also last year, the elite Polytechnique engineering school refused to have a statue of Dreyfus erected on its campus outside Paris. □

## Germany offers award to find last leading Nazi Alois Brunner

By Gil Sedan

BONN (JTA) — German prosecutors have posted a \$333,000 reward for information leading to the arrest of the last leading Nazi still believed to be on the loose.

Alois Brunner, 83, has been the target for years of fruitless search efforts.

State prosecutors in Cologne and Frankfurt made the reward offer in the hope of finally capturing Brunner.

Brunner, an Austrian citizen, served during World War II as personal secretary to Adolf Eichmann, Hitler's chief aide. The person whom Eichmann once described as his "best man" orchestrated the deaths of some 128,000 Jews from Austria, Greece, France and Slovakia during the war years.

Brunner was listed earlier this year in the German newsmagazine Focus as one of Interpol's 12 most-wanted people.

According to the magazine, which quoted information from the Interpol center in Lyon, France, the former SS officer who was previously believed to be living undisturbed in Damascus, Syria, had obtained an Austrian passport under an assumed name and moved to Argentina.

But in August, French police said they failed to locate Brunner in Argentina after receiving tips that he left his hideout in Syria.

Brunner lived in Essen, Germany, until 1954 under the alias of Alois Schmaldienst. He then fled to Damascus, where he had worked as a businessman and "government adviser" using the name Georg Fischer.

Authorities in Germany, France and Austria have issued warrants for Brunner's arrest.

As far back as 1992, diplomats in Syria maintained that Brunner was dead.

But the German newsmagazine Der Spiegel quoted French Nazi hunter Serge Klarsfeld as saying that Brunner still lives in Damascus in a state-owned apartment, under a "sort of a house arrest."

According to various reports, Brunner has been spotted in Brazil, Argentina, Chile and Cambodia. □

## Custodian of Hitler's estate: 'Mein Kampf' ban should hold

By Gil Sedan

BONN (JTA) — The official custodian of Adolf Hitler's estate has said "Mein Kampf," the Nazi dictator's notorious autobiography, should continue to be banned in Germany.

Georg von Waldenfels, who also is the finance minister of Bavaria, holds the official copyright of Hitler's writings.

The virulently anti-Semitic work has been translated into Hebrew and published in Israel.

Von Waldenfels said The Hebrew University's decision to publish the book should be the only exception to the ban.

In an article in the German newsmagazine Focus, he rejected arguments that favor lifting the ban in the name of "freedom of expression." The effect that the work has both inside and outside Germany also should be considered, he added.

"Mein Kampf" is the "symbol of National Socialist ideology," he wrote.

He also wrote that it would be dangerous to promote a new edition of the work.

"Can you imagine what kind of an impression one would get from bookstore windows full with the Hitler books, possibly along with posters of the dictator?" he said in the article. □

## German pupils greeted with crucifixes

By Miriam Widman

BERLIN (JTA) — Students filing into classrooms across Bavaria last week for the first day of public school were greeted with crosses on the walls, despite a federal court ruling in August that prohibits the hanging of the religious symbol in classrooms.

The ruling — which came in response to a complaint made by a couple in Bavaria, Germany's most staunchly Catholic state — had outraged many Bavarians and resulted in an unusual silence from Germany's 45,000-strong Jewish community.

To date, Ignatz Bubis, executive director of the Central Council for Jews in Germany, has not commented on the issue, though several prominent Jews, in letters to the editor, have expressed support for the court's stance.

Edmund Stoiber, Bavaria's president, told the German media that he believes that hanging a crucifix in a public classroom is constitutional. German Chancellor Helmut Kohl also disagreed with the ruling.

Unlike the United States, Germany does not have a strong tradition of separation of church and state. □