



## NEWS AT A GLANCE

■ The Israeli Cabinet reserved the right to send Israeli forces into Palestinian self-rule areas to apprehend terrorists. The Cabinet action came after a Hamas suicide bomber killed at least 12 people and wounded more than 109 at a busy Tel Aviv shopping mall. [Page 2]

■ Israel put the festive holiday of Purim on hold in the wake of a renewed wave of suicide bombings. In nine days, four fatal explosions — all the work of the Islamic fundamentalist Hamas organization — have occurred in the Jewish state.

■ A U.S. District Court in Mississippi began to hear a challenge to a local school district's policy of reading prayers over the loudspeaker during the school day. Lisa Herdahl said she began her quest to end the practice two years ago, when her six children were harassed by school officials and students for not taking part in the school's morning devotional.

■ Syria and Israel suspended their peace talks indefinitely while the Jewish state mourns the victims of the most recent bombing attacks. Israel recalled its delegation from the Wye Plantation in Maryland. [Page 4]

■ The confessed killer of Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin testified for the first time in Tel Aviv District Court and said ritual Jewish law dictated that he assassinate the Jewish leader. Yigal Amir, a 25-year-old religious Jew, shot Rabin dead after a Nov. 4 peace rally in Tel Aviv.

■ One Israeli soldier was killed and two wounded when unidentified gunmen attacked their patrol in northern Israel. Sources with the Israel-allied South Lebanon Army also said two of the attackers were killed in a clash with members of the Israeli patrol.

■ The U.S. Postal Service announced it will issue a 32-cent Chanukah stamp, which bears a colorful menorah. The stamp will go on sale in October, as part of the postal service's new holiday celebration series.

## BEHIND THE HEADLINES

### Latest suicide attacks spur action on U.S. anti-terror bill

By Cynthia Mann

NEW YORK (JTA) — Leaders of American Jewish organizations are calling for the immediate passage of anti-terrorism legislation that has languished for more than a year in Congress.

The Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations made its call at a Monday news conference convened to denounce the latest series of bombings in Israel carried out by the Islamic fundamentalist Hamas movement.

Suicide bombers in Jerusalem and Tel Aviv this week claimed the lives of at least 30 and wounded at least 119.

"This is war," declared Leon Levy, chairman of the conference, who called the bombings "wanton killing" by "barbarian murderers."

"This is war," he repeated, saying that the terrorism threat was not limited to Israel.

"Hamas and other Islamic extremist groups are engaged in fund raising, recruitment and training" in the United States, he said.

Levy said he had been assured by House Speaker Newt Gingrich (R-Ga.) that "he'll move aggressively to support" the anti-terrorism bill.

In a statement issued Monday to his Republican colleagues, Gingrich underscored the importance of the bill's passage.

Action on the measure has repeatedly been scheduled and postponed in the House of Representatives. Now on the legislative calendar for the week of March 11 — a date set prior to the latest attacks in Israel — action is now nearly certain.

The bill, which aims to combat both international and domestic terrorism, got a boost in the wake of the Oklahoma City bombing last April.

Although the pending legislation has fewer teeth than originally envisioned, Jewish groups are pushing to get it enacted.

The measure pending in the House would, among other provisions, outlaw fund raising in the United States by designated terrorist organizations such as Hamas. It would also outlaw donations by Americans to such organizations, make terrorism a federal offense for the first time and bar leaders of designated terrorist groups from entering the United States.

The bill also would provide \$10 million in aid for anti-terrorism technology in countries especially threatened by terrorism, including Israel.

### 'Congress must step up to the plate'

At Monday's news conference, Rep. Charles Schumer (D-N.Y.), one of the two authors of the anti-terrorism bill, added his voice to the call for the bill's passage.

"Congress must step up to the plate and pass our bill right now," he said.

The bill, he added, will help ensure that "organizations dedicated to killing innocent men, women and children will no longer be able to use the United States as a safe haven."

"We can no longer look at this as a distant danger," said Malcolm Hoenlein, executive vice chairman of the conference. "We cannot afford more sacrifices. We want no more memorials."

Jewish leaders and members of Congress also issued warnings to Yasser Arafat that he must decisively root out terrorism.

"The burden of proof is on Yasser Arafat," said Schumer. The peace process is "hanging by a hair."

On Capitol Hill, Senate Majority Leader Bob Dole threatened to cut off U.S. funds to the Palestinians.

"Unless and until serious anti-terrorist actions are implemented by Chairman Arafat, it is difficult to justify continued U.S. assistance to the Palestinian Authority," Dole said in a statement.

A similar threat was issued by Rep. Benjamin Gilman (R-N.Y.), chairman of the House International Relations Committee, who asked members of Congress to sign on to a letter to Arafat. The letter warned of an end to U.S. aid unless the Palestinian Authority cracks down on terrorism.

Dole also said he anticipated that Congress would soon complete

action on the anti-terrorism legislation. Jewish support for the legislation intensified last August, after the detention in New York of Musa Abu Marzook.

Israel claims Marzook is the head of the political bureau of Hamas, which allegedly directs and coordinates terrorist acts in Israel and the territories.

Israel also claims that Marzook raised hundreds of thousands of dollars in the United States and transferred it to the group's Gaza headquarters.

The measure could be "potentially very, very important" in stopping people such as Marzook, said Michael Lieberman, Washington counsel for the Anti-Defamation League.

The bill is "an important expansion of the federal capability to deal with terrorism here and abroad," he added. "It plugs weaknesses and addresses vulnerabilities and provides additional tools" to the law enforcement community.

In June, the Senate passed its version of the bill, which is viewed as significantly weaker than the House measure. One analyst said the Senate's fund-raising provisions seem "almost designed to thwart the possibility of prosecution."

Despite concern that provisions in the House version on fund raising and wiretapping have been "watered down," Hoenlein said, "We want the House bill passed."

Said Lieberman, "Our focus has been to pass the House bill and get it into conference" between the House and Senate, where an acceptable compromise can be fashioned.

Meanwhile, in the wake of the attacks, many Jewish organizations issued condemnations and joined the call for Arafat to dismantle Hamas.

American Jewry's chief fund-raising entities sent a joint letter to Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres, expressing sorrow and solidarity in the face of the attacks.

On the holiday of Purim, the letter said, Jews "again hear the story of Jewish resistance to evil."

"In each generation we have had Jewish heroes that arose to help our people. We know that today in Israel there are many such Jewish heroes. We pray for their speedy success in assuring the safety of our sisters and brothers in Israel."

The letter was sent by the Council of Jewish Federations, the United Jewish Appeal, the United Israel Appeal and the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee. □

## **On Purim eve, Hamas strikes at busy Tel Aviv shopping mall**

*By Gil Sedan*

JERUSALEM (JTA) — Israel was still mourning its dead from the attack on a Jerusalem bus when a blast in Tel Aviv a day later sent shock waves across the Jewish state.

Jerusalem had been the target of Hamas militants in an attack Sunday and two attacks last week.

But Monday, it was Tel Aviv's turn.

Shortly before 4 p.m., a suicide bomber struck at Dizengoff Center, the main shopping mall in the heart of Tel Aviv. The Hamas terrorist claimed at least 12 victims and left at least 109 wounded, including children.

At an emergency session held after Monday's attack, the Israeli Cabinet decided to create a new anti-terrorism command to combat Islamic extremists.

The command will be headed by Ami Ayalon, the newly appointed head of the Shin Bet, Israel's domestic security agency, and will include top army and intelligence officials.

The decision to create the command was accompanied by a Cabinet resolution that claimed that Israel had the right to enter Palestinian self-rule areas to round up militants.

The Hamas attack came when hundreds of people, many of them children in costume, were at the popular mall in preparation for the Purim holiday, which began Monday evening.

"Even we Israelis, who have known so many difficult hours, are reaching the ends of our nerves," said Tel Aviv Mayor Ronnie Milo.

He said he expected the government to take drastic action, and fast.

According to the initial investigation, the suicide bomber crossed Dizengoff Street, heading toward one of the entrances to the Dizengoff Center.

Just as he was about to enter the mall, he detonated explosives he was carrying that were estimated to weigh more than 30 pounds.

The grim accounts of what followed have become familiar in recent days.

Eyewitnesses reported that body parts were scattered throughout the street among mangled cars that had been traveling on the busy thoroughfare.

Screams of pain mingled with the wailing of ambulances that rushed to the scene just minutes after the explosion.

"There was a smell of death in the air," said one eyewitness, who added that the worst thing she saw were the small bodies of children lying on the street.

Two hours after the attack, an anonymous caller phoned Israel Radio to say that the Tel Aviv bombing came in response to Sunday's statement by Prime Minister Shimon Peres in which he declared an all-out war against Hamas.

The caller warned that if the government took measures against the Hamas movement, the organization would hit back hard at the Jewish population.

### **Knesset committee given gloomy assessment**

Another caller later identified the suicide bomber as Saleh Abdul Rahim, 24, a resident of the West Bank town of Ramallah, which was turned over to Palestinian self-rule in late December.

Ayalon offered a gloomy assessment of the situation.

Speaking Monday before the Knesset's Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, Ayalon said hundreds of Palestinian youths in the territories were waiting for their turn to become martyrs as suicide bombers.

Forty such youths were arrested Monday near the West Bank town of Hebron in the refugee camp of Al-Fawwar, home to the two suicide bombers who carried out attacks last week in Jerusalem and Ashkelon.

"As long as the sermons in the mosques continue," said Ayalon, referring to militant Hamas preachers, "the operational infrastructure for suicide attacks is maintained."

So far, he said, the Palestinian Authority does not arrest the militant preachers.

There was a growing feeling among Israeli officials here that only drastic action by the Palestinian Authority against Hamas — measures that would impair the ability of the organization to operate — could put an end to this wave of terrorism.

Israeli analysts noted a change in the pattern of Hamas terrorist attacks.

They said that even though in the past there were periods between attacks, this series of recent assaults seemed to be deliberately designed to put a halt to the peace process. □

## ON THE ELECTION TRAIL

### **Buchanan defending Israel? In another era, it happened**

By Matthew Dorf

WASHINGTON (JTA) — When Israel was battling to buy American arms in the early 1970s, Pat Buchanan, a speech writer in the Nixon administration, lashed out at a White House strategy meeting on behalf of the Jewish state.

He labeled the State Department “a bunch of striped pants pro-Arabists” who were leading the charge to deny Israel much-needed fighter jets.

Nearly two decades later, as Iraqi Scud missiles fell on Tel Aviv, Buchanan took to the airwaves to declare that Israel is “a strategic albatross draped around the neck of the United States.” Buchanan also seized the occasion to label Capitol Hill “Israeli-occupied territory.”

And in perhaps the most notorious of what he terms his “golden oldies,” Buchanan railed against Jewish advocates of the Gulf War. “There are only two groups that are beating the drums for war in the Middle East — the Israeli Defense Ministry and its amen corner in the United States,” he said.

From Israel proponent to antagonist — what happened on the way to Buchanan’s presidential campaign trail?

Buchanan’s record is being scrutinized because even though he is a longshot for the Republican presidential bid, his support is growing. Many fear the impact he could have at the Republican convention come August.

“Pat took a traditional conservative position on Israel when the Soviet Union was around,” said Victor Gold, a self-described longtime friend of Buchanan who worked with him in the Nixon White House. Buchanan, 57, was an aide and speech writer under Presidents Nixon and Ford. President Reagan named him the White House director of communications during his second term.

Buchanan, a fierce anti-Communist, “saw Israel as the West’s friend fighting against the Soviet Union” when Egypt and Syria were in the Russian camp, said Gold, now the national correspondent for the Washingtonian magazine and the co-author of President Bush’s autobiography.

### **Praised Hitler, defended war criminals**

Buchanan remained pro-Israel — though never “pro-Jewish” — his friends say, until the intifada, when he empathized with the Palestinian uprising, which erupted in 1987. The shift in attitude became complete with the end of the Cold War. It was this radical shift, epitomized by his remarks before and during the Gulf War, that led to charges of anti-Semitism by former colleagues and friends, including the most prominent conservative columnists.

His indiscriminate use of anti-Semitic code words to support his policy positions, his praise of Hitler as “an individual of great courage,” his defense of Nazi war criminals and his flirtations with Holocaust denial alienated even those who had given him the benefit of the doubt.

As an example of Buchanan’s questionable rhetoric, Gold cited the candidate’s opposition last year to the U.S. financial bailout of Mexico. “I agree with Pat on his objection to the Mexican bailout,” Gold said, but the people he railed against who supported the bailout were all Jewish bankers.

“There are a lot of non-Jewish bankers,” Gold said. “There is something beneath the surface here.”

It is this “problem with the Jews” — as well as extremist positions on a host of other issues — that has many Jews, Republicans and other voters seething at the success that the speech writer turned commentator turned presidential aspirant has found along the campaign trail.

The National Jewish Coalition, the Republican Jewish group whose leaders have condemned Buchanan from the outset of his campaign, recently turned up the heat, issuing a five-page paper that declared Buchanan’s positions the “antithesis” of the GOP’s positions and declared its “strong opposition” to his candidacy.

Aside from his offensive rhetoric, Buchanan has staked out positions on many issues strongly at odds with mainstream Republican views. He has said he would impose a five-year moratorium on all legal immigration and turn welfare programs over to the states for five years, at which point he would end federal support outright.

Buchanan attributes the rise of violence and pornography in the United States to the lack of prayer in schools. He would push for a constitutional amendment that would bring prayer back to America’s classroom and halt the “de-Christianization of America,” he said at a rally in New Hampshire last month.

Buchanan would also work for a constitutional amendment ending all abortions in America, including cases involving rape and incest.

In addition to his protectionist views on trade, Buchanan tells supporters at campaign stops that there would be no foreign aid in a Buchanan administration.

Buchanan also has said he would never station U.S. troops on the Golan Heights if Israel and Syria request them as part of a peace treaty.

To what extent a Buchanan presidency would or would not actually align itself with Israel is a matter of speculation, but whatever his current views on the Middle East, he is unlikely to make many Jewish friends.

For Rabbi Avi Weiss, a New York rabbi whose Coalition for Jewish Concerns-AMCHA has dogged Buchanan during his race for the White House, “Buchanan is a smart anti-Semite. He doesn’t wear it on his sleeve.”

But, Weiss added, “he is one of the most dangerous anti-Semites in America today.”

But there are at least two Jews supporting Buchanan’s bid for the presidency, including Rabbi Yahuda Levin of New York, who serves as one of Buchanan’s four campaign co-chairmen. Campaign officials repeatedly refused to comment on the charges against Buchanan, but finally referred the inquiries to Levin and another supporter, Rabbi Aryeh Spiro of Ohio.

“When he can point to a rabbi on his staff, Buchanan is using me for cover. But to the same extent I am using the Buchanan camp to communicate with 20 to 30 million Christians,” said Levin, a stringent anti-abortion, anti-gay rights conservative who has backed Buchanan for the last four years. “I don’t have to be married to him or believe everything he says,” Levin said, defending his association with the campaign.

### **Campaign leader attended Klan rallies**

Levin ran for mayor of New York in 1985 on the Right to Life ticket against then-Mayor Ed Koch. He also ran against Democrat Rep. Steve Solarz as the Right to Life candidate in 1984.

Levin acknowledged that he is “troubled” by Buchanan’s “emphasis on defending Nazi war criminals.”

“He feels that Hitler had courage. So what?” Levin said. “What does that say to us? On 80 or 90 percent of the issues I agree with him.”

Buchanan’s campaign has attracted many extremists, including a fellow campaign co-chairman, Larry Pratt, who is on a leave of absence to defend himself for attending rallies with Ku Klux Klan and militia leaders.

Other supporters, including some of his elected delegates, reportedly have ties to David Duke, the former Louisiana gubernatorial candidate who was a leader with the Klan. □

## Israel suspends talks with Syria in wake of latest terror attacks

By Matthew Dorf

WASHINGTON (JTA) — Israel has indefinitely suspended peace talks with Syria in response to twin terrorist bombings in Jerusalem and Tel Aviv.

At Israel's request, the United States canceled talks that were scheduled to resume Monday at the Wye Plantation in Maryland.

The parties met last week but they reported no progress.

Although originally scheduled to remain in the nation's capital, Israel recalled its delegation Monday, in part because Syria did not condemn the latest terrorist attacks.

Alarmed by the escalating violence, U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher cut his tour of Latin America short on Monday to convene a meeting of the administration's top national security advisers.

Officials said the team would compile a list of recommendations to present to President Clinton.

The measures are expected to include intelligence information geared toward helping Israel in its war against terrorism.

The recommendations are also expected to focus on helping the Palestinian Authority in its crackdown on the fundamentalist groups Hamas and Islamic Jihad. □

## Canadian federal officials busy with accused Nazis and neo-Nazis

By Bill Gladstone

TORONTO (JTA) — Canadian Jewish officials have expressed their satisfaction with rulings against two neo-Nazis here.

But Jewish leaders remain frustrated with the federal government's postponement of a deportation hearing for an accused Nazi war criminal.

The Supreme Court of Canada last week reinstated the 1992 conviction of James Keegstra, which had found him guilty of promoting hatred against Jews.

Keegstra, a former high school teacher in Alberta who now works as a mechanic, taught his students that Jews are "treacherous," "subversive" and "money-loving" and are responsible for most of the evil in the world.

He also taught students that the Holocaust was a hoax.

Proceedings against Keegstra began in 1984.

Legal experts and others said the court's 9-0 ruling affirms that Canada's anti-hate legislation is constitutionally valid.

"There is no question that this is a historic decision," said Mark Sandler, Ontario legal counsel for the League for Human Rights of B'nai Brith Canada.

The ruling shows that "Canada is not a haven for hatemongers," Sandler added.

A lower court in Alberta still needs to determine whether Keegstra should pay the \$3,000 he was originally fined.

The maximum penalty for his crime — the willful promotion of hatred against an identifiable group — is two years in jail.

Meanwhile, Canadian immigration officials recently detained Oliver Bode, the 29-year-old publisher of a neo-Nazi newspaper in Germany, as he was entering Canada through Pearson International Airport in Toronto.

Bode apparently was carrying a suitcase of racist videos for Holocaust denier Ernst Zundel.

At the hearing that followed, at which Bode was

represented by Zundel, authorities issued a deportation order against Bode.

"This was a textbook example of how the system is supposed to work," said Bernie Farber, national director of community relations at the Canadian Jewish Congress.

However, Jewish officials were not so pleased with the federal government when it again postponed the deportation hearing of an accused Nazi war criminal who had already been given six months to prepare for an appearance in court.

Konrad Kalejs, 82, an Australian citizen, is scheduled to appear in court in May to show why he should not be deported from Canada, which he re-entered six months ago.

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

Kalejs has already 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 mobile killing unit.

The killing unit murdered tens of thousands of Latvian Jews, Gypsies and Communists during World War II. □

## FBI exploring neo-Nazi link to Oklahoma City bombing

By Deborah Leipziger

LONDON (JTA) — The FBI is investigating claims that there is an international conspiracy behind the April 1995 bombing of the federal building in Oklahoma City.

The Times of London has reported that British and German neo-Nazis are believed to have played a role in the bombing to avenge the execution of Richard Snell, an American neo-Nazi who was put to death on the day of the bombing for murdering a Jewish businessman and an African American state trooper.

Timothy McVeigh, 27, one of two defendants in the Oklahoma City case, has alleged that there was a European link to the attack.

McVeigh's lawyer has traveled to London to investigate whether British neo-Nazis provided components for the bomb, which killed 168 people, 19 of them children, and wounded at least 400 others.

The defense for McVeigh may seek to prove an international conspiracy behind the bombing in an effort to portray him as a small link in a complex international web rather than the bombing's mastermind.

Three Britons have been subpoenaed to provide information on the alleged European link.

The three are: Holocaust denier David Irving, who has close links to extremist groups; John Tyndall, leader of the British National Party, an extreme right-wing group with between 800 and 1,000 members in Britain; and Charles Sergeant, a member of Combat 18, an extremist skinhead group whose membership is estimated at between 30 and 100.

The three men have been asked to describe communication between their organizations and American groups.

Combat 18 is the most dangerous Britain-based group, said Tony Lerman of London's Institute for Jewish Policy Research.

"While it is doubtful that Combat 18 is responsible for developing the bomb used in the Oklahoma building, it is not impossible," he said.

"With access to the Internet, any extremist group can develop a bomb." □