

NEWS AT A GLANCE

■ **White House Chief of Staff Leon Panetta said that President Clinton opposes an early release for Jonathan Pollard, who is serving a life sentence. Pollard was hoping to secure a presidential pardon. [Page 2]**

■ **The U.S. House of Representatives approved deportation proceedings for accused terrorists living in the United States. The measure, buried in the immigration reform bill, had been deleted from anti-terrorism legislation. [Page 3]**

■ **Ambulances bringing Palestinians in need of medical treatment into Israel are being searched by Israeli soldiers. The order to check the vehicles was issued after explosives were discovered on a pregnant Palestinian woman traveling to an Israeli hospital. [Page 3]**

■ **A senior British official's refusal to seek a law against Holocaust denial drew the ire of the Jewish Board of Deputies. Other European countries fear that Holocaust deniers will use England as a base for spreading hate literature to nations that have banned such activities. [Page 4]**

■ **The U.S. Justice Department is studying 19th century piracy laws as it considers requesting the extradition of a Palestinian convicted of the 1985 Achille Lauro hijacking. Youssef Magied al-Molqi, who was captured in Spain after escaping from an Italian prison, killed American Jew Leon Klinghoffer and ordered his body thrown overboard.**

■ **An attorney for the key suspect in last April's bombing of the Federal building in Oklahoma City said he has evidence that may link Middle Eastern countries to the blast. Timothy McVeigh's lawyer told reporters "certain foreign governments made specific threats against the U.S. and that one of those threats was in Oklahoma City."**

■ **Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat reportedly will provide testimony in the extradition trial of the head of Hamas' political wing. Musa Abu Marzook was arrested last July at Kennedy Airport when he attempted to re-enter the United States.**

Oldest U.S. veterans group waves flag of Jewish pride

By Daniel Kurtzman

WASHINGTON (JTA) — Just over a century ago, Mark Twain wrote a letter in Harper's Weekly magazine suggesting that Jews had "an unpatriotic disinclination to stand by the flag as a soldier."

In response to the slanderous attacks by Twain and other would-be revisionists of the day, 63 Jewish Civil War veterans — including six recipients of the Congressional Medal of Honor — met in New York City in March 1896, and founded what would later become the Jewish War Veterans of the U.S.A.

As the oldest veterans organization in America turns 100 this month, the Jewish men and women who served in America's armed forces continue to wave the flag of Jewish pride and American patriotism.

The record shows that nearly 1 million Jewish soldiers have served in all of the armed conflicts in which the U.S. has been engaged — from the Civil War to the 1991 Persian Gulf War — as well as in peacekeeping operations, most recently in Bosnia.

Still, the veterans say there is as great a need today as ever for Jews to defend themselves against charges that they never served their country.

"There has always been a feeling that Jews buy their way out of everything, that Jews have a dual loyalty, that Jews are only interested in money and not their nation, that they lack patriotism," said Robert Zweiman, chairman of the JWV Centennial Committee.

"We put a lie to it."

At a national centennial celebration in Washington this month, more than 500 Jewish veterans from across the country gathered to salute the organization, visit members of Congress and walk through the 100th anniversary exhibit at JWV's National Museum of American Jewish Military History.

As veterans recalled war stories and looked at old photographs during one gathering, strains of "God Bless America" drifted easily into "Jerusalem of Gold."

Richard Marowitz, one of more than 500,000 Jews who served in World War II, talked about entering Munich with American liberation forces on April 30, 1945.

As a point scout in an intelligence and reconnaissance platoon, Marowitz was assigned to search Hitler's home in Munich, where he made a surprising discovery.

"I opened up a closet and I saw something dark on an upper shelf," recalls Marowitz, now 70.

"So I pulled over a chair, climbed up and grabbed this thing. It was a beautiful hat. I looked inside and saw the initials A.H."

Marowitz recounted the story at the JWV's museum, standing next to the top hat that belonged to Adolph Hitler, now encased in glass. The hat has been verified as authentic.

"I envisioned his head in it because after seeing Dachau, I was a little bit hot, and I threw it on the floor and jumped on it," he said. "I wanted to crush his head."

Carrying the message to a younger generation

After keeping the partially crushed hat stored in his basement for 50 years, he lent it to the museum last year for display.

"The story in the division is that when Hitler found out on the 30th of April that some skinny Jewish kid stomped on his favorite top hat, he committed suicide," Marowitz said.

JWV has about 100,000 members nationwide affiliated with 424 posts in 34 states and the District of Columbia. Most of the members, veterans of World War II, are in their 70s and 80s.

Aware that it is an aging organization, JWV in 1988 started up a "Descendants of the Jewish War Veterans" division to carry its message to a younger generation.

Throughout the organization's history, JWV has supported veterans and Jewish interests on a variety of levels.

"During the past 100 years JWV has stood for a strong national

defense and for just recognition and compensation for veterans," said National Commander Neil Goldman in testimony this month before the Joint Senate-House Veterans' Affairs Committee.

"The Jewish War Veterans prides itself in being in the forefront among our nation's civic groups in supporting the well-earned rights of veterans, in promoting American democratic principles, in defending universal Jewish causes and in vigorously opposing bigotry, anti-Semitism, and terrorism — here and abroad."

The group works in conjunction with other veterans organizations in securing veterans benefits and in providing social services for hospitalized veterans and the homeless.

Ruth Sondak of Surfside, Fla., is one of many JWV members who volunteer time caring for veterans in their communities. As JWV Commander for Dade County, Sondak has helped, among other things, to organize Shabbat dinners, Passover seders and Chanukah parties for Jews at local VA hospitals.

"I joined the Jewish War Veterans 20 years ago as a way of giving me something to look forward to when I retired," said Sondak, 72, who served as an instructor in the army finance training school from 1943 to 1945.

JWV has long played a central role in promoting veterans' interests in the political realm as well.

In 1927, JWV won passage of legislation in Congress requiring that the graves of Jewish soldiers be marked by the Star of David, rather than a cross.

JWV spearheaded a nationwide boycott of German goods during the 1930s; brought out more than 250,000 Jewish veterans to parade in New York City in support of the State of Israel in 1948; and took the lead among veterans groups in calling for the withdrawal of U.S. troops from Vietnam in 1970.

The organization today remains active in the political fray, sometimes taking positions that run against the grain of opinion in much of the Jewish organizational world.

JWV, for example, recently raised a lone voice in the Jewish community, opposing the deployment of American ground forces as part of a peacekeeping mission in Bosnia.

"There is no vital national security interest in the former Yugoslavia," JWV said in a statement last year.

"American entrance into this quagmire can lead to a protracted engagement involving countless U.S. troops," the statement added.

Many in the Jewish organizational world "look at us as an anomaly, who don't conform, who don't follow what they may deem to be politically correct thinking," Zweiman said.

'A great story to tell'

It is a distinction, however, that JWV appears to wear as a badge of honor.

"We lend our voice into the Jewish community, sometimes whether they like it or not," Zweiman said.

Gen. Mick Kicklighter, who heads the Defense Department's World War II Commemoration Committee, said he has been proud of his association with JWV.

"They're very dedicated and committed," Kicklighter said as he walked through the 100th anniversary exhibit.

"They have a great story to tell and they tell it very effectively.

"I think they perform a great service, not only recognizing veterans, but in helping our nation remember our history."

It is a history which Jewish veterans helped shape with great pride.

To those who would deny them that pride and

charge that they never served their country, the veterans simply point to the record, which shows 15 Jewish recipients of the Congressional Medal of Honor.

They point to their museum, which chronicles a century of Jewish patriotism.

And they point to the graves in military cemeteries across America and Europe that bear the Star of David. □

White House dashes Pollard's hopes for presidential pardon

By Daniel Kurtzman

WASHINGTON (JTA) — The White House closed the door on Jonathan Pollard's quest for a pardon, with White House Chief of Staff Leon Panetta saying that President Clinton opposes an early release for the confessed spy for Israel at this time.

Appeals on Pollard's behalf are being "looked at," but "it is not a position that the president at this point, in terms of a pardon, feels is justified because of the act that he was convicted of," Panetta said this week over CNN's call-in news program, "Late Edition."

Pollard, a former U.S. Navy civilian intelligence analyst, pleaded guilty 10 years ago to stealing secrets for the Israeli government.

He is currently serving a life sentence.

Pollard was eligible for parole late last year, but the date for a meeting of the parole board has been delayed several times.

Pollard now is not seeking parole, according to Rabbi Avi Weiss, president of AMCHA-Coalition for Jewish Concerns and Pollard's personal rabbi.

Weiss, who spoke to Pollard Sunday, said he has "suffered mercilessly in prison over the last 10 years," and was "understandably upset" when he heard about the CNN program.

"I am distressed because it was so emphatic," Weiss said of Panetta's remarks.

"I really think it is a slap in the face of the [Israeli] prime minister who made a very serious request that Jonathan be freed."

A caller to the CNN program from Tel Aviv said a majority of Israelis believe it would be a humanitarian gesture to free Pollard.

"I recognize and respect the views that you've expressed," Panetta responded.

"The concern we have is that this is someone who was caught spying against the United States, and obviously is paying a penalty for that."

Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres, and his predecessor, Yitzhak Rabin, have appealed to both Presidents Bush and Clinton for clemency for Pollard.

In addition, many American Jewish organizations have called for a presidential pardon or for Pollard's sentence to be commuted to time served.

Peres' government recently granted Pollard's request for Israeli citizenship.

Meanwhile, Israeli officials in Washington denied a published report that Pollard cut short a prison meeting with an Israeli consul official this week, ostensibly because he felt the official was not high-ranking enough.

The Israeli daily Ma'ariv reported Monday that Atlanta Consul Eitan Surkis-Almog visited Pollard at the federal prison in Butner, N.C.

Pollard reportedly said that the U.S. government would not take his case seriously if the Israeli government did not.

Pollard had earlier demanded a meeting with Israel's ambassador to the U.S., Itamar Rabinovich. □

(JTA correspondent Naomi Segal in Jerusalem contributed to this report.)

**Anti-Israel catcalls dismissed
as antics of Arab soccer fans***By Naomi Segal*

JERUSALEM (JTA) — The eruption of anti-Israel catcalls during a soccer game has prompted debate over whether the incident revealed deep resentments among Israeli Arabs or that it should simply be chalked up to game-related passions.

The incident occurred during the weekend shortly before the opening of a game between Hapoel Taibe, a team comprised entirely of Israeli Arabs that is ranked as the National League leader, and Maccabi Acre, a third-ranked team made up of Israeli Jews.

According to reports, a group in the crowd began shouting anti-Israel slogans when police arrested two fans who were throwing objects onto the playing field.

As police tried to remove the two, the crowd began shouting "Death to the Jews," and "Long live Yehiya Ayash," the alleged mastermind behind a series of Hamas terror attacks who was killed in Gaza in January.

The situation was calmed by team officials and players, and the game went ahead.

Taibe Mayor Haj Yehia later condemned the shouted slogans and stressed that only a small group of "hooligans" were involved.

The incident did not reflect the sentiments of the Israeli Arab community, he added.

He was also critical of the Israeli police, who he said provoked the incident in the way they handled the situation and carried out the arrests.

Yehia also said that Israeli soccer fans had chanted anti-Arab slogans at a previous game.

"I can testify, as one who saw last week's game in Kiryat Shmona, that at a game between Hapoel Kiryat Shmona and Hapoel Taibe, the Kiryat Shmona crowd shouted 'Death to the Arabs' through the course of the 90-minute match.

"No one reported about these calls and cries," Yehia added.

Yossi Olmert, a Middle East expert, sports commentator and candidate in the Likud primaries, expressed a similar opinion.

"Put in a proper context, Jewish [soccer fans] from time to time go public with shouts of 'Death to the Arabs' and so on.

"There are a lot of emotions at football games," he told Israel Radio.

The incident comes at a sensitive time, when Israeli security forces have investigated Israeli Arab charity organizations on suspicion of channeling funds to families of Hamas suicide bombers. □

**IDF searches ambulances
amid fresh terror threats***By Naomi Segal*

JERUSALEM (JTA) — Citing reports that Islamic militants were planning additional terror attacks against Israel, Prime Minister Shimon Peres said the closure on the West Bank and Gaza Strip would remain in place.

Peres also told the weekly Cabinet meeting that soldiers at crossings between Israel and the territories had been instructed to check ambulances bringing Palestinians in need of medical treatment into Israel.

The directive was issued after explosives were reportedly discovered on a pregnant Palestinian woman who was being brought to an Israeli hospital.

Israel imposed the closure Feb. 25 after the first of four Hamas suicide bombings during a nine-day period killed scores of Israelis.

In a separate development, Israel on Sunday allowed a group of 200 Palestinian police to enter Gaza via the Rafah crossing from Egypt.

The group, which had arrived from Libya, had been waiting at the border for a month, after two wanted Palestinians were discovered trying to sneak in with the group.

Meanwhile, Palestinian security officials released on Sunday the head of a new Islamic party formed as an offshoot of Hamas.

The Palestinian, Fouad Nahhal, of the Islamic National Salvation Party, was arrested Saturday when he returned home from a meeting with Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat.

Palestinian security officials said he was questioned about his involvement in the series of suicide bombings because he was mentioned by some Hamas activists during interrogations.

Security officials said they released Nahhal after they concluded he was not linked to any of the terror attacks.

Hamas activists formed the Islamic National Salvation Party last week to oppose the Israeli-Palestinian peace accords.

The Islamic National Salvation Party does not adopt armed struggle as part of its platform.

The party reportedly hopes to become the main opposition group in the territories to Arafat's mainstream Al Fatah faction. □

**Anti-terror measure added
to immigration reform bill***By Matthew Dorf*

WASHINGTON (JTA) — One week after gutting anti-terrorism legislation, the House of Representatives included a key provision of the measure in an immigration reform bill.

Lawmakers approved streamlined deportation proceedings for accused terrorists living in the United States.

The measure, which was buried in the immigration bill, drew no attention during debate.

The deportation provision had split the Jewish community during debate earlier this month on anti-terrorism legislation and also led to spirited debate among lawmakers.

The government could move to deport a suspected terrorist without sharing the evidence with defense attorneys, according to the measure, which also allows the United States greater latitude in barring entry to suspected terrorists.

Some Jewish officials who monitor Capitol Hill downplayed the significance of the House's action.

"The Senate has no similar provision," said Richard Foltin, associate director of the American Jewish Committee's Washington office.

In addition, Foltin predicted the terrorism bill would come up for a final vote before the immigration bill, rendering the provision moot.

Others, however, cautioned that with the current atmosphere on Capitol Hill, anything can happen.

"Who knows how this is going to play out," said Mark Pelavin, Washington representative of the American Jewish Congress.

Many Jewish groups, including AJCongress and AJCommittee, had backed a competing proposal that would have forced the government to share at least some evidence with the accused.

The Senate is scheduled to take up the immigration reform bill in the coming weeks. □

Technion conference explores emergence of 'hi-tech Zionism'*By Tom Tugend*

LOS ANGELES (JTA) — Philanthropic Zionism is dead; long live hi-tech Zionism.

That was the message delivered, if not quite so bluntly, by social, technology and business analysts as they peered ahead a few years to discern the shape of Zionism in the 21st century.

The venue for the re-examination of tenets that have guided Zionist thought in Israel and the Diaspora for over a century was a national forum recently convened in San Diego by the American Society for Technion-Israel Institute of Technology.

As the generation that witnessed the Holocaust and the birth of Israel fades away, the era of Zionism marked in the Diaspora by charitable giving to Jewish federations and the United Jewish Appeal is also disappearing, said Dr. Gary A. Tobin, director of the Center for Modern Jewish Studies at Brandeis University.

Based on his demographic studies, "only 11 percent of baby boomers still give to UJA or federations," Tobin said.

Of the money that is raised, a constantly increasing percentage is allocated for domestic needs at the expense of Israel.

Among the host of social and demographic factors accounting for the decline is that the fund-raiser's trusty verity, "bad news spurs giving," no longer works, said Melvyn H. Bloom, executive vice president of the Technion Society.

He suggested a new approach based on "good news fund raising," specifically through support for and investment in Israeli institutions and enterprises leading to "the economic auto-emancipation of Israel."

The goal of economic independence, eliminating the need for a Diaspora charity that is becoming increasingly irritating to Israelis, rests mainly on the development of high-tech industries.

If so, Israel is faring well, executives of two major U.S. companies agreed.

"The best way to predict the future is to create it," and Israel is doing just that, said Joel Birnbaum, who heads worldwide research and development for Hewlett-Packard.

'Where the brains are'

At a time when technologies in telecommunications, computing, entertainment, broadcasting and consumer electronics are coming together, "Israel is at the center of critical technologies for the next century," Birnbaum said.

Two years ago, his company established the H-P Israel Science Center at the Technion, whose engineers are working on cutting-edge research in image compression and error control.

"We're setting up labs where the brains are," Birnbaum said.

Intel Corp. was one of the first American hi-tech companies to set up a manufacturing plant in Israel, said George Coelho, the company's vice president for business development in emerging markets.

"We started with an investment of \$135,000 in 1974, which has now risen to \$500 million, and we plan a five-fold expansion," Coelho said.

Intel draws its Israeli manpower from skilled immigrants from the former Soviet Union, engineers who formerly worked for now-downsizing defense industries, and graduates of the country's "world-class universities," Coelho said.

Also helpful to new industries are "improved phone systems, government incentives, agile banking and

a trendy society open to quick VCR and cable penetration and high Internet connectivity," he said.

Hi-tech industries are now opening and expanding at such a pace that Israel needs 1,000 more electrical and computer engineers per year than the Technion and other Israeli universities can produce, said Arnan Seginer, director of the Technion's Neaman Institute for Advanced Studies in Science and Technology.

To meet the need of the domestic market, the Technion plans to increase its enrollment from 10,500 to 15,000 students within the next few years.

Technion President Zehev Tadmor said in an interview that his institution also plans to establish a school for foreign students, an education summer camp for 60 Israeli and American Jewish youngsters and a more intensive student exchange program.

Such exchange programs are springing up among a number of European universities, with a given student studying at both a domestic and a foreign university, learning a foreign language and getting degrees from both institutions.

In general, "American Jews and Israelis must cooperate so that both will survive culturally," said Tadmor.

"The problem of assimilation exists not just in the Diaspora but also in Israel, which may ultimately face the risk of being absorbed into the surrounding Arab culture," Tadmor added. □

Britain lags behind states with Holocaust denial laws*By Bernard Josephs**London Jewish Chronicle*

LONDON (JTA) — British Home Secretary Michael Howard has come under fire from Jewish leaders for declining to join his European Union counterparts in declaring Holocaust denial a criminal offense in each of their countries.

Howard's refusal last week at an E.U. meeting in Brussels to seek a British law against Holocaust denial brought a strong response from the Jewish Board of Deputies, which said in a statement that it "deeply regretted" his decision.

Howard cited British freedom-of-speech laws during the Brussels meeting.

Other E.U. countries said they feared that Holocaust deniers would use countries like England as a base for spreading hate literature to E.U. states that have banned such activities.

To counter those fears, Howard agreed to a compromise E.U. resolution that each of the European organization's 15 member states would seize racist literature published with the clear intention of inciting racial hatred.

The Board of Deputies, which represents Britain's 300,000 Jews, said in its statement that laws criminalizing Holocaust denial were already on the books in Austria, Belgium, France, Germany, Spain, Switzerland and Lithuania.

The Hungarian government was considering such legislation and the Dutch courts had also ruled against Holocaust denial, the statement added.

"It is sad that Britain is isolated in this way," said Board President Eldred Tabachnik, who also serves as president of the European Jewish Congress.

Holocaust denial, he added, was a matter of grave concern "not only for Jews and other victims of Nazism, but for all democratic forces determined that neo-Nazi ideology should not be allowed to acquire political legitimacy in Europe." □