



## NEWS AT A GLANCE

■ **Congressional sponsors of Food and Drug Administration reform legislation agreed to include language protecting kosher labeling laws.** Orthodox groups had charged that provisions in the legislation would have made it more difficult for consumers to verify the authenticity of kosher products. [Page 2]

■ **A House subcommittee is scheduled to consider sanctions against international firms that do business with Iran.** The measure is part of a larger effort to cut off the Islamic state's access to foreign capital because of its terrorist connections.

■ **Several Jewish groups hailed the Supreme Court's decision to strike down a Colorado anti-gay amendment.** The amendment, passed in 1992, denied civil rights protections to the state's homosexual population.

■ **Israeli security forces detained 13 Palestinians suspected of involvement in terrorist activities.** The arrests were carried out near the West Bank towns of Nablus, Tulkarm and Jenin.

■ **Likud leader and prime ministerial candidate Benjamin Netanyahu said if elected, he would invest approximately \$330 million a year in Jewish settlements.** He also said he would channel to the settlements the funds the current government is allotting to the Palestinian Authority.

■ **The spiritual leader of Israel's fervently Orthodox Sephardi Shas Party, Rabbi Ovadia Yosef, refused to endorse either of Israel's secular candidates for prime minister.** Yosef said Israel's religious parties should have put forward their own candidate for prime minister in Israel's May 29 national elections.

■ **Documents unearthed from American intelligence files indicate that while Swedish diplomat Raoul Wallenberg was rescuing thousands of Hungarian Jews from the Nazis, a bank owned by the Wallenberg family was collaborating with the Nazis.** World Jewish Congress officials reported.

## ON THE ELECTION TRAIL

### Jewish college students favor 'four more years' for Clinton

By Daniel Kurtzman

WASHINGTON (JTA) — When President Clinton addressed a cheering throng of supporters at a major Jewish conference here last month, the voices of nearly 1,000 college students soared above the rest, turning a call for "four more years" into a thunderous chant.

Six months before the election, it is a constituency that the president appears likely to capture.

"Clinton is the one who's really speaking to us," said Katie Friedman, a senior at Stanford University who had come to Washington to attend the annual policy conference of the American Israel Public Affairs Committee.

"I know that people have accused him of waffling, but I think there's an honest desire to make change and make things work in his policies," she said.

Talk of presidential politics among Jewish college students at the conference revealed clear support for a second Clinton term.

The vast majority of the students who spoke in random interviews described themselves as liberals and moderates to the left-of-center.

Some said they were ardent Clinton supporters. Others voiced reservations, but said they would easily back Clinton over Bob Dole, the presumptive Republican nominee. Few placed themselves firmly in the Dole camp.

Those interviewed identified several issues they see as important to Jewish college students this election year. They include: support for education and student financial aid, support for Israel, the peace process and foreign aid, and protecting abortion rights and affirmative action programs.

Mark Melman, who heads the Washington-based Melman Group, a Democratic polling firm, predicts that at least 80 percent of Jews nationwide will end up voting for Clinton.

Among young people in general, he believes, 60 percent will cast their ballot for a second Clinton term.

"You put that together, and the chances are you're going to find an awfully large number" of young Jewish voters "backing Clinton," he said.

Some GOP activists and pollsters, however, cast doubt on that assumption.

### Growing number of young Republican voters

While acknowledging that most college students have historically leaned left politically, they point to a growing number of young voters, including Jews, turning to the Republican Party.

"Younger Jews are much more sympathetic to the Republican message of trying to strengthen and make life for the family easier," said Matthew Brooks, executive director of the National Jewish Coalition, a Republican group.

But he conceded that the Republican Party generally finds more support among college graduates and those in the work force than it does among students.

Still, there were at least a few Dole backers around at the conference.

"I don't think Clinton has the leadership it takes for the United States to prosper," said Sara Opatut, a junior at George Washington University.

"He doesn't have definite convictions. I think he tries to pander to every side."

By contrast, she said, "Dole's record as Senate majority leader definitely proves he will stick with his convictions and follow what the American people want."

As a politically conservative Jewish college student, Georgetown senior Natalie Wolf knows she is in the minority. "But I feel like it's a growing minority," she said. "I think there are a lot of people on the fence."

Although she initially backed Phil Gramm's presidential bid, she is undecided about Dole and is waiting to see who he chooses for his running mate.

Some of the Clinton backers interviewed qualified their support for

the president. "I haven't been absolutely thrilled with the job Clinton has done in the White House," said Craig Aaron, a junior at Northwestern University.

"I feel like he made campaign promises that he waffled on, but I think he's starting to come into his own and he has a lot of promise for his second term."

When it comes to Israel, most said they feel comfortable with Dole's support for the Jewish state. Specifically, they cited his leadership in passing legislation to move the U.S. Embassy to Jerusalem.

But Clinton's record on Israel appeared to be a tough act to follow in the view of those interviewed.

"He is the most pro-Israel president in the history of the United States," said Aaron Dworkin, a senior at Tufts University.

The superlatives many of the students used to describe Clinton, meanwhile, were matched only by the digs they took at Dole.

"He's too old and too crotchety," said Eric Shabsis, a senior at the University of California at Berkeley.

Dan Reich, a sophomore at Yale, is a registered Republican who intends to back Clinton.

"I get the feeling he can get legislation through," Reich said of Dole, "but I don't feel he has any vision of where he wants to take the country or what he wants to do once he's in there."

Reich said he became disillusioned with the Republican Party following the 1994 election.

"I'm a liberal Republican," he said. "I don't think the government is such a good thing, and I'm for states' rights and that kind of thing. But I'm not for this conservative agenda that" the Republicans "are trying to push through."

Most of the students interviewed said they believe their attitudes reflect widespread support for Clinton on their campuses. Some were even hard pressed to name Dole supporters among their peers.

Most attribute these views to the generational gap between the two candidates. Clinton speaks to young people, many said, in a way that Dole can't.

"I think that the Republicans appeal to people our parents' age who feel they've gotten cheated out of things," said Friedman, the Stanford senior.

They are looking "to blame other people, whether it be racial minorities, or people on welfare."

"We don't really rally around issues like social security and lowering taxes, but when it comes to student loans and education, those are the issues that twenty-somethings care about and that Clinton speaks to."

But Republicans are quick to point to the ebb and flow of opinion that characterizes presidential politics.

"The reality is that this campaign has really not even begun yet," the NJC's Brooks said. "Six months is a long time in politics." □

## Legislators vow to protect state laws on kosher labeling

By Daniel Kurtzman

WASHINGTON (JTA) — Congressional sponsors of Food and Drug Administration reform legislation have agreed to include language protecting kosher-labeling laws.

Orthodox groups had charged that provisions in the legislation, which seeks to replace existing state food safety and labeling laws with uniform federal laws, would have made it more difficult for consumers to verify the authenticity of kosher products.

Kosher-labeling laws — which deal with consumer protection rather than rabbinic designation of what is kosher — are currently in effect in at least 19 states.

The groups were concerned that those laws would be adversely affected by the reform legislation.

At meetings last week with Mandell Ganchrow, president of the Orthodox Union, and Jeff Wice, counsel for New York State Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver, Sen. Judd Gregg (R-N.H.) and Rep. Scott Klug (R-Wis.) agreed to accept the language that would safeguard kosher interests.

According to Ganchrow, the language says: "Nothing contained in this act shall be deemed to apply to, or to pre-empt, any state or local government from enacting any law, rule, or regulation with respect to religious dietary preparations."

Ganchrow said Klug indicated he might even broaden that language in the House version of the reform legislation.

After talking to the lawmakers, he said, "I'm 99.9 percent sure that there will be nothing in this legislation that will inadvertently affect the kosher consumer." □

## Lithuanian who aided Nazis loses citizenship, departs U.S.

By Heather Camlot

NEW YORK (JTA) — A Florida resident who admitted to serving in a Nazi-sponsored battalion during World War II moved last week to Vilnius, Lithuania.

In an agreement reached with the U.S. Justice Department's Office of Special Investigations, Juozas Budreika, 79, admitted that he willfully misrepresented and concealed his service in the Lithuanian Schutzmannschaft (Protective Detachment) when he applied for U.S. citizenship in 1967 and earlier when he immigrated in 1958.

Under the terms of the agreement, Budreika, a retired cook, consented to the revocation of his U.S. citizenship and to leave the United States permanently. He arrived in Vilnius May 15.

"Juozas Budreika's removal from this country is a vindication of the principle that the United States, which is the adopted homeland of so many victims of Nazi persecution, will not offer sanctuary to their former tormentors," said OSI Director Eli Rosenbaum.

Nazi Germany armed, sponsored and controlled the 2nd/12th Lithuanian Battalion, in which Budreika served.

In 1941 and 1942, the battalion murdered thousands of unarmed Jews and other civilians in Lithuania and Byelorussia — now Belarus — because of race, religion, political beliefs or national origin.

Last week's agreement settled the denaturalization action filed by the OSI in September 1994. □

## Diplomatic corps cast ballots

By Naomi Segal

JERUSALEM (JTA) — Israeli diplomatic officials posted abroad have cast their ballots for prime minister and the Knesset, some two weeks before the rest of the country goes to the polls for the May 29 national elections.

About 3,600 Israelis serving abroad in embassies, consulates and with the Jewish Agency were eligible to participate in the May 16 absentee vote. Israeli sailors were also eligible to participate.

The first poll opened at the Israeli Embassy in New Zealand and was followed by 103 other sites around the world. The ballots, which were to be flown to Israel via diplomatic mail, will be counted on election night in Israel.

Among the newest locales from which absentee ballots were cast was the Jordanian capital of Amman, where Israeli Ambassador Shimon Shamir, his wife Daniella and 23 other embassy staff put their votes in a sealed blue box that was later taken to Israel. □

**NEWS ANALYSIS****Israeli Arabs need Peres  
as much as he needs them***By Gil Sedan*

JERUSALEM (JTA) — When Israeli Arab demonstrators converged outside the Prime Minister's Office this week to demand government approval to develop a new industrial zone, a tense situation ensued.

The last thing Prime Minister Shimon Peres needed on the eve of the May 29 elections was a skirmish between police and some 300 residents of Umm-el-Fahm, the second largest Arab town in Israel.

In the end, a clash was averted Sunday when Benny Shilo, the premier's adviser on minorities, arranged a meeting between the demonstrators and Zvi Alderotti, director general of the Prime Minister's Office.

For the protesters, the apparent foot-dragging on a project that could have great economic potential for their depressed town gave them another reason to believe that Peres does not deserve the much-needed continued support of Israeli Arabs.

But they may not have any choice: The Israeli Arabs need Peres as much as he needs them.

With his own political future potentially dependent on the Israeli Arabs in next week's balloting, Peres has been heavily courting the nation's 440,000 registered Arab voters.

Despite the muscle-flexing of Israeli Arab leaders, however, more and more Arab voices are pushing for Peres. Samih el-Kassem, editor of the Arabic weekly *Kul el-Arab*, published in Nazareth, warned that abstentions in the race for prime minister would translate into support for Likud leader Benjamin Netanyahu and that it was the national duty of Israeli Arabs to block the right wing's return to power.

"We cannot disregard the differences between Peres and Netanyahu," said Kassem in an interview with *Al-Ayyam*, an Arabic daily in eastern Jerusalem.

"Labor abolished the clause in its platform against a Palestinian state, while the Likud continues to oppose the establishment of a Palestinian state and promises to build more settlements."

Until last month's operation in Lebanon, Arab support for Peres was considered guaranteed. The past four years have been an extended honeymoon between the Labor government and the Arab population of Israel.

**Changing political realities**

For its part, the government depended heavily on the goodwill of the Arabs. In the outgoing Knesset, the two Arab parties — the Arab Democratic Party and Hadash — gave Labor the necessary votes to block the opposition and sustain its coalition.

In return, the government took unprecedented steps to benefit Arab citizens.

For the first time, Arab families are entitled to receive the same child allowances granted to Jewish families. And government funds to Arab communities have more than tripled since 1992, exceeding \$300 million this year.

The government also plans, if it stays in power, to pump more than \$80 million into Nazareth alone, to help turn the Arab capital of the Galilee into a major tourist attraction by the year 2000.

Beyond the material assistance, political realities changed as well.

For the first time in the history of the state, Arab parties found themselves on the same side of the political fence as the governing coalition, giving them a new-found degree of legitimacy.

This development was no doubt a byproduct of Israel's peace negotiations with the Palestine Liberation Organization.

But then came Israel's military assault against Hezbollah last month in Lebanon, including the Kana tragedy where at least 91 civilians taking shelter at a U.N. base were killed by Israeli artillery.

Within days, the climate surrounding the government's relations with the Israeli Arab community changed radically.

Israeli Arab politicians competed with one another in issuing threats to withhold their support for Peres.

The precious Arab votes seemed to be in danger, and Labor Party campaign strategists were seriously concerned.

Seeking to woo a majority of the Arab voters, Peres invited each of the four Arab parties competing in the Knesset election to his office May 10.

Each came with a list of demands — from the release of Palestinian security prisoners to erecting new villages for the Bedouin population in the Negev.

Peres listened and promised to examine the requests, but he refrained from explicitly asking the Arabs to vote for him.

"If you want Bibi to win, that's your business," Peres told his Arab visitors, using Netanyahu's nickname.

Although recent polls show Peres maintaining his narrow margin over Netanyahu in the race for prime minister, the same polls also show as many as 16 percent still undecided. The pollsters agree that the bulk of the undecided will eventually support Netanyahu. This makes the Arab vote that much more crucial for Peres.

**'Let Peres sweat a bit'**

After meeting with the prime minister, the Arab politicians promised to re-examine their stance, but also indicated that they would withhold their final decision.

"Let Peres sweat a bit before he gets our support," said a source in Hadash, the Arab-dominated Communist list.

Instead, Peres dispatched Tourism Minister Uzi Baram, who is heading Labor's campaign in the Arab community, to meet last Friday with representatives of the Arab parties.

Part of the Arabs' reluctance to endorse Peres stemmed from the fear that a call to vote for Peres could be interpreted — at least by part of the Arab electorate — as a green light to vote for the Labor Party in the Knesset race. That, they feared, could steer votes away from the Arab parties.

In the end, two of the parties — the Arab Democratic Party-United Arab List and Hadash — were expected to announce their support for Peres this week. Their decision coincided with those voicing earlier support for the prime minister.

Ibrahim Nimer Hussein, the mayor of Shefaram and the head of the national committee of Arab mayors in Israel, urged the Arab public to go to the polls and vote for the Arab parties in the Knesset race and Peres for prime minister. "Despite the Grapes of Wrath," he said, "we prefer Peres."

Hussein's early, unequivocal stand indicated greater sensitivity to the political realities than was exhibited by the leaders of the Arab parties.

The mayor seemed to understand what the Knesset aspirants were afraid to admit — that by and large the Arab population would choose Peres irrespective of the Arab parties' directives.

As Wadia Abu-Nassar of Tel Aviv University put it: the Israeli Arab population "has already made up its mind." □

**Opponent of ties to Israel attempts to kill Turkish leader***By Naomi Segal*

JERUSALEM (JTA) — An Islamic militant angry at Turkey's military cooperation accord with Israel attempted this week to assassinate the Turkish president.

During a ceremony Saturday in the western Turkish town of Izmit, the assailant pulled a gun and pointed it at President Suleyman Demirel.

A plainclothes security guard tackled the man and the gun went off, slightly injuring a policeman and a journalist, but leaving the president unharmed.

According to Turkish authorities, the gunman was angry about an agreement the government signed in February with Israel. As part of that accord, Israeli pilots gained the right to train in Turkish airspace.

The accord prompted a one-day visit to Israel this week by Turkey's naval chief, a move that was expected to draw renewed protests from Islamic militants.

Word of the accord leaked out only in April. Many details of the pact remain secret.

Egypt, which signed a peace treaty with Israel in 1979, has been among the most vocal opponents of the accord in the Arab world, expressing reservations over whether it would disturb the regional balance of power.

Syria and Iran, along with Turkey's Islamist party, have also denounced the accord.

Many Muslims in Turkey who protested the accord hope to see the officially secular state abandon its relations with Israel and enact a code of strict Islamic law.

The party with the most seats in Parliament is the pro-Islamic Welfare Movement, which draws many of its supporters from the country's poor.

Welfare leader Necmettin Erbakan reportedly called the assassination attempt a "detestable act."

Israeli President Ezer Weizman telephoned Demirel on Saturday evening to voice his regrets over the attack.

Demirel, who has long supported a Western-oriented foreign policy and a free-market economy, said in a speech Sunday that the assassination attempt would not change his commitment to a secular, democratic state.

As part of his visit Monday to Israel, Adm. Guven Erkaya toured the Israeli naval base at Haifa as a guest of his Israeli counterpart, Maj. Gen. Alex Tal.

The Turkish media reportedly said the two countries were planning joint naval exercises in the Mediterranean next month. □

**Israel to open trade office in Oman***By Naomi Segal*

JERUSALEM (JTA) — A group of Israeli officials departed for Oman this week to prepare for the opening of Israel's first trade office in a Persian Gulf state.

Diplomatic sources in the Omani capital of Muscat would not say when a formal ceremony would be held to mark the opening of the trade office.

Israel and Oman signed a trade agreement in January and also agreed on other steps aimed at boosting cooperation.

While the agreements stopped short of establishing diplomatic relations, the Israeli official who will head the trade mission in Muscat said he hoped the new office would pave the way to the establishment of official ties with Oman.

"Perhaps this will eventually lead to the opening of an embassy here," Oded Ben Haim told Israel Radio.

He added that the Omanis had already selected a government official to head the Omani trade office in Israel.

In April, Israel also reached an agreement with the Persian Gulf state of Qatar to open trade offices in each other's countries.

Prime Minister Shimon Peres visited both states in April, becoming the first Israeli leader to visit Qatar. The late Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin visited Oman in December 1994.

Israel has no diplomatic ties with any of the Persian Gulf states, which also include Bahrain, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates. □

**Israeli ambassador protests Suha Arafat's speech at UNESCO***By Lee Yanowitch*

PARIS (JTA) — Israel's ambassador to UNESCO walked out in protest during a speech by the wife of Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat in which she denounced Israel's ongoing closure of the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Suha Arafat made the remarks last week at a ceremony here marking the departure of a convoy carrying 200 tons of humanitarian aid for Gaza.

The aid, collected by a French charity, was carried out under the sponsorship of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization. Leah Rabin, the widow of slain Israeli leader Yitzhak Rabin, also lent her support to the relief project.

"We are fed up with being victims of collective punishment. Many children are dying because medical supplies are not reaching them because of the closure," Arafat said.

"We don't want to be pawns in the Israeli elections," she added, suggesting that the closure had been implemented solely for political motives.

Israel imposed the closure after the first of four Hamas suicide bombings in Israel in late February and early March that claimed the lives of 59 victims.

Avi Shoket, Israel's ambassador to UNESCO, said he walked out on Arafat's speech because the organizers of the ceremony had assured him "there would be no political manipulation or exploitation of the ceremony."

Shoket said he had not spoken to Arafat or her aide before the ceremony about what she was going to say, adding, "it is unacceptable that UNESCO once again be used as a platform to bash Israel." □

**Flight controllers stage protest***By Naomi Segal*

JERUSALEM (JTA) — Israeli flight controllers shut down Ben-Gurion Airport for three hours this week to protest broadcasts by pirate radio stations in the vicinity of the airport that interrupted control tower transmissions.

Radio interference is not a new problem for the flight controllers, but the decision to close the airport came after two planes had trouble landing because of the pirate broadcasts, the director of the airport authority said Monday.

Among the difficulties experienced that day, a French passenger plane was forced to switch to an international emergency channel in order to land when a Hebrew song appeared on the radio frequency the pilot was using.

A controller said that a Russian cargo plane also had difficulty landing because the pilot could not communicate with the control tower.

Because of the interference, a number of planes were asked to circle over the Tel Aviv area.

Some incoming flights were diverted to Cyprus, Turkey and Greece.

Five flights were grounded, leaving some 1,500 passengers stranded in the airport. □