



## NEWS AT A GLANCE

■ Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu accused Arab leaders meeting at a summit in Cairo of setting preconditions for advancing the peace process. Meanwhile, U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher was expected to visit the region to assess the latest developments in the peace process. [Page 1]

■ The Jerusalem District Court put off ruling on a petition challenging the prime ministerial election results until the Likud Party's representative could prepare responses to the claims. The petition was brought forward by several Labor Party members after a sample check of 100 ballot boxes allegedly revealed instances of tampering. [Page 3]

■ Aleksandras Lileikis, the former head of the Nazi-sponsored Lithuanian security police who was deported to Lithuania, was interrogated by authorities there, according to the U.S. Justice Department's Office of Special Investigations. In his first public statement, Lileikis said he returned to Lithuania to seek justice.

■ Gunter Deckert, a well-known German neo-Nazi, was sentenced to a prison term of one year and eight months for inciting racial discrimination and defaming the memory of Holocaust victims. The case is connected to a 1990 event organized by Deckert and Holocaust denier David Irving of Britain.

■ Argentina's justice minister, Rodolfo Barra, is a former member of the anti-Semitic extremist group Tacuara, according to the local magazine Noticias. Barra is directly responsible for the investigation of the bombings in Buenos Aires of the Israeli Embassy in 1992 and of the Jewish community headquarters in 1994.

■ The former chairman of the Jewish Agency for Israel, Simcha Dinitz, appealed to the Supreme Court about his conviction for using an agency credit card for personal purchases. Dinitz said in his appeal he did not intend to commit fraud.

■ El Al Israel Airlines flew its first flight to Jordan carrying, among other people, Israeli Transportation Minister Yitzhak Levy. [Page 4]

## Netanyahu charges Arabs set preconditions for peace

By Naomi Segal

JERUSALEM (JTA) — Revival of the peace process has been made uncertain as Israeli and Arab leaders have accused each other of placing obstacles in the way of continuing negotiations.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Sunday charged Arab leaders with trying to set preconditions for peace negotiations, harming chances for moving the process forward.

He was reacting to Sunday's closing statement of an Arab summit in Cairo that warned Israel that further peace efforts would be jeopardized if the Netanyahu government deviates from the land-for-peace principle which has been the basis of Arab-Israeli peace negotiations during the past several years.

The threats emanating from Cairo and Israel's terse response came as U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher was scheduled to visit the region this week to assess the latest developments in the peace process. He was expected to visit Israel on Tuesday, and then Egypt on Wednesday.

"To achieve peace, there must be no preconditions," Netanyahu told reporters Sunday night. "We won't dictate to them, and they should not dictate to us."

"Any attempts to set preconditions in negotiations would endanger Israel's security. We must get rid of preconditions, so Israel and the Arab states can move forward with the peace that is the hope of all of us."

Earlier in the day, speaking in Kiryat Gat at the opening of the annual assembly of the Jewish Agency for Israel, Netanyahu said "the most fundamental requirement" of the peace process is that "it cannot be made hostage" to any preconditions.

Last month's election of Netanyahu, leader of the right-wing Likud Party, prompted Arab leaders to convene their first summit in six years to coordinate a united stand on the peace process with Israel.

While the summit brought together 21 Arab leaders who themselves have been divided on peace with Israel, among other regional issues, they joined in the closing statement at the end of the weekend meeting, warning Israel not to deviate from the land-for-peace principle that was the basis for the 1991 peace conference in Madrid.

Doing so, the statement said, would "lead to setbacks to the peace process, with all that implies in the way of dangers and repercussions which would take the region back to a cycle of tension."

The statement warned that a hard-line approach by the new Israeli government would be countered by a slowdown in the normalization of ties with Arab countries. "The Arab states would be forced to reconsider the steps taken towards Israel in the framework of the peace process [and] the government of Israel alone would bear full responsibility."

The summit called on Israel to implement all elements of the peace agreements and to enable the establishment of an independent Palestinian state.

### Mubarak worked to tone down draft

It also demanded an Israeli withdrawal from all occupied territories, including a withdrawal to the June 4, 1967, boundaries on the Golan Heights, the area Israel captured from Syria during the Six-Day War.

The guidelines of the new Likud-led government explicitly oppose a Palestinian state and emphasize the national importance of the Golan Heights for Israel. At the same time, they call for negotiations with Syria with no set conditions.

Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak had negotiated hard with some participants, including Syrian leader Hafez Assad, to tone down the final wording of the draft. Mubarak said in a CNN interview that despite Netanyahu's public statements, he could prove to be more flexible in talks.

"It's too early to pass judgment now," he said. "I will wait until I meet with the Israeli leader, and hear his views."

Ahead of the Arab summit, Israeli Foreign Minister David Levy sounded a conciliatory note, hinting in a weekend television interview that Israel could show some flexibility on the Golan.

His comments immediately drew a sharp response from leaders of the

Golan residents, as well as The Third Way party, one of the government's coalition partners, which was elected on a platform opposing an Israeli withdrawal from the Golan.

Netanyahu's spokesman Sunday also issued a statement distancing the prime minister from Levy's remarks.

"Only statements made by the prime minister reflect Israeli policy on these political issues," spokesman Michael Stoltz reportedly said.

Levy himself later called the closing statement of the Arab summit "contradictory to the atmosphere necessary for continuing peace."

Netanyahu is scheduled to travel next month to Washington for talks with President Clinton. He is also due to visit Jordan and Egypt in the coming weeks. □

## French extremist welcomes Nazi collaborators into party

By Lee Yanowitch

PARIS (JTA) — The leader of France's extreme-right National Front has said Nazi collaborators are welcome in his anti-immigrant party.

"The National Front welcomes all French people who have not dishonored themselves, whether they fought in the Resistance or worked for Vichy," Jean-Marie Le Pen told a news conference, referring to the regime that governed Nazi-occupied France.

"Dishonored" refers to "those who are corrupt," he said.

Le Pen was responding to accusations by Francois Leotard, leader of the centrist UDF party, that the National Front had maintained long-standing ties to Nazi collaborators.

The UDF is the junior partner in France's center-right ruling coalition.

Taunting the centrists, Le Pen said his party would accept as a member Maurice Papon, former Cabinet minister and Paris police chief, who is accused of ordering the deportation of 1,690 Jews, 223 of them children, from the southwest Bordeaux region while he was a Vichy official during World War II.

"Will we be indulgent enough to admit Papon?" Le Pen said. "We have so many genuine patriots in our party that we could probably make a gesture toward this senior civil servant, whose guilt, by the way, has not yet been proven."

A Bordeaux court is due to decide shortly whether there is sufficient evidence to send the 84-year-old Papon to trial. □

## Australia deports Arab man thought to have terror links

By Jeremy Jones

SYDNEY, Australia (JTA) — A man described as the most serious security risk to ever enter Australia was deported last week.

Mohammed Hassanien, who left Australia on June 17 for Denmark, had been arrested earlier in the month in Melbourne in connection with a politically motivated arson attack in Europe.

Security agencies would not release any details relating to Hassanien, but it is understood that he has close ties to Egypt's largest Islamic militant group, which claimed responsibility for the April 18 attack in Cairo that left 18 Greek tourists dead. The fundamentalist organization, the Islamic Group, had thought that the tourists were Israelis.

On June 1, Australian police arrested Hassanien shortly before he was to leave on a flight out of the

country. He pulled a hunting knife on the arresting officer, but was disarmed.

Hassanien, who was denied refugee status in Australia, used the papers of a deceased Danish citizen to enter the country.

When he arrived in Denmark, Hassanien was immediately released, raising questions among authorities in Australia.

According to an Interpol spokesman, Hassanien does not face any charges in Europe at this time, though he was recently convicted of setting fire to a private home in Denmark that is owned by an Egyptian.

In addition, procedural questions surrounding the arrest of the suspect also exist.

Also, it was reported that the FBI has an interest in interviewing Hassanien in connection with the bombing of the World Trade Center.

Steve Kelson, an Australian security official, said Hassanien's group wants to further its goals by attacking "soft targets," those not protected by professional security officers. □

## France denounces Israel for holding Arab reporter

By Lee Yanowitch

PARIS (JTA) — France has protested Israel's seizure of a Lebanese journalist who was working for Agence France-Presse in southern Lebanon.

Ali Dia, 40, was arrested by Israeli forces June 13 and taken to Israel for interrogation after security officials from the Israel-allied South Lebanon Army summoned him to their headquarters in Marjayoun.

"The arrest of a journalist because of his professional activity would clearly be a serious breach of press freedom, a breach we could only condemn," said Foreign Ministry spokesman Jacques Rummelhardt.

Israel said it was holding Dia on suspicion of aiding the Islamic fundamentalist Hezbollah group.

Hezbollah denied having any links to the reporter.

An AFP spokesperson said Dia, a Shi'ite Muslim based in the southern Lebanon port city of Sidon, had not been heard from since his arrest.

He also works for Beirut-based Future Television, which is owned by Lebanese Prime Minister Rafik Hariri and the Lebanese leftist daily As-Safeer.

Lebanese Foreign Minister Faris Bouez decried Dia's arrest, calling it "an unjustified terrorist act" against the international press that proves "the complete lack of respect for freedoms and human rights by Israel."

The international press watchdog group Reporters without Borders called on Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to release Dia and ensure that he be allowed to continue his work. □

## El Al inaugurates flights to Jordan

By Naomi Segal

JERUSALEM (JTA) — As Arab leaders at the summit in Cairo discussed their relationship with Israel, the Jewish state and Jordan continued to tighten their ties.

On Sunday, El Al Israel Airlines' inaugural flight to Jordan landed in Amman.

On board the 25-minute flight that took off from Tel Aviv was Israeli Transportation Minister Yitzhak Levy.

El Al plans to fly between the two cities five times a week. The cost of a round-trip ticket is \$140.

Royal Jordanian began flights to Israel two months ago.

The delay in the operation of El Al flights was reportedly due to security concerns. □

## Waldheim renews struggle to clear name, end U.S. ban

By Heather Camlot

NEW YORK (JTA) — Walter Hacker was recently walking to the Smithsonian Museum when he saw a poster bearing a picture of Kurt Waldheim.

Hacker, a 67-year-old Holocaust survivor, had stumbled onto a news conference outside the House of Representatives where Rep. Carolyn Maloney (D-N.Y.) was trying to drum up support for a bill that would compel the U.S. government to release all information it holds on the former Austrian president and secretary-general of the United Nations.

"I'm enraged that Waldheim would deny his past," Hacker, an Austrian Jew who lives in Los Angeles, said after taking to the podium to praise the congresswoman.

Nearly a decade after the U.S. Justice Department banned him from entering the country because he had concealed his Nazi past, Waldheim is still trying to clear his name.

In his autobiography "The Answer," just released in Austria, Waldheim revisits the controversy surrounding the 1987 decision to ban him from the United States.

He places the blame squarely on the World Jewish Congress and accuses the group's president, Edgar Bronfman, of pressuring then-Attorney General Edwin Meese to add Waldheim to the "watch list" of foreigners barred from the United States.

"Once a liar, always a liar," Elan Steinberg, executive director of the WJC, said, reacting to the book's charges.

"I'm very impressed that he gives the World Jewish Congress and Mr. Bronfman that power," but the fact is that Waldheim was "a willing servant of the Nazi regime and played a part in the worst atrocities in modern history."

The Justice Department concluded in 1987 that Waldheim had served as an intelligence officer in the army of Nazi Germany in Yugoslavia and Greece during World War II, participating in the mass deportations of Jews and other civilians to concentration and death camps, as well as in the executions of civilians and Allied soldiers.

### Says he did not know of atrocities

But Waldheim, while admitting in his new book that it was a mistake to conceal his service in the Nazi army, continues to maintain that he had no knowledge of the atrocities that occurred in the areas where he served.

"The last word has not been spoken yet on this issue. Three independent investigative commissions have since stated clearly that I was no war criminal," Waldheim says in his book.

"This decision of the U.S. government violates international law."

Waldheim's World War II activities were not publicly known during his two terms as U.N. chief, from 1972 to 1982. They only came to light during his 1986 presidential campaign.

Although he won the presidency, he was ostracized by world leaders, a factor that apparently influenced his decision not to seek re-election in 1992.

"The World Jewish Congress sent someone to Vienna to gather information damaging to me," Waldheim reportedly told the Austrian weekly Profil. "What did Austrian elections have to do with [them]? The presidency was an internal Austrian matter."

Waldheim also reportedly said in the interview, "There is a worldwide network in operation. It has great power."

In Austria, where Waldheim narrowly won the presidency in 1986, local public and media reaction to his book has been low key.

"There is nothing new in Waldheim's argumentation," said an Austrian journalist.

Jewish leaders in Austria also found no surprises in the book.

"This was an unnecessary exercise," said Paul Grosz, president of the Jewish Communities of Austria.

"The book is not the remedy to heal open wounds on both sides of the fence," he said, referring to the wave of anti-Semitism that followed the controversy during the 1986 presidential campaign.

The book is "a totally superfluous and unnecessary action after 10 years," Nazi hunter Simon Wiesenthal said in an interview. "There is not one aspect in this book which was unknown to me."

In Austria, a country of 7 million, Waldheim still enjoys support in his ongoing battle to clear his name and reverse the U.S. decision.

Gerhard Botz, an Austrian professor of history and a Waldheim observer, said the attacks on the former president were excessive.

"Waldheim was definitely done injustice by claiming that he had been a war criminal," Botz said.

"But it was just and correct to state that Waldheim had lied altogether about his tasks while serving in the Wehrmacht," the armed forces of Nazi Germany.

"He was definitely one of those many thousands who made the machinery of the Holocaust work at all," Botz said.

Waldheim's publisher, Herbert Fleissner, a well-known right-wing sympathizer, announced that the English version of "The Answer" would be available shortly.

"Hopefully, this indefensible watch list decision will be revised then," Fleissner said.

Meanwhile, Maloney's effort to obtain full disclosure about Waldheim from U.S. governmental records faces many legislative hurdles.

"The real victims are those who died in the Holocaust, not Kurt Waldheim, who covered up his past," Maloney said.

Rep. Tom Lantos (D-Calif.), the sole Holocaust survivor in Congress, called for swift passage of Maloney's War Crimes Disclosure Act.

Without this legislation, Lantos said, "Waldheim could conveniently forget three years of his lifetime." □

(JTA correspondents Marta Halpert in Vienna and Matthew Dorf in Washington contributed to this report.)

### Court to wait on election challenge

By Naomi Segal

JERUSALEM (JTA) — The Jerusalem District Court will wait until next week to issue a decision on a petition from the Labor Party about election fraud.

Until then, representatives from the Likud Party will prepare their response to the Labor Party claims.

The petitioners charged that a sample survey of 100 ballot boxes showed cases of ballot tampering.

For instance, they said, cases existed of too many people voting in a certain area or of dead people casting ballots.

The petitioners estimated that some 6,700 ballot boxes were in doubt.

Four weeks ago, the High Court of Justice rejected a petition challenging the results of the election for prime minister.

The petition asked that blank ballots be counted as valid, which would not have given Benjamin Netanyahu the majority he needed to become prime minister. □

## BEHIND THE HEADLINES

**American immigrant stands at center of Netanyahu's circle**

By Jonathan S. Tobin

Connecticut Jewish Ledger

WEST HARTFORD, Conn. (JTA) — A month ago, Dore Gold was an Israeli academic known for his incisive analysis of foreign policy and defense strategies for the Jewish state.

Although he had attended the 1991 Madrid Peace Conference as an adviser to the Israeli delegation and was frequently interviewed during the Persian Gulf War, Gold was largely unknown despite a respected reputation in the world of policy wonks.

Today, the 42-year-old West Hartford, Conn., native is at the center of the new Israeli government as Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's right-hand man, with the attention of the world firmly focused on every word he says.

Quoted regularly by The New York Times, Boston Globe and other media outlets, Gold has been Netanyahu's sole spokesman for the new government's foreign policy.

Gold is being besieged by journalists and political insiders hoping to get the scoop on the future policies of the new government.

Sounding exhausted and harried when reached recently by telephone, Gold said he had not yet received a formal title to define his duties.

"We're still titling and defining," he said.

Although he said he could not discuss most of the work he was doing, he did say he was responsible for advice to the prime minister on all matters regarding foreign policy.

Netanyahu has been working to assure foreign governments, including the United States, Egypt and Jordan, that his administration will continue the search for peace.

Gold was reportedly sent to Amman, Jordan, to talk with King Hussein.

He is scheduled to accompany Netanyahu on a visit next month to Washington.

And with the Foreign Ministry being headed by David Levy, whose command of English is slight, negotiations for the peace process are expected to be conducted by Netanyahu — and by Gold.

Will it be possible for a Cabinet full of larger-than-life personalities who are deeply opinionated about the correct path to follow in negotiations to keep silent and let Netanyahu and Gold do the talking?

"This represents a new chapter in Israeli politics," Gold said.

**'Policy of reciprocity'**

As to the substance of policy, Gold, like his boss Netanyahu, is careful with his words.

The government's policy guidelines, of which Gold is believed to be one of the key authors, states a firm desire for continuing negotiations with both the Palestinian Authority and Syria.

But it also states unequivocally that the government will accept no compromise on Israeli sovereignty over Jerusalem, no handover of the Golan Heights to Syria and no Palestinian state west of the Jordan River.

It also states the government's wish to "strengthen and develop" Jewish settlements in the territories.

Gold is determined that Israel's pursuit of peace will continue, but the real difference between Shimon Peres and Netanyahu will, in his opinion, be "a strong policy of reciprocity."

"Right now, they [the Palestinian Authority] are

asking us, 'What are you doing about Hebron?' We will ask them what they are doing about confiscation of weaponry and what they are doing about handing over terror suspects," said Gold, making a reference to the Oslo accords.

Gold believes that the Netanyahu government, like many other new conservative governments in the West, has been stereotyped by the world media.

"It's always been a problem, people saying world peace would be threatened," said Gold.

But, he added, conservatives such as Ronald Reagan, Britain's Margaret Thatcher and Germany's Helmut Kohl "brought about not an intensification of conflict, but the successful end of the Cold War."

Gold also cited the experience of Netanyahu's Likud predecessor, Menachem Begin, who concluded a peace treaty with Egypt.

"Conservatives actually do pretty well in building peace," Gold said with a chuckle.

Gold said the biggest problem for the new government in its future relations with American Jews is not so much the difference in approach to the peace process, but the fact that "the previous leadership of Israel" told American Jews "that you are not needed."

"What they'll hear from Likud is that they are needed. This is a basis for renewal. Israel will rise back to the top of the Jewish agenda," he said.

Gold, who made aliyah in 1980, attended an Orthodox day school. He then went to the prep school at the Northfield-Mount Hermon School in Northfield, Mass.

According to his mother, Sedell Gold, who still lives in West Hartford, the pull of Israel came after a teen-age Dore returned from summers at Camp Ramah and Yeshivat HaMivtar in Israel.

"He came back and said he was going to make aliyah," she recalled, laughing. "Rather than fight with him as other parents did, I said, 'You can do whatever you want, but finish your education first.'"

He went on to Columbia University, where he received a degree in Islamic Studies.

**Served in the Israeli army**

He finished his doctorate in political science in Israel after making good on his promise to make aliyah. His dissertation on relations between the United States and Saudi Arabia led to a position as an analyst with the Dayan Center at Tel Aviv University.

From there, he moved on to the university's Jaffee Center for Strategic Studies in 1985, where he was director of its U.S. Foreign and Defense Policy Project.

Along the way, he served in the Israeli army and met and married Ofra, an Israeli with whom he has two children: 12-year-old Yael and 7-year-old Ariel. They observe a modern Orthodox lifestyle, keeping kosher and observing the Sabbath at their Jerusalem home.

When asked whether negative Israeli attitudes toward American Orthodox immigrants have affected his career, Gold said he could not be bothered "dealing with other people's phobias — we just move on and do what we can."

Besides, he added, in the new Netanyahu administration, there are "a lot of new immigrants."

"The two most commonly heard languages in the corridors are Russian and English," he said.

Within Netanyahu's inner circle, besides the American-born Gold, there is Russian-born Avigdor "Ivet" Lieberman, who is to be the director of the Prime Minister's Office.

"Ivet and [Natan] Sharansky have been banging away in Russian," Gold said, adding with a chuckle: "We're Bibi's superpowers — America and Russia." □