



NEWS AT A GLANCE

■ Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu told an Arabic language newspaper that he foresees no possibility of reaching an agreement with the Palestinians over the future of Jerusalem. Meanwhile, Palestinian Authority leader Yasser Arafat reaffirmed the Palestinian claim to eastern Jerusalem as the capital of a Palestinian state. [Page 4]

■ Ilan Sa'adon, an Israeli soldier who was kidnapped and killed by members of the Islamic fundamentalist Hamas in 1989, was laid to rest in the military cemetery in his hometown of Ashkelon. DNA tests indicated that the remains unearthed two weeks ago were Sa'adon's.

■ Turkey's Islamic-led government signed a \$20 billion agreement with Iran under which Iran will sell more than 130 billion cubic feet of gas a year to Turkey. The move came shortly after President Clinton signed into law a measure penalizing companies that invest more than \$40 million a year in the oil and gas sectors of Iran and Libya.

■ A local judge upheld Cleveland's school voucher program as constitutional. The American Civil Liberties Union said it would seek an injunction to prevent implementation of the controversial program as it prepares an appeal of the decision. [Page 3]

■ Israeli authorities demolished what they said were five illegally built homes in Arab villages north of Jerusalem. The move prompted angry protests by Palestinian residents, who claim that Israel has made it nearly impossible for them to obtain the proper building permits. [Page 4]

■ FBI agents investigating the crash of TWA flight 800 were expected to travel to Israel to interrogate a Lebanese man who is an Israeli hospital. The man was injured when a bomb he was making in April detonated prematurely. [Page 4]

■ Canada dismissed two soldiers accused of involvement with white supremacist groups while three other soldiers remained under investigation. The two privates are suspected of taking part in "significant acts" of racism. [Page 3]

ON THE CAMPAIGN TRAIL

Kemp's record inspires new hope for Republican outreach to Jews

By Matthew Dorf

SAN DIEGO (JTA) — As a congressman, he gave hope to desperate refuseniks struggling to gain their freedom.

As a senior Republican leader, he defended Israel when many were attacking the Jewish state's policies.

As a Cabinet official in the Bush administration, he found new Jewish admirers as he fought to improve America's poorest cities.

Now, Republican Jews hope that Jack Kemp can help propel the GOP back into the White House.

The excitement that the newly announced vice presidential nominee has breathed into the Republican Party's rank and file was clearly evident this week as Jewish delegates converged on San Diego for the Republican National Convention.

Kemp brought down the house at a Jewish-sponsored reception Sunday night just one day after being tapped to join the Republican ticket.

It was one of the Republican vice presidential candidate's first public appearances after arriving with presidential nominee Bob Dole.

Kemp had disappointed many Republican Jews when he decided last year not to seek the presidential nomination.

With the former professional football player now on the ticket, the usually festive kick-off celebrations turned jubilant in this oceanside city.

Flanked by his wife, Joanne, Kemp told more than 500 cheering Jewish activists at a local restaurant that was koshered especially for the event, that he and his wife "will never forget who was there when the going was tough."

"Tonight with you, we feel like mishpachah," Kemp said, repeating a line he uses frequently when addressing Jewish audiences.

A lone activist shouted back: "You are" to the man who grew up in a largely Jewish neighborhood of Los Angeles.

Best known for his embrace of supply-side economics, Kemp, 61, has garnered Jewish support since he began his political career in the House of Representatives in 1970.

Jewish Republicans are now looking to Kemp to reach out past the party's traditional base to independent and Jewish voters by matching his tax-cutting ideology with his compassion for immigrants, the poor and minorities.

His support for affirmative action without racial quotas, his solid pro-Israel record and his personal involvement in the Soviet Jewry movement, they say, all translate into Jewish votes for the Dole-Kemp ticket in November. Whether his positions of these issues can outweigh his support for school prayer and for banning abortions in the minds of Jewish voters has yet to be seen.

Kemp serves on the board of the Center for Jewish and Christian Values, which was founded by the politically conservative Rabbi Yechiel Eckstein.

Early advocate for Soviet Jewry

Sen. Arlen Specter (R-Pa.), for one, does not believe these positions will affect Kemp's standing in the Jewish community.

"Kemp is pro-life, but he does not wear it on his sleeve," the senator said in an interview at the Jewish reception, which was co-sponsored by the National Jewish Coalition, a Republican organization, and the American Israel Public Affairs Committee, the pro-Israel lobby.

"He supports school prayer, but does not pursue it," Specter said. "These positions will not translate into government action in a Dole-Kemp administration."

Frequently at odds with his own party on immigration and other social issues, Kemp's moderate positions in these areas date back to his early support for Soviet Jews.

Kemp is "one of the true giants of the Soviet Jewry advocacy movement," said Mark Levin, executive director of the National Conference on Soviet Jewry, one of many Jewish organizations to honor Kemp for his efforts. Just last year, Kemp was honored by HIAS with its Liberty Award

in tribute to his contributions to furthering peace and freedom.

During his nine terms as a congressman from Buffalo, N.Y., Kemp traveled frequently to the former Soviet Union, often meeting with refuseniks and pushing the Communist regime to allow emigration.

In 1982, Kemp, who served as co-chair of the Congressional Coalition for Soviet Jews, teamed up with Dole to stage a mock wedding ceremony at the Capitol building to pressure the Soviet authorities to release the wife of a refusenik living in the United States.

Edward Lozansky had been struggling for six years to bring his wife, Tatiana, to the United States.

Lozansky was a Republican activist with ties to both Dole, who served as his best man at the mock ceremony, and Kemp, who served as a witness.

"Without those two guys, I don't know if we ever would have seen each other," Lozansky said in a telephone interview this week from his office in Washington.

Tatiana received permission to leave the Soviet Union a month later. She became a U.S. citizen in 1985, and Dole and Kemp were both on hand to congratulate her during an emotional ceremony.

Lozansky recalled making a speech saying it would be tough if Dole and Kemp both ran for president because he and his wife would have a difficult time deciding whom to support.

"We love both of you," he recalled saying at the time, "and we would like you both to be on the same ticket."

With his wish now having come true, Lozansky, who now heads a consulting firm to promote American-Russian relations, said he plans to launch a drive to win support for the Dole-Kemp ticket among Soviet Jewish emigres in the United States.

High marks for pro-Israel record

Kemp also gets high marks for his pro-Israel record, a record that is so strong that some Jewish Republicans skeptical of Dole's mixed relations with the Jewish state now plan to stay with the ticket.

"People who were leaving the party over Israel will now stay," said Rosalie Zalis, a senior policy adviser to California Gov. Pete Wilson.

Zalis said she had met seven couples at a Shabbat dinner over the weekend who had planned to cross party lines because of their concern over Dole's record on Israel.

But after Dole tapped Kemp to be his running mate, Zalis said, "six have already committed to come back."

Dole was on the receiving end of Kemp's ire when he slammed Israel for the 1988 kidnapping of Sheik Abdel Karim Obeid, leader of the fundamentalist Hezbollah movement.

A year later, when an American soldier in Lebanon, Colonel William Higgins was killed, presumably in retaliation for Obeid's abduction, Dole took to the Senate floor, saying: "Perhaps a little more responsibility on the part of the Israelis one of these days would be refreshing."

Kemp, then secretary of housing and urban development in the Bush administration, fired back at Dole.

Dole should stop this "blame Israel first mentality," he was quoted saying at the time.

And when the rest of the world attacked Israel for bombing Iraq's Osirak nuclear reactor in 1981, Kemp praised the Jewish state.

Kemp also was one of a few voices in the U.S. government to defend Israel's 1982 invasion of Lebanon.

The move is "not only inevitable but justified," he said at the time.

Today, Kemp continues to strongly support Israel.

Israel's security "is not a Republican cause. It's an American cause," Kemp said Sunday night.

Kemp informed the gathering that Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, whom he called a longtime friend, had called to wish him a "mazel tov."

"With Bibi as prime minister of Israel and Bob Dole and Jack Kemp in the U.S., this is going to be a really exciting time for the world and our nation," Kemp said to rousing cheers.

Republicans say Kemp means Jewish votes, but Democrats, who were prepared to pounce on whomever Dole chose as his running mate, say there is nothing the GOP can do to increase its support in the Jewish community.

"Bob Dole could have picked Herzl and he would lose in the Jewish community," said Ira Forman, executive director of the National Jewish Democratic Council.

"This might help Bob Dole squeeze some more money out of the Jews on his finance committee, but it won't get him one more Jewish vote."

But Zalis argues that Kemp's addition to the ticket will not only "bring Jewish Republicans home," it could also force the so-called Reagan Democrats to consider the Republican party once again.

Both Republicans and Democrats agree that support for Israel is not enough to win Jewish support in November.

Positions on domestic economic and social issues could prove even more critical.

Jewish activists concerned about Republican-led cuts in welfare and immigration assistance say they are hopeful that Kemp, a self-described "bleeding heart conservative," would be a voice for their concerns.

For Jewish Republicans, Kemp's selection has renewed hopes that Dole can conquer Clinton's commanding lead. "This has got to be the Democrats' worst nightmare," said Matt Brooks, executive director of the National Jewish Coalition.

"The Democrats won't know how to campaign against a man who has slept in public housing complexes," said Brooks, an unabashed Kemp supporter. □

(JTA correspondent Daniel Kurtzman in Washington contributed to this report.)

Oil discovered in southern Israel

By Naomi Segal

JERUSALEM (JTA) — Israel's National Oil Exploration Company has discovered oil in southern Israel.

Company officials reportedly estimated that the drilling site south of Arad, located east of Beersheba, could produce 450 barrels a day.

The company's director-general, Yaron Ran, said the oil was discovered at a depth of some 1.2 miles.

He stressed that further explorations in the coming days would indicate whether oil exists there in significant quantities. □

Israel, Turkey to create sister cities

JERUSALEM (JTA) — Tel Aviv and Izmir, Turkey, will reportedly sign an agreement to become sister cities.

Tel Aviv Mayor Roni Milo flew to Turkey on Monday to attend the signing ceremony for what would be the first Israeli-Turkish twin city arrangement, according to the Israeli daily Yediot Achronot.

Israel's ambassador to Turkey, Zvi Alpeleg, was quoted as saying that the relationship could prove important, given the recent rise to power of Turkey's Islamist Welfare Party. □

Local judge finds Cleveland's school voucher program legal

By Jordan F. Lubetkin
Cleveland Jewish News

CLEVELAND (JTA) — A local judge has upheld the constitutionality of Cleveland's pilot voucher program which grants parents tax-funded tuition vouchers to send their children to private and parochial schools.

Jewish and civil rights groups have expressed mixed reactions to the recent decision.

The Cleveland program, to be implemented this fall, grants 1,500 disadvantaged Cleveland children up to \$2,250 per year per child. The money can be used in the school of their choice, including private and parochial schools, and participating public schools in adjoining districts.

While similar voucher programs are being tested around the country, Cleveland's program is the only one that allows money to go to religious schools.

The decision, handed down by Franklin County Common Pleas Judge Lisa Sadler, marked a major step forward for school choice supporters and dealt a blow to the program's opponents, who have included teachers unions and civil rights advocacy groups.

"For a long time I've thought that vouchers were the way to go," said Rabbi Samuel J. Levine, educational director at Fuchs Bet Sefer Mizrahi.

"Vouchers have worked in other countries which value the separation of church and state," he added, citing England and the Netherlands as countries which have successfully implemented voucher programs.

He emphasized that the voucher issue is not a private school issue versus a public school issue, but rather an issue of choice.

The Cleveland program, and others across the country, he says, will level the educational playing field, allowing children of lower socio-economic backgrounds access to private schools — schools that they otherwise could not attend.

'More power to it'

Currently, Fuchs Bet Sefer Mizrahi and other area Jewish day schools do not fall under the scope of the Cleveland voucher program, and Levine doubts that any future voucher program will affect the Jewish day schools because most of them already are filled to capacity or are near capacity.

Nevertheless, the voucher issue is important, he said, because it helps those children who need help. "If this is a program to benefit children who are economically deprived, I say, 'More power to it.'"

Some observers, however, say that the Cleveland initiative, as well as the growing debate nationally, clouds the real issue at hand: the demise of many urban public schools.

"The first step is to give support to the school district and its teachers, parents and students," said Mark Freeman, superintendent of Shaker Heights schools.

"These are the issues that need to be concentrated on."

Along with all the cities adjoining the city of Cleveland, Shaker Heights and Cleveland Heights had the opportunity to be included in the pilot program.

They all turned down the option of allowing Cleveland students with vouchers into their respective school districts.

This was mainly due to financial reasons, said Paul Masem, superintendent of Cleveland Heights-University Heights school district.

Because it costs approximately \$8,000 a year to educate a student, and the vouchers only reimburse the

school up to \$2,250, local taxpayers would have to make up the difference, says Masem.

"We were bitterly disappointed" in the judge's ruling, said Christine Link, executive director for the American Civil Liberties Union of Ohio. "This is a crucial First Amendment case. It won't just mean a chipping away of the wall separating church and state. It will destroy the wall."

Echoing the sentiments of many teachers unions, she said the ruling would destroy the Cleveland public school system and lead to a two-tier system of education.

In handing down the decision, Sadler said it was impossible to gauge the effect the voucher program would have on those children who stay in the Cleveland public school system to receive "a fair education opportunity."

The program will transfer \$5.5 million from the cash-strapped Cleveland public school system to private or parochial schools.

Ohio already spends more than any other state on assistance to parochial schools, in the form of economic assistance covering needs such as transportation and textbooks, Link said. Throughout the 1960s, the ACLU unsuccessfully challenged the legality of reimbursing for such costs.

"The voucher case is the epitome of the slippery slope in that this is where these (lost) cases have taken us," she said.

Link, whose daughter attends Agnon School, a local Jewish day school, says that people have a responsibility to look beyond their immediate needs.

"It means some sacrifice. You make the choice to send your child to a parochial school because you want certain values, but that's not at the expense of public education," she said.

According to Michael Charney, a member of the executive board of the Cleveland Teachers' Union, 65 teachers will be laid off because of the number of students leaving the 70,000-student Cleveland public school system.

In the long term, however, Charney expressed hope that the court decision and subsequent court cases will refocus public discussion on the need to defend and fund public education.

"We're not against parochial schools," he said. "We're against them using public funds."

"What aggravates me, as a Jew, is that soon public money will be going to schools where religious views will be taught which advocate that if you don't believe in their precise religious view, you will not be able to go to heaven," Charney said. "Public money should not support religious dogma."

Almost 90 percent of the schools admitted into the Cleveland voucher program are parochial schools, and most of these are Catholic, said Charney. Both supporters and opponents of the voucher plan agree, however, that the decision was just the first round of a court battle that many expect to be appealed as high as the U.S. Supreme Court.

In the meantime, the ACLU was seeking an injunction to halt the Cleveland voucher program from being implemented. □

Canadian army kicks out 2 soldiers

By Bill Gladstone

OTTAWA (JTA) — Two army privates suspected of involvement with white supremacist groups were dismissed last month from the Canadian army, military sources said.

The two soldiers had engaged in "significant acts" of racism, said Maj. Gen. Bryan Stephenson.

Three other privates are under investigation and may also face disciplinary procedures, the sources said. □

Netanyahu, Arafat exchange barbs over stalled peace talks*By Naomi Segal*

JERUSALEM (JTA) — The distance between the public stances of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat appears to be growing daily.

Netanyahu, in an interview appearing in an Arabic language newspaper published Sunday, stated bluntly that he foresees no agreement with the Palestinians over the future of Jerusalem.

"There exists no possibility we will agree with the Palestinian Authority on the final status of Jerusalem, and it appears this is one of the issues which cannot be resolved," he said.

Arafat, in an interview with Israel Television that was touted as the first given to an Israeli journalist in two years, said he would turn to international arbitration if Israel failed to meet its obligations under the self-rule accords.

"We have the United Nations. We have The Hague. We have the co-sponsors of the peace process," he said.

"We have the U.N. Security Council and the Europeans. We will go to arbitration."

In language as blunt as Netanyahu's, he added that eastern Jerusalem "will be the capital of a Palestinian state."

The United States had guaranteed that the final status talks would include discussions about a Palestinian state and Jerusalem, he said.

But the self-rule accords do not call on Israel to compromise on either issue, and Arafat said he had no secret commitment from any Israeli leader that there would be a compromise.

Arafat also said during the interview that a meeting between him and Netanyahu was inevitable.

"He can't ignore me," Arafat said.

Netanyahu has previously said that he would only consider meeting Arafat if it was "deemed necessary for the nation's security."

And in an interview with the Arabic newspaper Al Quds this week, Netanyahu again brushed off the idea.

"At present, I have hotter issues," said the premier.

'A hot bullet of TNT'

In a meeting with Arab journalists Monday, Netanyahu said he was close to concluding consultations on the delayed Israel Defense Force redeployment in Hebron, which was supposed to take place in late March.

But he stressed that the move would be carefully thought out before any action was taken.

"If we act precipitously and simply redeploy in Hebron, and if there is an outbreak of terror, it could bounce back and forth like a hot bullet of TNT that could explode our communities," he said.

Another hot-button issue facing the Israelis and Palestinians, Jewish settlements in the territories, came to the fore earlier this month when the Cabinet agreed to allow construction projects to proceed in existing settlements.

And it again surfaced this week, when Interior Minister Eli Suissa pledged \$5 million in aid to Jewish settlements.

Settler leaders have complained that under the previous Labor-led government, settlements received less government money than towns located in Israel.

The aid had reportedly been approved by former Finance Minister Avraham Shochat during the government

of Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, but was never distributed.

"I don't think this is sufficient, but I think it's a good start," Suissa, a member of the fervently Orthodox Sephardi Shas Party, said of the aid.

"I hope that all government ministers will follow in my footsteps and each will leave behind" the same amount.

Meanwhile, a leader of the fundamentalist Hamas movement in the Gaza Strip vowed violence against Jewish settlements if the Netanyahu government builds new homes in the territories.

"We have to strangle the settlements. We can take to the streets, in demonstrations, to confront the Israeli bulldozers," Mahmoud Al-Zahar was quoted as saying.

In a separate incident Monday, Israeli authorities demolished what they said were five illegally built homes in Arab villages north of Jerusalem.

The move prompted angry protests by Palestinian residents, who claim that Israel has made it nearly impossible for them to obtain the proper building permits.

One Israeli border police officer was lightly wounded when Palestinians threw stones at bulldozers. □

Investigation of TWA crash leads FBI to terrorist in Israel*By Naomi Segal*

JERUSALEM (JTA) — FBI investigators were reportedly traveling to Israel this week to interrogate a Lebanese man thought to have been recruited by Iran to carry out a bombing in Israel.

The FBI hopes the man, who is in an Israeli hospital after being severely injured by a bomb blast, will be able to shed light on the July 17 explosion of Paris-bound TWA flight 800.

The investigators were expected to question Hussein Mikdad, a Lebanese man who lost his eyes, legs and an arm when a bomb he was preparing went off prematurely in an eastern Jerusalem hotel in April, according to the Israeli daily Ma'ariv.

Israeli police said that Mikdad had been recruited by the Islamic fundamentalist Hezbollah group.

They also said that Mikdad had repeatedly been spotted visiting the Iranian Embassy in Beirut before coming to Jerusalem.

Two pounds of high-powered plastics explosives were found in his hotel room, which he had apparently smuggled into Israel when he entered on a fake British passport.

According to police, Mikdad had planned to blow up an El Al flight with plastic explosives in a clock radio.

Mikdad was believed at the time to be the first operative ever sent by Iran to carry out an attack within Israel instead of targeting Israelis or Jews elsewhere around the world. □

Israeli trade deficit at \$820 million*By Naomi Segal*

JERUSALEM (JTA) — Israel's trade deficit for the month of July totalled \$820 million, the Central Bureau of Statistics reported.

The bureau said Monday that Israel's total trade deficit for the first seven months of the year now stands at \$6.4 billion.

Imports during July totaled \$2.5 billion, while exports stood at \$1.68 billion.

The bureau also said that Israeli exports are rising at a 5 percent annual rate while the level of imports has remained steady. □