



NEWS AT A GLANCE

■ Israel's High Court of Justice ruled that Jerusalem's Bar Ilan Street would remain open to traffic on the Sabbath and holidays. Immediately after the ruling, posters were put up in fervently Orthodox neighborhoods calling on residents to demonstrate this weekend. [Page 2]

■ Lemrick Nelson was indicted as an adult for allegedly violating the civil rights of Yankel Rosenbaum, who was murdered during the Crown Heights riots in August 1991. The indictment also names a second suspect in the crime, Charles Price, on charges of inciting the crowd to commit acts of violence against Jews. [Page 3]

■ Jewish Republicans gathered together one last time in San Diego for a celebratory sendoff to Bob Dole and to Jewish candidates for Congress. Speaker of the House Newt Gingrich was scheduled to address the National Jewish Coalition's Road to Victory reception.

■ The Argentine Supreme Court released a report claiming that the March 1992 bombing of the Israeli Embassy in Buenos Aires was not the result of a car bomb, as government investigators have believed until now. [Page 4]

■ An Israeli court charged a Hamas terrorist with being responsible for the deaths of 45 people in terrorist attacks. Hassan Salameh, who was arrested by chance in Hebron earlier this year, is accused of planning two bus bombings in Jerusalem and a bombing in Ashkelon.

■ Eliyahu Ben-Elissar, the next Israeli ambassador to the United States, was appointed to lead negotiations with Syria. He is scheduled to replace in September the current ambassador, Itamar Rabinovich, who has headed Israel's negotiating team for the last four years.

■ The Ohio Supreme Court lifted a ban on simultaneous, opposing protests outside the home of former war crimes defendant John Demjanjuk. [Page 3]

■ Israel denied charges by the CIA that it is extensively involved in economic espionage against the United States. [Page 4]

FOCUS ON ISSUES

Educators seek ways to make Israel relevant to Jewish youth

By Michele Chabin

JERUSALEM (JTA) — "You want to know what's wrong with Israel education in the Diaspora?" one American Hebrew schoolteacher said to an informal group of fellow educators last week.

"It's stuck in a time warp."

The educators, all participants in the 21st Annual Conference on Alternatives in Jewish Education, could not have agreed more.

Some 1,700 educators convened here last week for the five-day Coalition for the Advancement of Jewish Education conference, which gave them the chance to share teaching techniques and to recharge their batteries in time for the new school year.

The conference, which was co-sponsored by the Jewish Agency for Israel and the World Zionist Organization, was built around the theme of Jerusalem 3000, the ongoing celebrations marking the three millennia since King David established his capital in the Holy City.

Sessions focused on the importance of Jerusalem and the Land of Israel in Jewish prayer, history and contemporary life. Methods for teaching about Israel was one topic that frequently surfaced.

In informal workshops as well as in interviews, the educators talked about what many view as outdated materials and outmoded methodology still used in the field of Israel education.

Asserting that many textbooks — and teachers — are out of touch with modern Israeli society, the educators acknowledged that it is far from simple to excite their students about Israel.

"We're focusing on heroic Zionism, on the First and Second Aliyah, on the establishment of the State, with almost no points of connection between what is being taught and the reality of Israel in 1996," said Yitzhak Rubinstein, the Coordinator of Jewish Education at the South African Board of Jewish Education.

Issues to ignite the imagination

"Teaching Israel should go way beyond this," Rubinstein said. "The country has many conflicts and dilemmas, like how to have a democratic state that is also Jewish and how to ensure pluralism and minority rights.

"What about the whole interaction between Jews and Arabs? These are live issues that have a greater possibility of igniting the imagination of kids than the old 'Zionist dream' methodology of teaching Israel."

According to Moshe Sokolow, the New York-based director of education services at the Joint Authority for Jewish Zionist Education, most schools, especially in the Orthodox community, do not teach Israel as a living, breathing society.

If anything, Sokolow said, "from a reality perspective, Orthodox schools know less about the State of Israel [than non-Orthodox schools], and this became evident after the Rabin assassination."

"The assassination brought out many reactions, none of which included the observation that the democratically elected prime minister had been murdered by one of its citizens," he said.

What was missing, Sokolow said, "was the realization that this was a political assassination. Instead, [educators and students] viewed it in more partisan terms."

He said, "Those who favored Rabin called it a blow to the peace process; those who didn't said it's too bad, but maybe now people will rethink the peace process.

"The schools have failed to identify that dimension of Israel that they can identify with and support, regardless of who is in power."

To prove the point that teachers are out of touch, Sokolow asked those attending a seminar to "create" a new city of Jerusalem, and gave them the task of assigning street names to the imaginary city.

The only stipulation: The streets had to be named after well-known figures in contemporary Israel.

"I told them they could choose from authors, poets, political figures, singers, sports stars, but they had a very hard time coming up with names

because they're not all that familiar with today's Israel," he said.

"If the teachers aren't excited about what's happening here, how can their students feel excited?"

Deborah Price, director of Jewish Education Services at the Board of Jewish Education for Bergen County in New Jersey, acknowledged that "in some of our schools, Jewish history ends at the Rabbinic period. Some schools don't even celebrate Israeli Independence Day."

Price fears that "unless we make Israel a priority — both for students and teachers — when a teen-ager turns 16 he won't want to visit the country, even when it's handed to him on a silver platter. I know, I've seen it happen."

Still, Price says, there are many Jewish education success stories. "Some of our local Hebrew high schools have an Israel trip as part of their yearlong curriculum. One third of the funding comes from the federation, the synagogues do their part and the cost to the parents is under \$1,000."

David Harman, director general of the Joint Authority for Jewish Zionist Education in Israel, believes that the problem is not one of outdated materials, but of priorities. "There is a lot of good Israel material available, but a lot of institutions don't use it," he said.

"Sometimes they have no budget, sometimes they have no time to teach the material and sometimes there are no competent teachers to teach it.

"Only 100 Jewish studies teachers are produced in the U.S. per annum, and this in a country with over a million Jewish kids of school age."

Another fundamental problem, Harman said, is that the majority of Diaspora teens drop out of Hebrew school after their Bar or Bat Mitzvah.

"You want to get at the teen-agers because that's the age when you have a major impact on identity formation, but that's the very time we don't have the kids."

On the other hand, he said, "non-formal Jewish education is thriving. Jewish summer camps are a very real, live Israel experience. Each year we send 400 Israeli counselors to camps in the Diaspora, and they are the real Israel."

Until every Jewish teen has the opportunity to see Israel firsthand, Harman sees such high-tech tools as teleconferencing and the Internet filling the Israel education void. "The problem is that such things cost a lot of money, and we don't have it," Harman said.

"A good Jewish education costs good money; it can't be done on a shoestring." □

High Court: Bar Ilan Street to remain open on Sabbath

By Naomi Segal

JERUSALEM (JTA) — In a decision likely to evoke protests from the city's fervently Orthodox community, Israel's High Court of Justice has ruled that a main thoroughfare in Jerusalem remain open to traffic on the Sabbath.

Soon after the court's 6-1 decision Thursday barring the closure of Bar Ilan to Sabbath traffic, posters appeared in fervently Orthodox neighborhoods in Jerusalem calling on residents to demonstrate this weekend in support of closing the street.

The presence of Sabbath traffic on Bar Ilan has led to a series of often violent demonstrations in recent weeks.

It has become a hot-button issue on both sides of the religious divide, with fervently Orthodox Jews seeking laws that will respect the Sabbath and religious holidays. Secular Jews view such laws as an infringement on their freedom.

For much of Thursday, a tense atmosphere prevailed at the court, where activists from both sides awaited the ruling.

Their conflicts became evident outside the courtroom, where the two sides became embroiled in shouting matches.

The judges, who called for the formation of a committee to examine the matter of Sabbath traffic on streets throughout Jerusalem, ruled that an injunction against closing Bar Ilan would remain in place until the committee issued its recommendations in two months.

"The purpose of such a committee will be to find a way to nurture coexistence between all segments of Israel's population," the justices wrote in the majority opinion led by court President Aharon Barak. Only Justice Zvi Tal dissented.

Thursday's ruling came after the expanded panel heard petitions from religious and secular groups regarding the thoroughfare, which cuts through religious neighborhoods in the Holy City.

"What is at stake here is not just one street, but the entire future of how Israel will look in the 21st century. Will it be a democratic state, for all its citizens?" said Lior Horev, who submitted one of three petitions to keep the street open.

The battle over Bar Ilan heightened this year, after the victories of religious political parties in the May 29 national elections.

The dispute was further fueled with the decision in July by Transportation Minister Yitzhak Levy, a member of the National Religious Party, to close Bar Ilan to traffic during Sabbath and holiday prayer times for a four-month experimental period.

The High Court suspended Levy's order pending its own ruling.

Both sides of the dispute gave limited acceptance to the court's proposal to form a committee to study the issue.

"Of course we welcome it, as long as the interests of all parties are represented on the committee," said Knesset member Yossi Sarid of the secularist Meretz Party, who also submitted a petition against closing the road.

"Form a committee, please. But Bar Ilan must be closed. Every time a car goes by on the Sabbath, residents of the area are hurt," said Meir Shechter, a lawyer for the religious petitioners.

Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert said he would honor the ruling, but added that a proposal he made recently to build a tunnel underneath the road would be the optimal solution. □

Netanyahu tells investors to be cool

By Naomi Segal

JERUSALEM (JTA) — Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu urged Israelis this week to stop selling long-term savings plans and provident funds and to "consider things coolly."

Soon after, the Bank of Israel announced that it would buy millions of dollars of bonds to help banks raise cash and meet growing public demands to cash in savings plans. The prime minister also issued a government guarantee to provide a safety net for state bonds.

The government is committed "to take whatever necessary means to ensure that the bonds always enjoy support," the prime minister told Israel Radio.

The bank said in a statement Thursday that it would buy about \$250 million in government bonds.

Netanyahu's remarks came after Wednesday's record number of sell orders, which totaled about \$500 million. □

New indictments come 5 years after clashes in Crown Heights*By Debra Nussbaum Cohen*

NEW YORK (JTA) — Five years after a wave of riots tore through the Crown Heights section of Brooklyn, a black man is being indicted as an adult for allegedly violating the civil rights of a slain Jew.

Yankel Rosenbaum, an Orthodox Jew from Australia who was living in the largely Lubavitch and black neighborhood, was killed by a gang of rampaging black teens during the August 1991 riots.

Rosenbaum was stabbed four times and later died at the hospital after identifying Nelson as one of his attackers. Nelson, who is now 21, was 16 at the time.

In addition, another man, Charles Price, 43, has for the first time been indicted for allegedly inciting the crowd to commit acts of violence against Jews.

The riots began when a car accompanying the late Lubavitcher rebbe, Menachem Schneerson, hit two black children who were playing on the sidewalk a few blocks from the Lubavitch headquarters. One of the children, Gavin Cato, was killed and his cousin was seriously hurt.

Some of the neighborhood's black residents surrounded the car driven by a Lubavitcher and accused the medics of Hatzolah, an independent Jewish ambulance service in New York City, of attending first to the Chasidim rather than to the more seriously injured children.

Black residents of the area responded violently and several, led by Price, surrounded Rosenbaum and stabbed him, according to the indictment. The indictment was unsealed Wednesday and announced by the U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of New York, Zachary Carter.

Nelson was initially charged as a juvenile with second-degree murder and tried in a New York state court. The jury acquitted him after a six-week trial, prompting outrage among many in the Chasidic community.

Pressure from political leaders and prominent Chasidim led federal authorities to bring the civil rights charges two years later. If convicted, Nelson and Price each face a life sentence in prison and a \$250,000 fine. Nelson's trial is slated to begin Oct. 7. Price's trial is as yet unscheduled. □

Gilman calls for hearings on United Airlines' Iran deal*By Matthew Dorf*

SAN DIEGO (JTA) — Members of Congress plan to take United Airlines management to task for signing a new contract to pay Iran hundreds of thousands of dollars a year to use the terrorist state's airspace.

United now flies twice a day through Iranian airspace, said Rep. Benjamin Gilman (R-N.Y.), who chairs the House International Relations Committee.

Gilman said he would call United officials and Federal Aviation Administration brass to hearings on the agreement when Congress returns next month from its August recess.

United's agreement, to pay Iran \$1,500 per flight, flies in the face of Gilman's efforts to isolate the Islamic republic, an unabashed sponsor of terrorist groups, including the Lebanon-based Hezbollah.

President Clinton signed into law last week legislation co-sponsored by Gilman that imposes economic sanctions on foreign countries that invest in Iran's or Libya's fuel industries. United's deal apparently falls between the cracks of U.S. law that prohibits economic cooperation with Iran, Gilman said.

United officials declined to comment.

"Our committee has already shouted out loud and

clear to the FAA asking why they allowed that to happen," Gilman said in a brief interview after a reception with the American Jewish Committee here. "They have not heard the end of this."

But a U.S. Treasury Department official said such overflight arrangements are "routine." Flying the most direct, fuel-efficient route is a "practical means by which U.S. travelers can pay less money to travel from point A to point B."

In addition to providing money to the cash-strapped Tehran government, the agreement "puts our passengers at risk," said Gilman, who happened to be wearing Republican convention credentials that bear United Airlines on the face. "We will not let this stand," he said. □

Ohio Supreme Court upholds concurrent Demjanjuk rallies*By Jordan F. Lubetkin**Cleveland Jewish News*

CLEVELAND (JTA) — In a precedent-setting case involving accused Nazi death-camp guard John Demjanjuk, the Ohio Supreme Court has ruled that holding simultaneous protests by groups of opposing views is a right protected under the First Amendment.

In its 7-0 decision, the court ruled Wednesday that an injunction prohibiting simultaneous protesting was unconstitutional. Ohio becomes the first state that expressly recognizes that the right to counterdemonstration is protected under the U.S. Constitution.

"The Ohio Supreme Court did the right thing in upholding a robust view of free speech," said Raymond Vasvari, an American Civil Liberties Union attorney who argued the case.

The case, *Seven Hills vs. Aryan Nations*, originated in 1993 when the city of Seven Hills enacted a total ban on protesting in anticipation of Demjanjuk's return after seven years of incarceration and trial in Israel. Demjanjuk returned in September 1993 after Israel's Supreme Court acquitted him on charges that he was the notorious Treblinka guard "Ivan the Terrible." But the court also found compelling evidence that Demjanjuk was a SS guard at the Sobibor death camp and other Nazi camps.

At the time, protesters in front of Demjanjuk's home included Holocaust survivors and their supporters, led by Rabbi Avi Weiss of New York, national president of Coalition for Jewish Concerns-AMCHA.

Other demonstrators, who supported Demjanjuk's claims of innocence, included members of the white supremacist Aryan Nations and Ku Klux Klan organizations and members of the Ukrainian community.

In December 1993, Common Pleas Court Judge Daniel Gaul ruled that the ban on protesting was unconstitutional.

However, he issued an injunction banning simultaneous protest of groups with opposing viewpoints.

The restraining order limited the number of protesters, restricted the times they could protest and prohibited two opposing groups from picketing simultaneously.

The American Civil Liberties Union had argued that the injunction was unconstitutional, because it limits the use of free speech.

Vasvari said the U.S. Supreme Court had upheld in earlier decisions the proposition that speech cannot be prohibited because it risks inciting others to violence, unless there is "a clear and present danger of imminent violence or lawlessness."

The Ohio court's decision indicates that the city failed to show the threat of imminent violence in the context of a peaceful protest, he said. □

**Report from Argentine court:
Bomb perhaps inside embassy***By Sergio Kiernan*

BUENOS AIRES (JTA) — The Argentine Supreme Court has released a report claiming that the March 17, 1992, bombing of the Israeli Embassy here was not carried out by means of a car bomb, as government investigators previously believed.

In a communique issued this week, the court said that "technical studies" support the thesis that the powerful bomb that leveled the embassy "was placed inside the building and not on the curb."

"The conclusion is that the explosive was placed in a service room close to the main hall of the building, on the ground floor," said Supreme Court Justice Julio Nazareno. "By no means can this be construed as blaming the Israeli Embassy for the explosion; it is just a technical study," the judge said.

But the Israeli Foreign Ministry and Israel's ambassador to Argentina countered the court's conclusion, saying that they did not believe that the bomb had been placed inside the building. "We categorically reject the evaluations published by the Supreme Court in Argentina," the Foreign Ministry said in a statement.

The ministry also accused the court of dragging its feet in the investigation, which it said has made "no progress toward identifying the perpetrators."

The Israeli ambassador to Buenos Aires, Itzhak Aviran, was quoted as saying, "In four years, the court did nothing to investigate."

"Now they need to prove they are working on the case, so they come up with this report."

The embassy bombing killed 29 people and left more than 100 injured.

The Argentine government has come under constant attack from Jewish officials here and abroad for its inability to find those responsible for the embassy attack.

The July 18, 1994, bombing of the Jewish community's headquarters here, which left 86 dead and more than 300 wounded, also remains unsolved.

In December 1995, a group of private investigators and a material witness told the Argentine Supreme Court that they suspected that no car bombs were used either in the embassy bombing or the 1994 bombing of the Argentine Jewish Mutual Aid Association, also known as AMIA.

According to the investigators, the bombs used in both terror attacks had been placed inside the buildings or inside large cast-iron containers used to remove construction debris. They said both the embassy and AMIA buildings were being renovated at the time of the attacks and that there were large containers for hauling away rubble parked at the entrances of the buildings when the bombs were detonated. □

**Israel denies CIA charges
it engages in economic spying***By Daniel Kurtzman*

WASHINGTON (JTA) — Israel has denied charges leveled by the Central Intelligence Agency that it is extensively involved in economic espionage against the United States.

A CIA report released this month by the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence accused Israel, France, China, Russia, Iran and Cuba of trying to steal high-tech secrets for commercial advantage.

U.S. officials have long accused Israel and France of such activity, but the report marked the first time the CIA cited the countries in the public record.

"Israel is not involved in any sort of espionage

either within or against the United States," said Gadi Baltiansky, a spokesman for the Israeli Embassy in Washington. He added, "It's a recycling of a very old story."

The Senate committee published the CIA report, dated May 10, as part of its hearing record on current and projected national security threats to the United States.

Mark Mansfield, a CIA spokesman, said the agency provided the unclassified assessment in response to questions raised at the Senate hearing. Responses to sensitive inquiries are typically classified to be kept out of the record, and Mansfield declined to elaborate on why the CIA decided to make the blacklist public.

"We see government-orchestrated theft of U.S. corporate scientific and technological data as the type of espionage that poses the greatest threat to U.S. economic competitiveness," the CIA said in its report. The CIA said it narrowly defined economic espionage "to include a government-directed or orchestrated clandestine effort to collect U.S. economic secrets or proprietary information."

It added: "We do not characterize as economic espionage 'legitimate information gathering activities by a foreign government or foreign corporation,' even if carried out aggressively and skillfully."

Since 1985, when U.S. Navy intelligence analyst Jonathan Pollard was caught spying for Israel, the Jewish state and Jewish government employees have faced a high level of scrutiny.

Last year, a low-level field official with the Department of Defense issued a confidential memorandum to defense contractors putting them on alert for Israeli espionage. It said that "strong ethnic ties" to American Jews allow Israel to steal military and industrial secrets "aggressively." The Defense Department later repudiated and canceled the memo in the face of a public outcry. □

**Netanyahu discusses plan
for redeployment in Hebron***By Naomi Segal*

JERUSALEM (JTA) — Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has convened members of his Cabinet to discuss plans for a redeployment of Israeli troops in the West Bank town of Hebron.

Under the terms of the Interim Agreement, Israel was to redeploy from about 80 percent of Hebron.

But according to the plan presented Thursday evening by Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai, Israeli troops would remain in more districts of the often volatile town than was negotiated in the agreement.

"A greater presence serves Jewish and Arab interests," Netanyahu told Israel Radio earlier in the day.

He said any outbreak of violence in Hebron, the only West Bank town with Jewish settlers and Arabs living side by side, would "scuttle the entire peace process."

The plan calls for Israeli troops to continue patrolling Arab neighborhoods after the redeployment, depending on the security situation. This was based on the principle of preserving the troops' right to "hot pursuit" of Palestinians suspected of committing security offenses.

Leaks from the report indicated that the redeployment would be carried out more slowly than was agreed upon by the previous Labor government and the Palestinian Authority.

The plan was still subject to government approval before it would be presented to the Palestinian side. The long-delayed redeployment from Hebron has been looked upon as a test of Netanyahu's intentions to continue the peace process with the Palestinians.

Mordechai is scheduled to meet next week with Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat to discuss the redeployment. □