



NEWS AT A GLANCE

■ **U.S. Middle East envoy Dennis Ross continued efforts to finalize a Hebron agreement.** Meanwhile, Israeli and Palestinian officials agreed to beef up the number of international observers in Hebron after the redeployment.

■ **Jury selection began in the federal trial of two men charged in connection with the 1991 stabbing of a Chasidic scholar during riots between blacks and Jews in the Crown Heights section of Brooklyn, N.Y.** Prospective jurors, who will determine whether Lemrick Nelson Jr. and Charles Price violated the civil rights of the victim, Yankel Rosenbaum, are being asked to fill out questionnaires in an effort to determine their attitudes toward both Chasidic Jews and blacks.

■ **Nation of Islam leader Louis Farrakhan returned to Libya for the third time in a year, after earlier meetings with Libyan leader Muammar Gadhafi led to tiffs with the U.S. government.**

■ **Swiss banks rejected threats of a boycott from world Jewish groups, saying any such action would not help joint efforts to find the bank accounts of Holocaust victims and their heirs.** Jewish leaders in Israel had said they would call for economic measures against Switzerland if it did not denounce the former Swiss president's harsh statements about setting up a compensation fund.

■ **An Arab Knesset member became the first Israeli to make an official visit to Jordan's Parliament.** Abdel Malek Dahamshe, a member of the Arab Democratic Party-United Arab List, met with the speaker of Jordan's upper house.

■ **Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu met in Jerusalem with the commander of the Israel-allied South Lebanon Army, Gen. Antoine Lahad.** The Israeli premier promised that Israel would consider the SLA's interests in any peace accord involving Lebanon.

■ **A Lebanese journalist charged with having contacts with Israel was released on bail by a Beirut military appeals court.** Journalist Pierre Atallah still may face trial.

NEWS ANALYSIS

Latest Jewish violence sharpens divide between Orthodox, secular

By David Landau

JERUSALEM (JTA) — Support for the young Orthodox soldier who fired indiscriminately at Palestinians in Hebron last week has once again sharpened the divide between the Orthodox and secular segments of Israeli society.

While the debate is less strident than after the November 1995 assassination of Yitzhak Rabin, comparisons are inevitably being made between Noam Friedman's act and Yigal Amir's attack on the prime minister.

Some observers believe that the Friedman incident — in which he randomly shot seven Palestinians on Jan. 1 in the market area of Hebron — is having an even deeper impact, in part because the political drama surrounding Rabin's slaying eclipsed the intensity of the Orthodox-secular divide.

Friedman, 22, of Ma'aleh Adumim, which is outside Jerusalem, did not serve in Hebron, but was in an administrative unit. A religious Jew, Friedman said he felt compelled to stop the Hebron redeployment. Reports that Friedman had suffered from psychological problems in the years before his compulsory army service also sparked debate over why he was drafted and issued a weapon. A Petach Tikva court last week extended Friedman's detention by 15 days.

Support for Friedman within the Orthodox-Zionist yeshiva movement was reported Sunday by Meimad, a moderate Orthodox movement allied with the Labor-led, largely secularist opposition.

Meimad declined to cite details, but said in a statement that it was aware of such support in several yeshiva high schools, most of which are affiliated with the Bnei Akiva youth movement. Bnei Akiva is attached to the National Religious Party, a member of the conservative governing coalition.

"There are pretty broad margins that support Baruch Goldstein," who carried out the February 1994 Hebron massacre, and who also support Friedman, Meimad said. Twenty-nine Palestinians died after Goldstein opened fire in a Hebron mosque.

"There is a very serious problem indeed in the Orthodox educational system," the Meimad statement said. "Many pupils do not understand the rules of play in a democracy. They do not understand the danger to Israel's democracy."

Meimad called for an "emergency convention" of Orthodox educators to attempt to remedy the situation.

The NRP, in reaction, blasted Meimad as "irresponsible" and accused it of deepening divisions by tarring the entire Orthodox-Zionist community with the sins of one person.

Knesset member Avner Shaki of the NRP said he was "aghast" that Meimad would criticize the Orthodox-Zionist educational system, which he said was the finest product of Israeli Orthodoxy.

Evidence of psychological imbalance

Friedman studied at a yeshiva high school in Jerusalem and later at the Merkaz HaRav Kook Yeshiva, considered the seedbed of a politically extreme Orthodox-Zionist theology. Friedman was removed from the yeshiva after nine months and underwent some psychiatric care.

This aspect of his record was cited by segments of the Orthodox-Zionist camp as evidence of his psychological imbalance. They described Friedman as having diminished moral responsibility, adding that he was therefore in no way typical of the educational institutions that he attended.

But Friedman's record can also be regarded as corroborating the fears outside the Orthodox-Zionist camp that the education provided there can turn out fanatical killers.

Friedman is plainly the product of a moderate, unfanatical family. His mother and grandmother, in several recent interviews in the Israeli media expressing regret over the incident, have convinced the public here that he did not absorb violent extremism at home.

His extremist political outlook instead appears to have been shaped to a great extent by his educational environment. Critics of the Ortho-

dox-Zionist camp point to the similarities between the educational backgrounds of Amir and Friedman.

Meanwhile, professors of education from the country's universities joined this week in a unanimous call to the NRP's Zevulun Hammer, who heads the Education Ministry, to implement without further delay two milestone reports on the state education system: the Shenhar Report on teaching Judaic studies in state schools and the Kremnitzer Report on teaching democracy and citizenship.

In their letter to the minister, the professors allude obliquely to the deepening divide in Israeli society and urge that the prompt implementation of the two reports would help teachers meet the challenges for overcoming that divide.

The Shenhar Report, drawn up more than two years ago by a committee headed by Haifa University's Aliza Shenhar, who is now ambassador to Russia, called for a more pluralistic approach to the teaching of Judaism in the state schools.

Mordechai Kremnitzer, a professor of law at the Hebrew University, recommended more emphasis on citizenship throughout the country's school curricula.

Some political observers are linking the debate over the direction of religious education to renewed speculation about the possible emergence of a national unity government.

They feel that heightened fears of further acts of religious extremism within the Orthodox-Zionist camp may strengthen support within the Likud and Labor parties for a grand coalition in which, presumably, the NRP would have no part. □

Kansas City man accused of serving in Nazi camps

By Wendy J. Rosenthal

Kansas City Jewish Chronicle

KANSAS CITY, Kan. (JTA) — Midwesterners are not known for thinking that members of their community are war criminals in hiding.

So imagine their surprise upon hearing the news that an accused Nazi war criminal was shot in the leg after waving a gun at police in what could be the first case of its kind in the Kansas City area.

Sam Nussbaum, an Auschwitz survivor who now lives in the Kansas City area, was one of those strongly affected by the chain of recent events:

Soon after learning that the Nazi-hunting arm of the U.S. Justice Department moved to revoke the American citizenship of Michael Kolnhofer, 79, reporters began to gather at his tidy Kansas City ranch home to interview the man accused of serving as a SS guard during World War II at the Sachsenhausen and Buchenwald concentration camps. Guards at the camps tortured and killed prisoners.

The accused Nazi would not comment, and reporters began to question his neighbors. Kolnhofer then emerged from his house, yelling at reporters and waving a small black handgun, police said.

Within hours, the situation escalated. Kolnhofer at one point pulled the trigger of the gun, but it did not discharge. Police shot Kolnhofer in the leg. He spent New Year's Eve in surgery at the University of Kansas Medical Center. No one else was injured.

Kolnhofer, who was in critical condition this week, now faces charges in connection with shooting at police and journalists.

Nussbaum, the Holocaust survivor, called the SS guards the "greatest murderers in the world."

"You can see what kind of guy he is," Nussbaum said of Kolnhofer's clash with police, adding, "I believe now he was there," at the camps.

Nussbaum, who five years ago was a witness in Germany in the case of Josef Schwammberger, a Nazi war criminal who was sentenced to life, also said of Kolnhofer: "He should be locked up in [an] isolation room, and he should not see the sun anymore. They shouldn't kill him. Just lock him up and let him sit there in the room, until he dies. This will be worse than hanging."

Jean Zeldin, executive director of Kansas City's Midwest Center for Holocaust Education, said area Holocaust survivors "want to see justice served."

"It would be inexcusable to say, 'Oh, well. It happened 50 years ago and doesn't matter anymore,'" Zeldin said.

The Office of Special Investigations, the United States' Nazi-hunting agency, said Kolnhofer came to this country in 1952 and became a citizen in 1957.

He is accused of taking part in the persecution of Jews and other civilians while serving as an SS guard at the Sachsenhausen camp during World War II.

The OSI charges that Kolnhofer lied about his World War II activities to enter the United States.

"He never would have received a U.S. visa had he disclosed the truth," said OSI Director Eli Rosenbaum.

Kolnhofer worked in construction since moving to the United States. His wife, Eva Kolnhofer, owned a massage therapy business in Kansas City for 25 years. In 1985, the couple moved to Hollywood, Fla. After Eva Kolnhofer died in 1988, Michael Kolnhofer returned to Kansas City.

According to the OSI, captured wartime records show that Kolnhofer was admitted to the Waffen SS in September 1942, becoming a member of the SS Death's Head Guard Battalion, also known as the SS Death's Head Battalion, at the Sachsenhausen concentration camp in January 1943. He served as an armed guard there until January 1944, the OSI said.

Sachsenhausen was the site of gruesome medical experiments that took the lives of many prisoners.

OSI added that records also show that Kolnhofer was transferred in 1944 to the Buchenwald concentration camp. □

Accused Nazi war criminal set to be tried in Cleveland

By Marcy Oster

Cleveland Jewish News

CLEVELAND (JTA) — An accused war criminal is set to go on trial here next week, more than two years after the Nazi-fighting arm of the U.S. Justice Department began denaturalization proceedings.

Algimantas Dailide, 75, a resident of nearby Brecksville, is accused of taking part in the persecution of Jews while serving during World War II in the Saugumas, the Nazi-sponsored Lithuanian security police. Set to appear Monday in U.S. District Court before Judge Paul Matia, Dailide is accused of working for a department of the Saugumas that identified and captured suspected Communists, Jews living in hiding or on false papers, and non-Jews who hid, helped or did business with Jews.

The six-count complaint filed by the Justice Department's Office of Special Investigations in December 1994 charged that Dailide was ineligible to immigrate to the United States because he assisted in the Nazi program of persecution and purposely concealed his wartime activity on his immigration application.

Dailide fled to Germany in October 1944 and came to the United States in 1950, after receiving displaced person status. He was naturalized in September 1955. He stated on an application that during the war years he worked as a "practitioner forester." □

Jewish AIDS network pools resources of local activists

By Melinda Greenberg
Baltimore Jewish Times

BALTIMORE (JTA) — Jewish AIDS organizations across the country are helping members of their communities cope with the disease and its social and psychological ramifications.

Until recently, each group was struggling alone, designing new programs and finding ways to make small budgets go a long way.

But that situation has changed since the International Jewish AIDS Network, a newly formed Chicago-based organization, held a one-day conference in October in Washington.

Rabbi Rafael Goldstein, director of the Los Angeles Jewish AIDS Service, one of the nation's largest agencies providing the Jewish component of AIDS work, is a founding member of the network.

"There are programs throughout the country and the world that are working independently, without knowing what the other groups are doing," Goldstein said.

"That's not efficient, and it can be very lonely," he said.

"We need to support each other and learn from each other."

No one knows exactly how many American Jews are infected with HIV, the virus that causes AIDS.

Other founding members of the network are the AIDS Project of Jewish Family and Children's Services of San Francisco and the Jewish AIDS Network of Chicago.

"The future is unknown," said Norman Sandfield, co-chairman of the Jewish AIDS Network of Chicago and one of the organizers of the conference. "I don't expect anything big. I don't see a national office. But we've been talking on the phone since the conference. Contacts were made."

Some 60 people from Jewish AIDS service organizations in the United States, Canada, Israel, Mexico and Europe attended the meeting.

They shared stories about their clients and the services that are offered, discussed community involvement and assessed the future.

Not coincidentally, the conference was held on the same day that Washington was hosting the Names Project AIDS Quilt and the AIDS National Skills Building Conference.

The events brought hundreds of thousands of AIDS workers and activists to the nation's capital.

'Kleenex use was down'

But to Sandfield, former president of Or Chadash, a Reform congregation serving Chicago's gay and lesbian community, something was missing.

"Kleenex use was down," said Sandfield. "There was more dense attendance at the quilt than there was four or five years ago, but we've become used to this by now."

"There were individuals kneeling and talking about the panels, but the drama has already been burned into us."

The Jewish community tends to berate itself for not reacting quickly enough to the AIDS epidemic, but it is no different than any other segment of the population, he said.

"It's always easy to say we could have done this, we could have done more," he said.

"A large percentage of people have said there are just too many good causes and they're being spread too thin."

This project marks the third attempt to form a national Jewish AIDS network.

Sandfield said the network would succeed where the others have not because it is fully acknowledging the efforts made at the grass-roots level across the country.

"A lot of hard work is being done on the local level," he said.

"We don't need to reinvent the wheel. We need a consolidation of Jewish AIDS organizations."

The network's goal is to become an international resource center for the various local Jewish AIDS programs.

Organizers hope to sponsor an annual conference, a national Jewish AIDS day, a resource directory and, eventually, a site on the Internet.

One of the items created for distribution at the conference was an international resource directory listing individuals and organizations providing the Jewish component of AIDS work.

There already are more than 100 entries in the directory. □

Israel denies Syrian accusations

By Naomi Segal

JERUSALEM (JTA) — Israel has rejected Syrian accusations that it carried out a fatal bus bombing in Damascus last week and that it planned additional terrorist attacks.

"The government of Israel is not involved and has no connection to what happened," Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai told reporters Monday.

If Syria is "looking for someone to blame, they should look somewhere else," he said.

In an editorial this week, the Syrian daily Tishrin accused Israel of closing the door on peace and of planning terrorist attacks in Syria and against Syrian targets in Lebanon.

Syrian officials earlier said that Israel was responsible for the bus bombing last week in Damascus that left 11 people dead and 42 wounded.

Israel has flatly denied the charge.

Appearing Monday before the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, Mordechai also said Hezbollah gunmen fighting Israeli troops in southern Lebanon had recently received large shipments of arms via Syria. □

Deficit for 1996 totals \$5 billion

JERUSALEM (JTA) — The Israeli government's deficit for 1996 totaled about \$5 billion, nearly double the target figure.

In comparison to 1995, this constitutes a 58 percent increase in the budget deficit.

Government spending remained within planned objectives.

But state revenues fell short of projections. □

UFOs decide not to make aliyah

JERUSALEM (JTA) — Thousands of Israelis took to their rooftops this week, scanning the skies for UFOs whose arrival was predicted by an Israeli mystic.

Helinor Harar, who predicted the election victory of Benjamin Netanyahu, said the extraterrestrial beings were supposed to land Sunday in Israel.

Theme music from the American television show "The X-Files" came over loudspeakers for the event.

But the only lights observers saw were those of planes landing at Ben-Gurion Airport.

Harar later told Israeli media that she had a new date for the landing — Feb. 14, Valentine's Day. □

NEWS ANALYSIS**Israel alleges Egypt hinders conclusion of Hebron accord***By Gil Sedan*

JERUSALEM (JTA) — It was symbolic of the close Egyptian-Palestinian ties:

The first commercial flight of the new Palestinian airline took off Monday from Port Sa'id, Egypt, to Jidda, Saudi Arabia.

The Palestinians had their own airport at Dahania in the Gaza Strip, but Israel has not yet approved its opening, citing differences over security arrangements.

The Palestinians turned to the Egyptians for help. And the Egyptians were glad to oblige, as they have often done in recent weeks — at the expense of their relations with Israel.

At this delicate stage in the Israeli-Palestinian negotiations, the Egyptians are not attempting to appear as honest brokers.

Indeed, as they seem to be pushing Palestinian Authority leader Yasser Arafat to hold out for all he can get in the talks with the Israelis, the Egyptians sometimes look more Palestinian than the Palestinians themselves.

In December, Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak walked hand in hand with Israeli Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai, creating speculation that a warming of ties between the two countries was in the offing.

But since then, the tenuous relations between Jerusalem and Cairo reached a new ebb.

Last week, Mubarak sent two emissaries to Gaza to make sure that Arafat did not settle for too little in the negotiations with Israel for the turnover of most of Hebron to Palestinian self-rule.

In response, political sources in Jerusalem blamed Mubarak over the weekend for being the main force behind Arafat's repeated delays in signing the Hebron agreement.

The sources quoted intelligence analysts who said that Egyptian officials were following a dual policy.

On the one hand, they wanted to continue with the peace process, thereby enjoying the benefits of generous U.S. economic aid.

On the other, they sought to belittle Israel, in order to preserve its leadership role in the Arab world.

Green light for attacks

But Egypt experts such as Yoram Meital of Tel Aviv University's Moshe Dayan Center feel that this analysis of the Egyptian leadership misses the real point.

Meital says Egypt was pursuing a consistent policy of promoting the peace process.

When Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu visited Cairo shortly after his election in May, Mubarak was impressed by what he thought was Netanyahu's genuine desire to achieve peace, and he gave his warm backing to the new Israeli leader.

But when there were no subsequent advances in the peace process with the Palestinians, Mubarak turned off the warmth and gave the Egyptian media the green light for a series of vicious attacks on Netanyahu, including some that compared the Israeli premier to Adolf Hitler.

When Mordechai met last month with Mubarak, the Egyptian leader once again turned on the warmth. But, according to Meital, Mubarak had a specific purpose.

The Egyptian leader was trying to sway Mordechai over to his interpretation of the peace process: that once a Hebron agreement was reached, Israel should adhere to its agreements with the Palestinians and proceed with the next stages of its redeployments in the West Bank.

Differences over implementing the three further redeployments of Israeli forces, called for in the 1995

Interim Agreement, have emerged as one of obstacles to concluding the negotiations on Hebron. Netanyahu reportedly has committed Israel to carrying out the first redeployment about six weeks after the Hebron deal is implemented. But Arafat is continuing to demand a specific timetable for the additional two redeployments.

When this issue, which is not specifically related to Hebron, became one of the stumbling blocks in the negotiations, Mubarak sent his two emissaries to Arafat to press him to stand firm in the talks.

Mubarak is not seeking to jeopardize the peace process, says Meital, who accompanied Mordechai on last month's visit to Egypt. Mubarak, he says, is simply taking full advantage of the situation that emerged after the change of government in Israel.

Egypt, like the rest of the Arab world, was taken by surprise by the Israeli-Palestinian initiative of 1993. Arafat had seized the historic opportunity on his own, without the help of his Arab brethren. And as the peace process continued, Arafat was joined by other Arab countries — such as Jordan, Morocco, Mauritania, Oman and Qatar — in forging closer ties with the Jewish state.

With Syria isolated, and America playing the leading role as the broker of the peace process, Egypt was relegated to play a relatively minor part in a play whose main actors were Israel and the Palestinians.

Because he was not working in coordination with other Arab states "Arafat became almost a tool in the Israeli policy vis-a-vis the Arab world," wrote Guy Bechor, the Arab affairs analyst of the Israeli daily Ha'aretz. This was an unbearable situation in the eyes of Mubarak. Last year's turnover of power in Israel changed the situation overnight. The Arab summit that was convened in Cairo after the Israeli elections united the Arab family in its opposition to Netanyahu.

More recently, as the Hebron negotiations dragged on, Arafat increasingly sought the help of Egypt, which once again assumed its traditional leadership role in the Arab world.

Now, Mubarak no longer speaks for the Palestinians alone. He claims to speak on behalf of the entire Arab world. This explains why Mubarak prodded Arafat not to give in on another point holding up the Hebron agreement: the demand that there be joint Israeli-Palestinian patrols at the Tomb of the Patriarchs in Hebron, a proposal adamantly rejected by Israel, which has maintained security at the holy site.

Gore visit next month

"This is a sensitive issue for the Muslims," Mubarak told Egyptian Television over the weekend. "One cannot tell Chairman Yasser Arafat that he will not have representation in a Hebron mosque. If he agrees to that, he will suffer condemnation and harsh criticism by the entire Arab and Muslim world."

The Egyptian role has changed dramatically since Netanyahu became prime minister. "Egypt has made it clear," wrote Bechor, "that it shall no longer tolerate negotiations between Israel and Arab parties — such as the PLO and Jordan — without its knowledge or participation." Mubarak will likely continue to insist on that role during Vice President Al Gore's visit to Egypt next month and when Mubarak visits Washington in March.

Israeli-Egyptian relations have never been very warm. But the Egyptians can turn on the warmth if and when they see a change in the conduct of the peace process.

Mubarak's warm attitude toward Mordechai last month may have been genuine, but it was conditional.

Mubarak demands, in return, a similar Israeli gesture toward the Palestinians. □