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Volume 75, No. 101 **Tuesday, June 3, 1997** *80th Anniversary Year*

NEWS AT A GLANCE

■ **A majority of American Jews believe that anti-Semitism is a continuing problem in America and that the Religious Right and Muslims are the most anti-Semitic groups, according to a survey by the American Jewish Committee.** The "1997 Annual Survey of American Jewish Opinion" details American Jewish views on a variety of topics, including Israel and politics.

■ **An aide to Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said the Palestinian policy of killing Arabs who sold land to Jews is threatening the hopes of peace talks.** David Bar-Illan said Israel has proof that PLO security officials were involved in the killings of three Arab land dealers. **[Page 3]**

■ **Tensions were high in Israel's Labor Party as members prepared to elect the party's next chairman.** Ehud Barak, who is considered the leading candidate in Tuesday's primary, was criticized by the three other candidates for not participating in party debates.

■ **A German insurance firm admitted that it insured concentration camps during World War II, treating the SS like regular customers.** Meanwhile, a French Jewish group called for a boycott of the company, Allianz AG Holdings.

■ **Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert called illegal Arab building in eastern Jerusalem a "cancer that is presenting an immediate threat to Israel's sovereignty in Jerusalem."** The comments come amid a stalemate in peace talks after Israel began building a Jewish neighborhood in eastern Jerusalem. **[Page 3]**

■ **The Orthodox Union urged the Wisconsin Court of Appeals to overturn a lower court decision prohibiting the use of government-funded vouchers at parochial schools.** In a friend-of-the-court brief, the O.U. defended a school voucher program implemented to benefit poor children in Milwaukee.

■ **Deep Blue, a computer chess wiz, beat Israeli Trade Minister Natan Sharanksy during a chess match at the IBM offices in Yorktown, N.Y.**

NEWS ANALYSIS

Israeli diplomatic appointments exacerbate foreign policy tensions

By Cynthia Mann

NEW YORK (JTA) — The Israeli prime minister's pick of two American immigrants for top U.S. diplomatic postings is exacerbating tensions in Israel's foreign policy arena.

Both Dore Gold, Israel's ambassador-designate to the United Nations, and Leonard Davis, slated to be No. 2 at the embassy in Washington, are veterans in U.S. policy and politics.

It is clear they are being tapped to sharpen Israel's muddled message and restore its tarnished international image as the peace process has ground to a halt.

But the confirmation process has run into a snag that reflects an internal Israeli tussle over the control of foreign policy.

The appointments committee, expected to put its stamp on the nominations, postponed a meeting slated for this week in response to pressure within the Foreign Ministry.

The ministry's ranks are concerned that the latest political appointments represent Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's effort to wrest control over U.S. diplomacy and the peace process from the professional diplomatic corps.

This concern comes despite the fact that Foreign Minister David Levy had approved the appointments.

For his part, Gold is seen as having the potential to eclipse both the Israeli ambassador in Washington and the incoming consul general in New York, partially because he has a direct line to the prime minister.

The 43-year-old Connecticut native has been serving as Netanyahu's top foreign policy adviser since the premier came to power a year ago.

As for the Davis pick, some in Israel and Washington fear that it will reinforce the canard spread by Israel's detractors that the pro-Israel lobby in the United States is merely an arm of the Israeli government.

Until a few months ago, Davis was the longtime head of the Israel office of the American Israel Public Affairs Committee, known as AIPAC.

For weeks, rumors swirled that Gold would replace the Israeli ambassador in Washington.

Eliahu Ben-Elissar was getting poor reviews. Characterized as ideological and undiplomatic, he was overshadowed by Gold whenever Netanyahu visited the White House.

But Ben-Elissar saved his job. During urgent consultations in Jerusalem last month, he apparently made it clear to his boss that he would not go gracefully.

Netanyahu bowed to the pressure, unwilling to risk another political crisis.

Nomination greeted with relief and praise

So Gold, who made aliyah in 1980, was enlisted to fill the post of U.N. ambassador, which was held on an interim basis for a year by David Peleg.

The news of the Gold nomination was greeted mostly with relief and praise.

Most analysts tout Gold, an academic, as a highly knowledgeable and articulate spokesman for Israeli policies at a time when Israel desperately needs to bolster its image. Gold is known as a hawk on security matters, but also as a political moderate in the Likud camp.

"To the extent he has to justify and explain Israel's reticence to move ahead with the peace process as rapidly as Israel would have done under the previous government, there is no better spokesman," said David Clayman, director of the Israel office of the American Jewish Congress and a friend of Gold's.

"Dore's focus on Israel's strategic interests and security needs is the best face the Netanyahu government will be able to put on its policies."

Added Martin Raffel, associate executive vice chairman of the Jewish Council for Public Affairs, formerly known as the National Jewish Community Relations Advisory Council: "I think those in the United Nations who

are open-minded will be forced to question some of their positions."

Before the prime minister tapped him as an adviser, Gold was the director of the Department of U.S. Foreign and Defense Policy at Tel Aviv University's Jaffee Center for Strategic Studies. He has a doctoral degree in political science from Columbia University.

But even as Gold prepares for his new post, some are questioning why Netanyahu named Gold and what he actually has in mind for him.

Some also are wondering whether the post is, in fact, a promotion.

As one observer put it, Gold is going from "the prime minister's inner circle to debating Israeli policy with Bulgaria" on the floor of the United Nations.

Some believe that Gold's star may have dimmed as the peace process unraveled.

Although he started out shuttling to different Arab capitals, his relationships soon deteriorated with the Jordanians and the Egyptians, sources say, because of developments in the government beyond his control.

As a result, he evidently lost some of his value to Netanyahu.

For instance, according to one source, he was in Jordan last fall when the Israelis ignited Arab anger by opening a new entrance to an ancient tunnel in Jerusalem's Old City.

The Jordanians, whose trust Gold had enjoyed, evidently felt betrayed, never believing Gold's claim that he knew nothing about it.

He has also been marginalized in the talks with the Palestinians, sources say.

So while Netanyahu remains closer to Gold than he does to Ben-Elissar, some suggest that the prime minister wanted some distance from him and sought an adviser who is a more "mainstream" Israeli.

Gold's successor, Uzi Arad, a respected senior official in the Mossad intelligence service, appears to fit the bill.

Gold 'will be the nuts-and-bolts ambassador'

At the same time, many feel that Gold could become the most important Israeli diplomat in the United States, superseding Ben-Elissar, in large part because he has close access to the prime minister.

He is also seen as less of an ideologue and more of a pragmatist than Ben-Elissar.

"He will not be another Bibi Netanyahu or Abba Eban" because he is "not that flamboyant or charismatic," said one analyst, referring to past U.N. ambassadors.

But he "will be the nuts-and-bolts ambassador. Ben-Elissar will be used for cocktail parties" and Gold in substantive matters, he added.

Gold also stands to overshadow the incoming consul general in New York, Shmuel Sisso.

The consul general, currently Colette Avital, typically functions as Israel's ambassador to American Jews.

But Gold obviously knows the Jewish community better overall, and has close relationships with many of its members.

Sisso also will have to overcome a barrier Gold does not share — his poor English.

As for Davis, many observers are mystified at, or outright question, the political wisdom of the appointment. Davis, a 25-year veteran of AIPAC, opened the group's Israel office in 1982.

All laud his ability and expertise in dealing with Congress and American Jewry and say that he will help compensate for what many see as Ben-Elissar's weaknesses.

Nonetheless, they say it undoes AIPAC's longtime efforts to dispel the charge that it is one and the same as the Israeli government.

The appointment, they say, blurs the line.

But AIPAC officials dismiss the charges as baseless.

Howard Kohr, the group's executive director, said, "AIPAC, like many other Jewish organizations, has long had appropriate relationships and friendships" with both U.S. and Israeli officials in which "each party understands the benefits and limits to that relationship."

Davis' appointment "should be viewed in this same vein," Kohr said. □

Israel strikes back in Lebanon after Hezbollah kills IDF officer

By Naomi Segal

JERUSALEM (JTA) — Israeli forces this week arrested three Hezbollah members during operations in southern Lebanon.

Several Lebanese civilians suspected of aiding the gunmen were also detained Sunday, but they were later released.

Israeli fighter planes rocketed terrorist targets in the security zone on Sunday.

The pilots reported hits, but there were no immediate reports of casualties.

The actions came after an Israeli officer, Lt. Yuval Nir, 22, of Rehovot, was killed last Friday during a Hezbollah mortar attack just north of the Israeli border.

Nir was leading a patrol from a mission in the security zone back to an army outpost near the border when Hezbollah fighters opened fire.

Nir was seriously wounded and later died of his wounds at a hospital. □

German musician reprimanded for signing 'Hitler' on hotel bill

By Naomi Segal

JERUSALEM (JTA) — A German musician on tour in Israel who signed a hotel bar bill "Adolf Hitler" has been dismissed and sent back to Germany.

Goetz Friedrich, director of the Berlin Opera, which is performing in Israel this week, apologized for the "irresponsible behavior of a single member of our touring ensemble."

"In the name of my entire ensemble, I apologize for this isolated incident, which diametrically opposes the spirit and intention of our tour of Israel," Friedrich said in a statement.

The incident occurred last Friday night, when the musician, Gerd Reinke, signed Hitler's name to a bar bill at the Sharon Hotel in Herzliya.

When asked what he meant by this, he responded, "Hitler will pay you."

Reinke later apologized, saying it was a joke.

A group of demonstrators, including some Holocaust survivors, protested Saturday night outside the Tel Aviv Opera House, where the Berlin Opera was performing.

Before the concert began, the assistant director of the company read Friedrich's statement to the audience.

He said Reinke was being sent back to Berlin, where appropriate steps would be taken.

A representative of the orchestra also stepped onstage and apologized for Reinke's behavior.

The story made front-page headlines in the Israeli press, and Holocaust survivors went on radio talk shows to vent their anger. □

Illegal Arab building denounced as threat to control over Jerusalem

By Naomi Segal

JERUSALEM (JTA) — Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert this week described a wave of illegal building by Arabs in eastern Jerusalem as a "cancer" threatening Israeli sovereignty over the city.

Olmert said the phenomenon was no longer marginal, and that he intended to respond with massive and strict enforcement of demolition orders.

The mayor's remarks came against the backdrop of reports that more than 1,000 new buildings or additions to existing ones were illegally constructed by Arab residents in the eastern half of the capital during the past six months.

The conflict over building in Jerusalem is just the latest controversy in what has become a flash point in the Israeli-Palestinian peace negotiations.

The Palestinians broke off negotiations with the Netanyahu government in mid-March after Israel began construction of a new Jewish neighborhood on the southern outskirts of Jerusalem.

The Israeli daily Ha'aretz reported that the Palestinian Authority instructed Arab residents not to request building permits from the Jerusalem municipality and also provided subsidized loans to finance the construction.

The paper said hundreds of the illegally built houses have not been rented and are standing empty. Others have been rented out to Palestinians who live outside Jerusalem but want to maintain resident status, which requires an address in the city.

Jerusalem planning officials were quoted as expressing concern that the illegal building boom by Arabs in eastern Jerusalem would cut off outlying Jewish neighborhoods and settlements from the center of the city.

Planning officials pointed to such cases in northern Jerusalem, where extensive illegal construction by Arabs separated the Pisgat Ze'ev and Neve Ya'acov neighborhoods from the city center.

Municipal officials apparently are having difficulty dealing with the illegal construction because of insufficient personnel. Only one quarter of the registered infractions are being processed. Even fewer cases in which demolition orders are issued are being carried out. Only six demolitions were ordered this year, and only one of these was carried out.

From 1993 to 1995, 43 out of 134 demolition orders were implemented.

Officials said that in some cases, demolition orders were not implemented because of legal or political constraints.

Palestinian housing officials, meanwhile, rejected claims that their building has political goals. They said it occurred only because of a housing shortage and discrimination regarding the approval of new projects.

Palestinian housing officials said that, if anything, Arab residents had stopped seeking building permits because they assumed they would be turned down.

In a bid to restore the confidence of the Palestinians, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has promised to support building for Arabs in eastern Jerusalem. □

Israel, Palestinians trade barbs over Arab land dealer murders

By Naomi Segal

JERUSALEM (JTA) — Israeli officials are accusing the Palestinian Authority of direct responsibility for the recent murders of Arab land dealers.

The accusations, accompanied by sharp denials from the Palestinian leadership, have increased tensions between the two sides, whose relations have been badly frayed by a more than two-month suspension of negotiations.

"We must act with determination against these murders, which involve the Palestinian security arms," Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai told reporters Monday in the Knesset.

"At the same time, we must continue to pursue peace and dialogue with the Palestinians, and raise this issue with them."

Mordechai held consultations Monday on the murders with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

The discussions about how Israel should respond to the murders of Arabs suspected of selling land to Jews came after the slain body of a Palestinian land dealer was found Saturday near the West Bank town of Ramallah.

Ali Mohammad Jumhour was the third Arab land broker to be killed since Palestinian Justice Minister Freih Abu Medein announced last month that Arabs selling land to Jews were committing a crime punishable by death.

The Israeli daily Ha'aretz reported Monday that the Palestinian Authority had ordered the murders of 16 Arab land dealers who sold or allegedly planned to sell land to Jews.

Israeli police had a list of the names and had alerted some of them, Ha'aretz said.

The three land dealers killed in recent weeks were among those on the list.

An Israeli security official was quoted as saying that some of those on the list had hired bodyguards.

The Palestinian Authority broadcast a statement on Voice of Palestine Radio that while selling land to Jews was a crime punishable by death, it would only be implemented after legal proceedings.

The statement said no trials were held preceding the three murders, which it said proved that the self-rule government was not involved.

But Israeli police said Tawfik Tawari, the head of Palestinian intelligence, was suspected of involvement in the murders.

In response to the recent developments, the Israeli governmental committee on Jerusalem decided Monday to allocate funds to beef up the police presence in eastern Jerusalem by 400 officers.

Interior Ministry seeks police probe

Israeli officials are giving Arab land dealers flares and stun grenades to protect themselves, Israel Television reported.

Netanyahu praised the work of the police, who apprehended six Palestinians earlier this week during an attempted abduction of another land dealer, Assad Rajibi.

Acting on intelligence information, officers had gone to Rajibi's home near the Shuafat refugee camp and spotted two cars speeding toward the West Bank town of Ramallah. After a chase, police arrested the six abductors and freed Rajibi. The abductors were armed, and four of them had documents linking them to the two previous murders of land dealers.

Rajibi told a news conference Monday that there had been a misunderstanding, and that he had been going to Ramallah of his own free will.

In a related development, Israel's Interior Ministry asked the police to investigate Arab media reports that the Palestinian Authority views all Arabs working for the ministry as collaborators.

Interior Minister Eli Suissa said Monday that police reinforcements would be stationed around the ministry branch in eastern Jerusalem after the office's Arab workers stayed away because of reported threats from the Palestinian Authority. □

SIX-DAY WAR ANNIVERSARY

North American olim who came after 1967 war maintain idealism

By Michele Chabin

JERUSALEM (JTA) — It was in June 1967, during the Six-Day War, that Mildred Devor and her husband decided to make aliyah.

"We were here for a sabbatical year in '66-'67, but weren't seriously considering aliyah," says the Toronto native.

"Then the war broke out and everything changed," she says. "My husband was the meshuganah Zionist in the family and was caught up in the optimism, the euphoria of Israel's victory."

After six days of fighting, Israel vanquished the Egyptian, Syrian and Jordanian air forces and armies, and captured the Sinai, West Bank and Gaza Strip, the Golan Heights and eastern Jerusalem, including the Western Wall in the Old City.

"It was a hopeful time, an optimistic time. I was the realist, but even I was caught up with dreams of living here."

Two years after the war, the Devors sold their house and moved to Jerusalem. Her husband died only a year into their aliyah, but Mildred Devor decided to remain in Israel with her three children.

Everyone in Toronto "expected me to go back, but I didn't," says Devor, who is now a grandmother. "We moved here because we believed Israel is the heart of the Jewish people, and I still believe that. "The years have only strengthened this conviction."

Olim have few regrets

Devor and nearly 60,000 other North Americans immigrated to Israel between the Six-Day War and the 1973 Yom Kippur War in what was the largest wave of North American immigration in the history of the Jewish state. Now, 30 years after the Six-Day War, those who settled here appear to have few, if any regrets.

"Without a doubt, the Six-Day War changed the way North American Jews perceived Israel," says David Clayman, director of the American Jewish Congress' Israel office. "This was probably the first time American Jews realized Israel wasn't just a dumping ground, a refuge for the remnants of our people. The war gave us a peek at a strong, vibrant Israel that had a future."

From both a demographic and ideological perspective, those North Americans who made aliyah between the two wars were very different from the 2,000 to 3,000 mostly Orthodox Jews who now immigrate every year.

"The percentage of Orthodox Jews was probably the lowest during that period, while conversely the percentage of politically and culturally progressive types was probably at its highest," says Steven Cohen, an American-born sociologist at the Hebrew University's Melton Center.

Cohen maintains that because immigrants from North America are not refugees, they usually have been motivated by idealistic considerations.

"This was true after 1967 and it's still true today. They had to come with some dreams and visions in mind."

This explains why a disproportionately large percentage of the 100,000 North American immigrants is "involved in all kinds of political, social and cultural endeavors, on both the left and the right" of the political spectrum, says Cohen.

They tend to be professors, lawyers, editors, political activists on the grass-roots level, he says. Most volunteer and advocacy groups have North Americans in key positions.

Looking back on the period after the Six-Day War, Cohen says that other factors, in addition to Zionist feelings, were at work in propelling the large wave of immigration from the United States.

"A lot of people were running away from the Vietnam War, from the civil rights battles, from Richard Nixon. At the time young people were saying that Richard Nixon should have been awarded the Zionist of the Year Award for inspiring aliyah."

Although he could not provide statistics, Cohen also said that many of the North Americans who came during this time ultimately packed their bags and returned.

"The ones who are here are happy they came," he says. "The ones who were disillusioned left. Anyone who has been here 30 years has an investment in seeing their lives as successful."

Despite the country's uncertain political and security situation, the rift between Orthodox and non-Orthodox Jews, and the relatively lower wages in Israel, Cohen believes that the immigrants have a positive view of their lives.

"They really pity their poor American cousins who never made aliyah," Cohen says.

Rabbi Benjamin Segal, president of the Conservative/Masorti movement's Seminary of Judaic Studies, is a case in point.

'We had simply devastated our enemies'

"My wife and I came to Israel for a year of study right after the Six-Day War, and we were caught up in the euphoria, the near-Messianic feeling that prevailed in the country then, the feeling that we had been saved from near destruction," Segal says.

"We felt we had simply devastated our enemies with the snap of a finger."

After returning to the United States in 1968, and making aliyah in 1973, Segal says he and his family have never looked back. "I do believe that the destiny of the Jewish people is basically determined here. I'm overwhelmingly happy with my children's Jewish identity, their knowledge of and involvement in Jewish issues.

"I see incredible opportunities here to contribute to the building of a better Jewish world."

While he acknowledges that in the Diaspora Jews can do much, Segal believes that "there, a significant amount of energy must be invested in individual Jewish survival. Here that energy is invested into one's Jewish growth."

Which is not to say that Segal is completely content with Israel's culture or values.

"I moved here to ensure that my surroundings would be more Jewish, and I still get a thrill every time the bank machine wishes me a 'Happy Holiday.'

"At the same time, I've become more aware of how Judaism can be bastardized and misapplied. I bemoan the use of political power to force Jews to act in certain ways or to gain privilege or money. For the sake of Judaism, we must get religion out of politics."

Looking back at the 27 years he and his family have spent in Israel, Clayman of the AJCongress says, "It's true that the face of Israel is changing, that it's much more materialistic. There's a lack of tolerance, a lack of religious pluralism, and there's certainly more corruption.

"Yet the good absolutely outweighs the bad," he says. "Here in Israel, we're fashioning our own future. You feel this every time you do your reserve duty, every time you vote. In the U.S., if 50 percent of the population votes, that's a lot. Here, the norm is 80 percent.

"In Israel," Clayman adds, "I have the sense that if I disappeared from the face of the earth, it would matter." □