



NEWS AT A GLANCE

■ The partnership between the Council of Jewish Federations and the United Jewish Appeal appears assured following votes of confidence from federations across the country. [Page 1]

■ Most Jewish medical ethicists and legal activists expressed relief at the U.S. Supreme Court's ruling that a state government may outlaw physician-assisted suicides. [Page 2]

■ Two Israeli helicopters reportedly attacked suspected Hezbollah targets in the southern Lebanon security zone. There were no immediate reports on the reasons for the attack or on casualties.

■ President Clinton announced he would nominate U.S. Ambassador to Israel Martin Indyk to the top Middle East post at the State Department. Indyk, the first Jewish ambassador to Israel, would become assistant secretary of state for Near Eastern affairs. Ned Walker, the U.S. ambassador to Egypt, is considered the leading candidate to replace Indyk later this summer.

■ Israeli Foreign Minister David Levy and Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu met in an effort to improve their relationship. The two men have been at odds in recent days over the possible accession of Ariel Sharon to the post of finance minister.

■ Israeli police announced they are holding a 27-year-old Bedouin man they believe killed two female hikers near Jericho two months ago. [Page 4]

■ A French man accused of deporting hundreds of Jews during World War II will go on trial in October, contradicting earlier reports that said the trial of 86-year-old Maurice Papon would be delayed because of court renovations. Papon was a police official in the wartime Vichy government.

■ Slovakia is rejecting European Union demands that it withdraw a school history text that denies the persecution of Slovak Jews during World War II. Slovak officials said the E.U., which helped fund the book, had no right to comment.

NEWS ANALYSIS

UJA-CJF plan poised for takeoff as federations voice their support

By Cynthia Mann

NEW YORK (JTA) — The partnership between the Council of Jewish Federations and the United Jewish Appeal is poised for takeoff.

Following a bid for support from the key players last month, the majority of federations across the country — either by phone or fax — have ratified the plan for a joint operating partnership between the two national bodies.

On its face, the story is about the consolidation of two bureaucracies and is of immediate interest only to a small circle of Jewish professionals and activists.

But on a larger scale, the impending partnership also reflects the effort by the central Jewish philanthropic and communal establishment to respond to changing times, demographics and needs — and how painstaking that effort is.

There will be a clear delineation of roles between the two bodies, with UJA assuming the management of fund-raising responsibilities and CJF overseeing the delivery of services to communities.

"The rank-and-file would not know what the alphabet smorgasbord really stood for," Martin Kraar, executive vice president of CJF, said in a recent interview.

But the partnership is very significant, he said.

"We're going to join forces with a common agenda and purpose and engage in it with a sense of trust and respect."

"The objectives of UJA and the federation system are the same," he added.

"Everybody is seeking a way to do more good for more people with more funds. That's what we're all about."

The promotional material for the partnership states it more formally.

"UJA and CJF, in a spirit of shared history and tradition and in the recognition of a powerful, common responsibility to Jewish communities and to the principles of God, Torah and Israel, wish to create a more effective, efficient and aggressive new national structure."

That structure, it goes on to say, aims to raise more money to satisfy needs at home and abroad and to serve communities better.

In fact, the partnership will be a more modest version of a full merger plan, which collapsed last year under the weight of over-ambitiousness.

There is more anticipation for the partnership than there was for the merger, said Bernie Moscovitz, UJA vice president and chief operating officer.

This "doesn't frighten people into believing they would have to do things exactly the way the head office says. It's not that type of relationship."

Two organizations will share space in Manhattan

Overall, the plan is notable more for what it does not spell out than what it does.

Complicated governance issues, or who controls what — which tripped up its predecessor — are not really altered.

The two boards will stay as they are, while an operations committee composed of equal representation from each entity will manage the partnership.

The separate boards will approve the budget of the partnership.

The two organizations will share common space and are negotiating a lease in the Chelsea district of Manhattan.

They are expected to move in together next spring, according to CJF officials.

Fund-raising operations will be integrated and managed by UJA, with the joint annual campaign for local and overseas needs continuing to be the centerpiece.

"There will be no more fragmentation," Kraar said.

There has been a tension in recent years over the trend of federations decreasing their overseas allocations — which are funneled through UJA — and keeping more money home for local programs. Architects of the

partnership believe that it augurs less competition and a greater sense of responsibility for both components of the campaign.

Meanwhile, the new plan calls for community services to be consolidated and delivered through a system of about six or seven regional offices, overseen by CJF.

Dr. Conrad Giles, CJF president, said the plan is a response to an "understandable demand that we become an efficient organization, because if we don't, we don't deserve the trust of people committing funds to us.

"To have two organizations when it was clear that one could do the job was an insult to our donors."

But he acknowledged that "institutions have a difficult time putting themselves out of work" and that both professionals and lay leaders believe their jobs are threatened.

In this case, Giles claimed, "the professionals are not at any substantial risk" in the face of the consolidation.

The federations' sign off is the final hurdle after a series of votes by the boards of CJF and UJA as well as those of the United Israel Appeal and the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, the owners of UJA. □

BEHIND THE HEADLINES

Most Jewish ethicists relieved by high court ruling on suicides

By Daniel Kurtzman

WASHINGTON (JTA) — The Supreme Court's ruling that terminally ill people do not have a constitutional right to physician-assisted suicide comes as welcome news to most Jewish medical ethicists and legal activists.

"I understand the longing for a way out for people that are suffering," said Rabbi Dayle Friedman, chaplain at the Philadelphia Geriatric Center, which serves about 1,000 elderly Jews.

"I just happen to think this is the wrong way.

"There are an infinite amount of things that we can do to make the experience of dying better without putting in another human being's hands the authority and the power to kill somebody," she added.

In a unanimous 9-0 decision issued Thursday, the court upheld laws in New York and Washington state that make it a crime for doctors to prescribe life-ending drugs to mentally competent, terminally ill patients who no longer wish to live.

Chief Justice William Rehnquist, whose wife died in 1991 after a long battle with cancer, wrote the main decision for the court in *Vacco vs. Quill* and *Washington vs. Glucksberg*.

He said the idea of someone helping another to commit suicide conflicts with "our nation's history, legal traditions and practices."

"The difficulty in defining terminal illness, and the risk that a dying patient's request for assistance in ending his or her life might not be truly voluntary justifies the prohibitions on assisted suicide we uphold here."

In most segments of the Jewish community, there is general agreement that the practice of physician-assisted suicide runs contrary to Jewish law.

A doctor's first priority, most Jewish doctors and medical ethicists stress, is to save a patient's life.

"From a Jewish perspective, doctor-assisted suicide is simply non-halachic; it violates a basic premise of Judaism," said Rabbi Gerald Wolpe, head of the Jewish Theological Seminary's bioethics institute and chairman of a bioethics advisory committee at the University of Pennsylvania.

"Yet at the same time, the conflict is that Judaism is extremely sympathetic to the easing of pain and suffering."

Not everyone in the Jewish community holds Jewish law paramount in deciding this issue.

Indeed, Wolpe's Conservative colleague, Dr. Samuel Klagsbrun, was one of the plaintiffs in the suit challenging the New York law banning physician-assisted suicide.

Klagsbrun, chairman of pastoral psychiatry at JTS and a leading advocate on the issue in the Jewish community, has said in the past, "We do our best to ease their suffering in management techniques, but there is a small number who can't respond and beg to die earlier. That population should not be abandoned, as I believe it is now."

Klagsbrun, who was not available for comment when the decision came down, has said he regrets that his position goes against Jewish law, but maintains that doctors should be able to respond to suicide requests made by the terminally ill.

For his part, Rabbi Richard Address, director of the Reform movement's committee on bioethics, emphasized that the issue is complex.

"You can't sanction the taking of a life, but to leave the argument there misses the point," Address said this week, speaking from Miami, where he was attending the annual conference of Reform rabbis.

Instead, he said, discussion needs to center around "how, in a responsible Jewish way, we deal with care for people who are at the end of their life and are in excruciating pain and suffering."

He added, "This should spur synagogues to teach our people how to make responsible Jewish choices at the end of life."

Friedman, who has spent time at the bedsides of countless people who are dying, agreed.

"We should stop putting our energy into how to end life" and instead focus on "how to use the resources we know about — physical and spiritual — to comfort those who are dying."

Most Jewish groups on sidelines of debate

While the right-to-die controversy has generated considerable debate in the Jewish medical community, most Jewish groups remained on the sidelines as the court was weighing in on the controversial issue.

Only Agudath Israel of America, which represents the fervently Orthodox, and the Orthodox Union filed friend-of-the-court briefs urging the justices to uphold the right of state governments to outlaw physician-assisted suicide.

David Zwiebel, general counsel and director of government affairs for Agudath Israel of America, said he was disappointed that more Jewish organizations chose not to weigh in on the issue.

"We as a Jewish community ought to have some special sensitivities about it in view of the euthanasia movement in Nazi Germany," he said.

Zwiebel also stressed that the ruling, while positive, should not cause "complacency among those of us who are concerned about the moral implications of the movement toward assisted suicide."

Indeed, the court's decision certainly will not be the last word on the issue.

By reviving state laws that had been struck down on appeal, the justices effectively turned the issue back over to the states.

Saying that nothing in the Constitution allows such a right, the justice left open the door for states to enact measures allowing for physician-assisted suicide.

"This is a victory in a battle, but the larger war remains to be fought, and it will be fought on a state-by-state basis in the years to come," Zwiebel said. □

NEWS ANALYSIS**As deep freeze engulfs peace,
U.S. weighs shift from sidelines***By Matthew Dorf*

WASHINGTON (JTA) — American frustration with Israel and the Palestinians reached new heights this week as the deep freeze in the Middle East peace process entered its third month.

As questions persist over the Clinton administration's short-term commitment to re-entering the peacemaking fray, U.S. officials continue to grapple over how and when to come off the diplomatic sidelines.

Secretary of State Madeleine Albright wants the parties to "make some hard decisions" that will bring them back together, but so far Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat appear as far from compromise as ever.

Albright and President Clinton have indicated that they will not wait much longer to launch an American initiative to try and resolve the impasse, but the shape and scope of their next step is unclear.

The next U.S. peace move could include Albright's first trip to the region as secretary of state, according to State Department officials and those familiar with Clinton's thinking on the matter. But the administration, whose own attempt to jump-start the talks failed last month, is waiting for Egypt to exhaust its peace initiative before deciding if the time is ripe for renewed American engagement, officials said.

For months, U.S. officials have been saying the parties know what it will take to get the process back on track: a broad Palestinian commitment to fighting terror and Israeli confidence-building measures.

But Palestinian furor over Israeli construction of Jewish housing at Har Homa in Jerusalem, coupled with Palestinian violence and terror, has kept the parties away from the negotiating table.

Performing a delicate balancing act

This lack of progress has the Clinton administration performing a delicate balancing act — trying to keep the region from exploding while waiting for the parties to decide to reopen negotiations.

U.S. mediators had hoped that a March accord resulting in Israeli withdrawal from most of the West Bank town of Hebron would spur the parties to new agreements. That accord marked the first time in the Palestinian-Israeli peace process that the United States was called upon to broker and to guarantee an accord.

Since then, the United States has decided that the parties must make the next move without American arm twisting. Otherwise, U.S. officials and veteran Middle East watchers fear that Netanyahu and Arafat will come to rely too heavily on American guarantees and never build the trust necessary for a lasting peace.

Last weekend, Clinton laid out what it would take to get peace talks back on track.

"We have to find a way to persuade the Palestinians that there is a basis for returning to the negotiation table, and that all the final-status issues are not going to be resolved out from under them," Clinton told reporters after last weekend's global economic summit in Denver.

He was referring to Israeli construction in Har Homa and settlement construction in the West Bank, White House officials later said.

"The Israelis, for their part, have got to find specific things that can be done that show that there is a commitment to Oslo — in fact, not just in words — and a commitment to getting this process going," Clinton said, referring to the agreements between Israel and the Palestin-

ians collectively known as the Oslo accords. "But we also have to find a way to persuade the Israelis that the Palestinians are serious about security," he said.

So far Netanyahu and Arafat have failed to take up Clinton's challenge, and U.S. officials have stepped up criticism of both sides. In an uncharacteristically blunt speech at a Tel Aviv economic forum, Martin Indyk, the U.S. ambassador to Israel, told his predominately Israeli audience: "We cannot want this peace more than you do."

He added: "You are big boys now. It is not up to the United States to save Israel despite itself. It is up to you."

Albright sent a similar message when she said in a television interview over the weekend, "The United States plays a key role, but we cannot play that role if the parties do not make some hard decisions."

It is apparently these decisions that Washington is awaiting before taking a more proactive role.

The current "hands-off" strategy, instead of pressuring Israel and the Palestinians back to the negotiating table, has drawn global criticism of U.S. policy.

Albright and Clinton are defending their position even as they are sketchy about the details of their next step.

"You should never believe that just because you don't see high-level air transport between Washington and the Middle East that nothing is going on from our point of view," Clinton said in Denver.

At the same time, U.S. officials acknowledge that the waiting game gets increasingly dangerous the longer the stalemate continues.

Indeed, this week, two terrorist attacks were foiled.

In one a would-be suicide bomber, a Palestinian woman, was detained by Arafat's police after her family found a farewell note. In a separate incident, Israeli police defused a bomb-laden bag found on a Tel Aviv beach near a group of children.

For now, the U.S. diplomatic machine continues to try to figure out how to resolve the crisis in the peace process.

"I cannot tell you how many nights that I have had difficulty sleeping, racking my brain trying to come up with some new thing I could do or say to try to pierce the difficulties of the moment," Clinton told Jewish Democratic contributors in a recent speech.

By all accounts, Clinton is about to decide that "new thing" very soon. □

**Military restrictions impede
civilian planes flying to Eilat***By Naomi Segal*

JERUSALEM (JTA) — Israeli military restrictions placed on flight patterns pose risks to civilian planes en route to Eilat.

The southern flight route to Eilat has turned into a security risk because of the limitations set by the air force, the Israeli daily Ha'aretz reported this week. In recent months, a number of incidents occurred including several near collisions between passenger planes.

The Transport Ministry has been examining ways to alleviate the crowded airspace, which is also a problem in approach paths to Ben-Gurion airport, near Tel Aviv.

The southern flight corridor to Eilat is only three miles wide, compared to the a standard width of 10 miles set by the world aviation association. The air force also limits the altitudes for civilian flights to and from Eilat.

Sources in the civil aviation authority complained that the air force does not consider seriously the needs of the civilian flights and does not include the authority in efforts to increase safety. □

JDC assesses role in meeting social service needs in Israel

By Michele Chabin

JERUSALEM (JTA) — The American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee has begun to assess how effectively the organization's Israel-based programs are meeting the country's needs.

Aware that social and financial priorities within Israel and in the Diaspora have changed significantly in recent years, the JDC's Israel Committee convened earlier this month in Israel to review the organization's programs in the Jewish state.

It was the first time in nearly a decade that the committee's members met in Israel as a group.

During their visits to JDC-funded organizations that aid vulnerable segments of Israeli society, the delegates took into account the shift in how United Jewish Appeal funds are allocated as well as changes in the delivery of social services in Israel.

Between 55 percent and 70 percent of money raised by UJA campaigns is kept at home — a departure from the days when Israeli programs received approximately half of all money raised in the United States.

Part of the reason for that shift, said Richard Spiegel, co-chairman of the JDC Israel Committee, is heightened concern about funding continuity efforts.

But among Diaspora Jews, he added, "there has been a growing sense that Israel's economy is booming and that the country is more self-sufficient.

"Yet, while things are much better than they used to be, Israel still has many, many social problems to deal with."

Although the JDC's goal of helping needy Israelis has not changed over the years, said committee member Barbara Hochberg, "the way we address these problems has changed."

According to Arnon Mantver, director of JDC's Israel office, the turning point came in 1991 and 1992 with the large influx of Russian immigrants. Until the early 1990s, the JDC served as an umbrella group for the non-profit sector in Israel, Mantver said.

In recent years, the government "began to perform many of the functions, particularly in health and education, we once performed."

A program that helps the elderly

The JDC's current role, said Mantver, "is to help existing agencies become more effective and efficient."

An example is the Supportive Neighborhood project in Jerusalem, one of 13 programs nationwide that enable elderly men and women to remain in their own homes with community support. The JDC provided \$30,000 in start-up money and much of the expertise needed to run the project.

Supported by the Jerusalem Municipality, the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs and the local neighborhood council, the project provides a 24-hour emergency beeper service, home visits and special activities to dozens of elderly members of the community.

Many are homebound or semi-homebound and would need to move into nursing homes were it not for the service.

Mantver said. "By creating a way for people to stay at home, everyone saves money — money that can be invested in the neighborhood," Mantver said.

The project has been so successful, says Mantver, that Florida elder-care experts are interested in "importing" it.

Although Israel will continue to need overseas allocations for some years to come, Mantver adds, "We

believe that the country has reached the point where we can serve as a partner, exporting the social projects we have developed here.

"This is where Israel can be a light unto the nations."

One area in which JDC plans to take a more active role is the development of Israel-based volunteerism and philanthropy, according to committee co-chairman Gene Ribakoff.

"The field of volunteerism and philanthropy is relatively new to Israel," says Ribakoff, a Florida-based philanthropist who is active in the United Way.

"There is an emerging number of people in the position to help others, and we see a need for Israelis to help other Israelis," he adds. "We'd like to encourage giving through payroll-deducted contributions and other incentives."

One Israel-based philanthropy project developed by the JDC is already making headway, Ribakoff says.

"There's the 'Computer for Every Child' program, and it's helping children with special needs, such as Ethiopian kids, whose families can't afford to purchase a computer. Our goal is to get 30,000 home computers to 100,000 kids.

"Let's face it, if a kid doesn't know how to use a computer by the time he's 15, he's educationally disadvantaged.

"No one," Ribakoff adds, "should be denied a chance to grow." □

Israel holding Bedouin man for murders of Israeli women

By Naomi Segal

JERUSALEM (JTA) — Israel is holding a Bedouin man in connection with the murder of two women in Wadi Kelt, a popular hiking site near Jericho, two months ago.

The suspect was identified Thursday as Ahmed Mahmoud Ali Ka'abneh, a shepherd who lives near the site of the killing.

At a news conference in Tel Aviv, senior Israel Defense Force and police officials disclosed that Ka'abneh, 27, was arrested two days after the murders of Liat Kastiel and Hagit Zavitzky, but that it had taken until now to verify the events of the case.

Yossi Sidbon, the head of Judea and Samaria district police, said five members of Ka'abneh's family had been detained and that his mother had already been charged with helping to destroy evidence.

The commander of the IDF central command, Maj. Gen. Uzi Dayan, said the murders were not sexual attacks. Investigators said that while Ka'abneh acted alone, his motives were nationalistic.

Ka'abneh led investigators to the site of the crime and described what he had done.

Police said Ka'abneh told them that he had spotted the women near natural pools in Wadi Kelt, near Kfar Adumim, where Zavitzky lived. He suspected that they may have had weapons, and wanted to steal them.

The women were not armed.

Ka'abneh spoke with the two women briefly, then smashed their heads together and dragged them to a scrub-covered area, where he stabbed them repeatedly. He burned their clothing to get rid of the evidence, and hid his blood-soaked clothing, the knife he used to murder them and Kastiel's camera in a cave.

Ka'abneh later took investigators to the cave.

The investigation was carried out jointly by the General Security Service and Israeli police.

Israel briefed the Palestinian Authority on the investigation. □