

**NEWS AT A GLANCE**

■ U. S. Speaker of the House Newt Gingrich (R-Ga.) wrote to President Clinton that the United States should support "the entry of Israeli soldiers into the Palestinian territories" if the Palestinian Authority does not crack down on terrorists. The speaker also asked Clinton to tell the Palestinian Authority that Congress would not support future aid from the U.S. if "incendiary rhetoric" continues.

■ Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat was quoted saying the Israeli government "has declared war on us, and we have to prepare for what will come." The U.S. State Department implored the two sides to tone down the rhetoric. [Page 3]

■ At least 10 Australian athletes have become ill from swallowing water in the Yarkon River after the bridge collapse at the Maccabiah Games last month. The president of Maccabi Australia recently returned to Israel to, among other things, obtain more information on the polluted water in the river.

■ A French court ordered that a former Vichy official surrender his passport and obtain permission for any travel outside of Paris. Maurice Papon, 86, is scheduled to go on trial Oct. 6 for ordering the arrest and deportation of 1,690 Jews.

■ Conservative Jews in Israel are planning an egalitarian prayer service at the rear of the Western Wall plaza on Erev Tisha B'Av. Jerusalem police asked them to consider alternative sites, saying mixed prayer services are illegal and they would not be able to protect them, according to a Conservative spokesman in Israel. Agudath Israel of America issued a statement calling on Conservative Jews to refrain from "such a provocative gesture" and not "turn a holy place into a political battlefield."

■ Residents of northern Israel spent the night in bomb shelters as dozens of Hezbollah rockets fell north of the Lebanon border. Israeli officials said they did not believe the guerrillas were purposefully shelling Israel.

**BEHIND THE HEADLINES****Discovery of Brooklyn terror cell revives fears of extremist activity**

By Matthew Dorf

WASHINGTON (JTA) — When U.S. immigration agents caught Ghazi Ibrahim Abu Maizar illegally crossing the Canadian-American border earlier this year, he pleaded for political asylum.

Israel had falsely accused him of belonging to Hamas and tortured him, Abu Maizar told authorities. A judge freed him on bail.

No one checked out Abu Maizar's story, and he later dropped his request for political asylum. That's when the judge told the 23-year-old Palestinian laborer from Hebron that he had 60 days to leave the country.

But Abu Maizar never got to leave.

Just weeks before the judge's Aug. 23 deadline, Abu Maizar was shot in his Brooklyn apartment when he lunged to detonate a bomb during a police raid.

According to police, the bomb was intended for a nearby subway station.

Last week's arrest of Abu Maizar and Lafi Khalil, 22 — equipped with at least two active suicide bombs in their apartment — is believed to have averted a potential disaster.

But the raid has raised some troubling questions: How did the federal immigration system allow the would-be terrorist to stay in the country without investigating his alleged background? Do other terror cells lurk behind closed doors in other American cities?

As New York police, the FBI and Israeli agents cooperate in investigating the Brooklyn case, authorities have once again focused on the burgeoning militant Islamic movement in the United States.

No one yet has established whether the two arrested men were operating alone or were connected with any Middle East terrorist groups.

Hamas, which claimed credit for last week's double suicide bombing in Jerusalem, has denied any involvement with those arrested in Brooklyn.

Terrorism expert Steven Emerson says the search will likely be fruitless.

"The search for the missing connection to Hamas central will not be found," said Emerson, an investigative journalist who is finishing a book on militant Islamic networks in the United States.

"The politics of militant Islam knows no boundaries. They are amorphous self-activated cells," Emerson said in a telephone interview from Israel, where he is on a fact-finding mission for a documentary series on international terrorism.

CIA Director George Tenet testified in Congress earlier this year that terrorists, including militant Islamic groups, have expanded their activities and support networks in the United States.

**Mastermind goes on trial**

FBI officials say Hamas, Islamic Jihad and Hezbollah all have the capability and infrastructure to launch attacks in the United States.

After the 1993 World Trade Center bombing, law enforcement agencies realized that the United States had become a target for international terror.

Coincidentally, the alleged mastermind of that bombing, Ramzi Yousef, went on trial in New York this week.

But four years after the World Trade Center explosion, the discovery of a suicide bomb cell in New York City revived those fears.

"We haven't really come that far from the World Trade Center bombing," said Abraham Foxman, national director of the Anti-Defamation League.

"One would have hoped that we would have taken care of such basics as screening terrorists at the borders," Foxman said, calling the decision to let Abu Maizar stay for 60 days "a joke."

Foxman echoed the views of many when he called for a "100 percent U.S. effort against terrorists in the United States."

Hamas and other militant Islamic groups have secured a strong foothold in the United States, and their support continues to rise. Hamas alone

has raised tens of millions of dollars in the United States, according to law enforcement officials and counterterrorism experts.

One of the most celebrated cases of Hamas activity is that of Mousa Mohammed Abu Marzook, who served as the "foreign minister" of Hamas, allegedly raising hundreds of thousands of dollars from his northern Virginia home.

Although U.S. officials arrested Marzook, who is a U.S. citizen, he was freed earlier this year when Israel dropped its extradition request, citing fears of Palestinian violence.

In addition to arresting Marzook, there has been other law enforcement activity against Islamic militants:

- The U.S. Customs Service is investigating a network of Islamic foundations, including the Florida-based World and Islam Studies Enterprise, which had close ties to Ramadan Abdallah Shallah before he left Tampa for Syria to take over the leadership of Islamic Jihad.

- A leader of the International Institute of Islamic Thought was deported earlier this year as a suspected leader of Islamic Jihad.

- Numerous cases are pending against Palestinian merchants accused of coupon fraud and money laundering. Police say they may have transferred millions to Middle East terrorism groups.

As law enforcement agencies step up their investigation into militant Islamic groups, pressure is mounting on the Clinton administration to follow up its own counterterrorism efforts.

Even before last week's arrest, the Jewish Council on Public Affairs, an umbrella organization of Jewish community groups, planned to convene a conference call to discuss holes in the United States counterterrorism effort.

Most notable, Jewish activists argue, is the State Department's refusal to publish a list of overseas terrorist groups. Last year's anti-terrorism law required such a list to enable law enforcement authorities to move against their fund-raisers in the United States.

"Money that is collected for charitable purposes is diverted for military and terrorist activities," Philip Wilcox, director of counterterrorism at the State Department, told lawmakers earlier this year.

Last month, 42 members of Congress urged the administration to act on the list.

In the wake of the Brooklyn arrests, activists say they have new ammunition in the campaign to win its approval.

At the same time, many hope that the debate about Hamas' dual roles as a humanitarian institution and a terrorist group will end. Hamas runs scores of clinics, hospitals, schools, soccer leagues and mosques in the West Bank and Gaza.

"You can't look at Hamas in a vacuum. Kindergartens teach young children the ideology of Hamas: Then, it's only a matter of time before Muslims will rise up and kill all Jews," said Yehudit Barsky, a senior Middle East research analyst at the ADL who has written extensively on Muslim extremists in the United States. □

### **Local chief rabbis oppose ruling to place Reform Jew on council**

*By Naomi Segal*

JERUSALEM (JTA) — Local Israeli chief rabbis met in emergency session Thursday to protest a high court decision upholding the appointment of a Reform movement representative to Netanya's religious council.

In Netanya, Orthodox members of the religious council and Meretz activists engaged in a heated argument

when the Reform representative, Joyce Brenner, showed up for the council meeting.

Contravening the decision made earlier this week by the High Court of Justice, council members did not invite her to the meeting.

Brenner, a social worker by training, expressed regret over the council's reaction and said she hoped some sort of understanding could be reached.

"I felt very sad about their reaction," she told Israel Radio, adding that the non-Orthodox movements wanted to "provide an address for the people in Netanya who might need to use the services of the religious council."

"What we are opening up is a different kind of religious" outlook, she added.

The local religious councils, supervised by the Religious Affairs Ministry, have exclusive jurisdiction over marriage, kashrut, burial and other religious matters for all Jews living in Israel. Members of each council are appointed by the local municipal council, the religious affairs minister and the local chief rabbi.

The court ruled Tuesday that the Religious Affairs Ministry must register Brenner within a week as a member of the Netanya council.

The ministry also was ordered to pay the Reform movement more than \$8,000 compensation for legal costs related to the case.

The court ruling came after four previous decisions in which it upheld the right of non-Orthodox representatives to serve on local religious councils. However, none have been allowed to participate.

The two deputy ministers of religious affairs, Yigal Bibi of the National Religious Party and Aryeh Gamliel of Shas, protested this week's court ruling.

Gamliel said he would rather resign than enforce the court decision. □

### **Australian athletes ask Israel to provide temporary funding**

*By Jeremy Jones*

SYDNEY, Australia (JTA) — Australian Jewish umbrella bodies are asking the Israeli government to provide a loan of \$500,000 to assist the victims of the Maccabiah Games bridge disaster.

The request by the Australian Jewish community and the Australian Zionist movement follows a call by Maccabi Australia for money until insurance claims are settled.

The president of Maccabi Australia, Tom Goldman, said the money would assist the families and relatives of the deceased and injured who are currently in need of financial aid.

Two athletes were killed and dozens injured during the opening ceremonies of the 15th Maccabiah Games in Israel on July 14 when a bridge that led to the Ramat Gan Stadium — and built for the games — collapsed. A third member of the Australian team died later as a result of her injuries. The accident is currently under investigation.

Maccabi Australia officials are not putting a figure on the level of financial compensation that may eventually be sought, since factors such as the continued hospitalization of some team members and the extent of economic losses are unknown.

Now that the team has returned to Australia, the organization has also launched a support fund.

The relief fund was given an initial donation of \$1,500 from the Sports Ministry of the State of New South Wales.

Community welfare bodies are currently providing psychological support to some of the team members. □

**Arafat escalates rhetoric,  
accuses Israel of waging war***By Naomi Segal*

JERUSALEM (JTA) — Adopting the language of the Arab League, Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat is accusing Israel of waging war on his self-rule government.

“Netanyahu has declared war on us, and we have to prepare for what will come. The situation is serious,” Arafat was quoted as saying in reference to the measures adopted by Israel in the wake of last week’s suicide bombing.

His comments, published Thursday in an interview with the Israeli daily *Yediot Achronot*, prompted sharp reactions from Israeli officials.

David Bar-Illan, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu’s spokesman, said Israel is hearing “statements from Arafat about a new fight against Israel, which is what we said precisely is one of the components of his sponsorship of terrorism.”

“A call for an armed struggle by another name during a peace process is unacceptable,” Bar-Illan said.

In Washington, the U.S. State Department criticized the heated rhetoric emanating from Israeli and Palestinian officials, saying it was counterproductive to peace efforts. U.S. Special Middle East Coordinator Dennis Ross was due in the region over the weekend as part of the latest American bid to get Israeli-Palestinian negotiations back on track.

After two suicide bombers killed 13 people in a Jerusalem marketplace last week, Israel stepped up its demand that the Palestinian Authority crack down on Islamic militants and their infrastructure in the autonomous areas. The Israeli government adopted sanctions, including a closure of the self-rule areas and the withholding of tax and customs revenues, in an effort to put pressure on the Palestinians.

Jordan’s Crown Prince Hassan failed in talks Wednesday in Jerusalem to persuade the Israeli premier to ease the restrictions.

At a joint news conference following the talks with Hassan, Netanyahu said Israel did not intend to impose collective punishment on the Palestinians, but only to protect Israeli citizens.

Netanyahu repeated his demand that the Palestinian Authority take decisive action against the terrorists.

“We have called for such action for many months, and regrettably it was not forthcoming. We are engaged in an effort to protect our people,” the premier said.

Netanyahu said Israel was willing to make some humanitarian gestures, such as allowing food and essential medical supplies into the autonomous areas.

But he stressed that the sanctions would be lifted only when the Palestinian Authority shows it has clamped down on terrorist groups.

Israeli media reports said that Jordan’s King Hussein had decided not to visit Jerusalem, and had sent his brother instead, after concluding that he would not come away with any concrete commitments or concessions from Israel. □

**Hezbollah shelling sends  
Israelis to bomb shelters***By Naomi Segal*

JERUSALEM (JTA) — Residents of northern Israeli communities spent Wednesday night in shelters and protected rooms as Hezbollah fighters fired dozens of mortars and Katyusha rockets at Israeli army positions in the southern Lebanon security zone.

Shells landed near the Israeli-Lebanese border overnight, but none landed inside Israeli territory, according to Israeli military sources.

No one was hurt and no damage was caused by the shelling.

Though the shells did not strike Israeli communities, Israeli army sources stressed that the level of tension had increased along the border.

The head of the northern command, Maj. Gen. Amiram Levine, warned Hezbollah that it should not misinterpret Israel’s restraint in the face of the latest attack.

Hezbollah said in a statement that it had fired dozens of rockets at Israeli positions as part of an escalation of activities against the Israel Defense Force after the killing of five Hezbollah fighters in a clash with Israeli soldiers earlier this week.

In southern Lebanon, meanwhile, a woman and her two children were reported to have been killed by a roadside bomb in the eastern sector of the security zone.

In another incident, a Lebanese man was killed and five others wounded when the Israel-allied South Lebanon Army shelled targets north of the security zone.

The shelling came in the wake of the killing of an SLA fighter by a Hezbollah bomb that had been planted in his car.

In another development, a Lebanese military court sentenced 87 Lebanese men to 15 years of hard labor Thursday on charges of collaborating with Israel.

All of the sentences were issued in absentia to residents of the security zone. SLA officers were among those receiving the sentence.

In a separate incident, five U.N. peacekeepers in Lebanon were killed Wednesday night when their helicopter crashed in the security zone.

The peacekeepers were identified as four Italians and one Irishman.

Witnesses said they saw an explosion before the helicopter crashed.

U.N. officials said Thursday they had no evidence of foul play in the crash. □

**Jewish channel to broadcast  
programs across Europe, Israel***By Lee Yanowitch*

PARIS (JTA) — Europe and Israel will soon have a television channel with Jewish programming.

In early 1998, the Shalom Channel plans to begin broadcasting simultaneously in Paris, London, Moscow and Tel Aviv.

The channel, which will be available by subscription on cable or satellite, will offer a variety of news and cultural programs, including documentaries, religious discussions, language lessons and programs about Jewish tradition.

In addition, the channel will broadcast entertainment programs, such as talk shows, films, and sports and youth programs — all with Jewish themes.

It will also offer coverage of major events from Israeli television.

The channel will broadcast in English, French and Hebrew.

The channel’s \$13.6 million annual operating budget is expected to be provided from subscriptions as well as from advertising and the sale of its programs to other networks.

The channel, which hopes to have at least 50,000 subscribers by late 1998, will have an advisory board made up of representatives of the Jewish community who will advise the channel’s management about the quality and content of its programs. □

## Israeli tourists face hostility in Jordan as peace process fades

By Gil Sedan

JARASH, Jordan (JTA) — A man with a long, white beard stands in front of his household-goods store in this ancient Roman city in northern Jordan.

"Life is quite good here, this is the Holy Land," he says, "except that one should get rid of all the Zionists and throw them out."

Ali Ahmad Abu-Kishek has probably never seen a Zionist in his life, except on television.

He was also unaware that the journalist he was talking to was a proud member of the Zionist entity.

Abu-Kishek's animosity toward Israel is shared by a growing number of Jordanians — despite the fact that nearly three years have elapsed since the two countries signed their historic peace treaty in October 1994.

Much of the ill feeling that is directed toward Israel has been created by the ongoing crisis in Israeli-Palestinian relations.

That crisis has intensified in the wake of last week's double suicide bombing in Jerusalem, which claimed 15 lives, including the two bombers.

These adverse feelings expressed toward Israelis, who not so long ago were welcomed here with open arms, further signify the chasm between King Hussein and many Jordanians, who think he went too far too fast in his rapprochement with Israel.

The latest developments also have boosted Jordan's Islamic opposition, which wants to abrogate altogether the peace accord with Israel.

The king is currently engaged in a fight with the political opposition over whether it will take part in the country's elections, which are slated for November, and on what terms.

A recent Middle Eastern cultural festival here, drew Saudis, Qataris and Kuwaitis. Several Israeli Arabs came as tourists, hungry for a good taste of Arab culture, and they said that they were comfortable introducing themselves as Israelis.

But this Israeli Jew was decidedly uncomfortable for the first time after many recent visits to Arab countries.

### 'We shall read about you in the paper'

A self-introduction as a Jewish Israeli could prove dangerous, according to an official at the Israeli Embassy in the Jordanian capital of Amman.

"Do so at the Hashemiya Square in downtown Amman," the official said, only half-joking, "and next day we shall read about you in the paper."

Nine months ago, interviews at that same site produced criticisms of Israel, but not outright hostility.

Hussein often draws a line between his criticism of the present government in Israel and his continued support for the peace process.

But his distinction is sometimes lost on the Jordanian public.

Leila Sharaf, a member of the Jordanian Senate, brushed quickly past this Israeli, looking as if she had just encountered the devil himself at the festival.

Jordan, which pinned high hopes on the peace treaty with Israel, is plagued with heavy unemployment.

The country, whose annual per capita income is \$1,100, was the scene last year of violent demonstrations to protest the doubling of bread prices.

A massive influx of Israeli tourists to places like Jarash could have worked wonders on the local economy.

There was an Israeli tourism boom in the immediate wake of the 1994 peace treaty.

Some 250,000 Israelis visited Jordan in 1995. But

that number was reduced by half the following year, and this year even further declines are expected.

A series of Hamas terror attacks in Israel last year contributed to the decline.

Enthusiasm on the part of Israelis to visit Jordan was further dampened in March of this year, after a Jordanian soldier shot and killed seven Israeli schoolchildren and wounded six others while they were on a field trip to Naharayim, a site on the Israeli-Jordanian border called "The Island of Peace."

"Some of these attacks may have nothing to do with Jordan," said Avi Amir, manager of Neot Hakikar-Geographic Tours company, one of the largest tour operators in Israel. "But every such event reduces the number of Israelis wishing to visit Arab countries." □

## Court orders ex-Nazi officer to serve time in Rome hospital

By Ruth E. Gruber

ROME (JTA) — A Rome military court has ordered former Nazi SS Capt. Erich Priebke to serve the remainder of his sentence in a Rome military hospital.

Priebke vowed to fight the ruling, saying in an interview published Thursday in the newspaper *Il Giornale*, "The decision is abnormal, an abuse of power, an attempt to clean consciences."

Priebke's lawyers had tried to have him serve the remaining term of his sentence at the private home of right-wing activist Paolo Giachini.

Priebke, 84, was sentenced in July to five years in jail for his role in the World War II massacre of 335 Italian men and boys at the Ardeatine Caves south of Rome.

About 75 of the victims were Jews.

It was not exactly clear just how long Priebke has yet to serve.

His sentence is being reduced because of time served during his trial and because of his pre-trial detention after he was extradited to Italy from Argentina in November 1995.

The military court is expected to rule on this matter in October.

Prosecutors say Priebke still has to serve about 18 months, but defense lawyers said he only has a few months to serve because he should also receive time off for good behavior.

The court ruled Wednesday that Priebke had to leave the Franciscan monastery where he has been under house arrest since last year and move to Rome's Celio military hospital by Aug. 17.

Under the ruling, Priebke will be able to have one visitor a day in addition to his lawyers, will have access to specified areas of the hospital complex and will be allowed restricted use of the telephone.

One of his lawyers said that the removal of Priebke to the hospital against his will would be tantamount to kidnapping.

In the interview with *Il Giornale*, Priebke angrily vowed to fight the court ruling.

"Without anyone requesting it, without there being any reason to do it, they're transferring me to Celio," he was quoted as saying. "I'll fight against this umpteenth injustice.

"My neuropsychiatrist is completely opposed to my moving to a hospital. He thinks this could have an irreversible impact on my health, which is already suffering," he said.

The former SS officer also said that he misses his wife, who has remained in Argentina: "The only thing I want to do before dying is embrace her." □