



## NEWS AT A GLANCE

■ President Clinton removed Lebanon and Syria from the U.S. list of major drug-producing and drug-transit countries. Clinton's action, which has drawn outrage from members of Congress as well as Jewish organizations, lifts the only remaining sanctions on Lebanon. Syria remains subject to a panoply of sanctions because it remains on the U.S. list of terrorist nations.

■ President Clinton announced a series of initiatives aimed at reducing hate crimes. Clinton announced the efforts at a daylong White House Conference on Hate Crimes that brought together more than 350 civil rights activists, educators, religious leaders, law enforcement officials and victims of hate crimes. [Page 3]

■ Rabbi Reuven Hammer, who represents the Conservative movement on the committee that is seeking a compromise on religious pluralism issues in Israel, expressed skepticism that the committee would be able to find a solution by the designated Jan. 31 deadline. Hammer made his remarks at the biennial convention of the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism, which is meeting this week in the Catskill Mountains in New York.

■ The Swiss Bankers Association published the names of more than 3,500 dormant World War II-era accounts, despite an earlier decision not to print the list of account holders.

■ Some 200 people demonstrated in front of the home of a Pennsylvania man who was a member of a Lithuanian military unit that murdered thousands of Jews during World War II. Jonas Stelmokas' citizenship was revoked in 1995 when a judge ruled that he lied about his wartime past. Stelmokas remains in the United States pending an appeal.

■ The Jewish War Veterans called on President Clinton to "use military force, not just the threat of it" against Iraq. In a statement from JWW's national commander, the organization called on Clinton to strike military, chemical and nuclear facilities even without the support of the United Nations.

## FOCUS ON ISSUES

### Indyk's ascent signals all doors open for Jews in foreign policy

By Matthew Dorf

WASHINGTON (JTA) — "It's a shame you'll never use it," the examiner told Gil Kulik when he passed the Hebrew proficiency test after joining the U.S. foreign service in 1966.

The State Department didn't send Jews to the Middle East — especially to Israel. So Kulik received the requisite pay raise for foreign-language skills and, like scores of other Jewish foreign-service officers, prepared for a career elsewhere.

But the examiner was dead wrong.

Kulik landed on the team that prepared Samuel Lewis for his confirmation hearings to serve as U.S. ambassador to Israel.

Impressed with the young foreign-service officer, Lewis, who served in Tel Aviv from 1977 to 1983, made Kulik the first Jewish political officer in the U.S. Embassy in Israel.

Many current and former Jewish diplomats credit former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger — though not deeply identified as a Jew — for paving the way for Jews in the foreign service.

"Kissinger ended the isolation of Jews in the foreign service," said Arthur Berger, who, like Kulik, was told he would never go to Israel.

In fact, Berger, too, was posted in Israel — as a spokesman at the U.S. Embassy in 1982.

Interviews with more than a dozen current and former Jewish State Department officials and diplomats reveal the increased opportunities available to Jews now entering the foreign service.

The State Department would not release figures on the religious makeup of its staff, but one official said American Jews — including observant and committed Jews — are flocking to diplomatic careers.

### Kissinger broke glass ceiling for Jewish diplomats

If Kissinger broke the glass ceiling for Jewish diplomats, Kulik's boss cleared away the remaining shards. By the end of Lewis' tour, three of the four officers assigned to the embassy's political section were Jews.

Today, Kulik, who serves as director of communications at the New Israel Fund and Berger, director of communications at the American Jewish Committee, are watching from afar as President Clinton and Secretary of State Madeleine Albright — who discovered her own Jewish roots earlier this year — complete the process of opening all doors to Jews.

History was made recently when Martin Indyk was sworn in as assistant secretary of state for Near Eastern Affairs.

Indyk's appointment comes on the heels of Stuart Eizenstat's swearing in as undersecretary of state for economics.

Indyk, a former official with the American Israel Public Affairs Committee and the first Jew to serve as ambassador to Israel, is also the first Jew to serve in the top Middle East policy post.

Not since Kissinger has an American Jew had such a strong say in overall U.S. Middle East policy. Taken alone, Indyk's meteoric rise from academia to the State Department's seventh floor is quite a feat. But Indyk now is one of more than a dozen American Jews in top State Department positions that were once off-limits to Jews. Among the others are:

- Dennis Ross, who heads the U.S. peace process team as special Middle East coordinator and counselor to Albright;

- Aaron Miller, deputy special Middle East coordinator; and

- Daniel Kurtzer, U.S. ambassador to Egypt.

Other Jews currently serving in senior foreign-policy posts include:

- Marc Grossman, assistant secretary for European and Canadian affairs;

- Princeton Lyman, assistant secretary of state for international organizations;

- Stanley Roth, assistant secretary of state for East Asian and Pacific affairs;

- Jeffrey Davidow, assistant secretary of state for Inter-American affairs; and

• James Rubin, assistant secretary of state for public affairs, spokesman.

In addition, Jewish career foreign-service officers and political appointees hold the post of current or immediate past ambassadors to Switzerland, Brazil, Nepal, Romania, Spain, Hungary, Belgium, Denmark, Morocco and Malaysia.

But deeper than numbers lies a historic shift taking place for Jews in the United States' diplomatic machine.

Gone are the days when American Jews looked on with envy as presidents named Italian Americans as ambassadors to Italy and Irish Americans as ambassadors to Ireland. Gone are the days when so-called Arabists determined U.S. policy in the Middle East.

Indeed, an article in the October issue of the professional journal of the American Foreign Service Association, Foreign Service — headlined "Where've the Arabists Gone?" — laments the changes taking place.

"If any other group had taken over, there would have been a big storm, but with the Jewish-American takeover, nobody has the courage to speak," William Rugh, a former ambassador to Yemen, was quoted as saying.

A new term, "Jewish Arabists," has cropped up in right-wing circles to describe their view of the Jews who lead the Middle East peace process team.

During Indyk's tenure as ambassador to Israel, a member of Knesset from the hard-line Moledet Party, Rehavam Ze'evi, referred derisively to Indyk as "that Yid" during a Knesset debate in which he was critical of American Middle East policy.

Almost all those interviewed — career officers as well as political appointees — credit the Indyk-Ross peace team with silencing charges that Jews cannot serve U.S. interests when conflicts arise with Israel.

Ross, along with Kurtzer and Miller, began his work in the Bush administration and stayed on under Clinton. Indyk joined the Clinton administration in 1993.

This distinction suggests that the time has come when it doesn't matter whether the administration is Democratic or Republican, or what the degree of warmth is between Israel and the United States.

#### **Many remember impact of Pollard affair**

It took years of hard work to prove that Jewish diplomats serve America first — above Israel and Jewish interests, officials say. Indicative of the still-sensitive nature of one's Jewish place at the State Department, however, one senior official who refused to be interviewed for this article groaned, "No good can come from this. Especially because there are so many of us."

Many of the Jewish diplomats at work in the field today vividly remember the impact that convicted spy Jonathan Pollard had on their careers. The official said many are still recovering from the trauma Pollard caused when he was caught spying for Israel in the United States.

Ironically, Arabs are now complaining of a Jewish bias. After a rough patch in the peace process, the Palestinian justice minister accused the United States of a "Zionist conspiracy." They point not only to the many Jews at top State Department posts, but also to the National Security Council, which is run by Sandy Berger.

Eizenstat vehemently refutes the charge.

"The peace process is not being made by Jews; it's being made by Americans," Eizenstat said in a recent interview. "Any suggestion of bias is totally inappropriate and inaccurate."

"Obviously, people bring their perspective," he said, adding that some of the Palestinians "would prefer that perspective would not be shaped by any Jewish background."

Although many current Jewish State Department officials dismiss discussions about the Jewish character of the State Department as fodder for anti-Semites and anti-Israel activists, some have privately acknowledged that one's upbringing can influence policy decisions.

"All of my life experiences make me who I am," said one official when asked whether Judaism affects his work. "You could ask the same question of any ethnic or religious group."

#### **Balancing Jewish roots and official duties**

For Eizenstat, his Jewishness clearly intersected with policy when he served as the top domestic policy adviser in the Carter administration.

He recalled that immediately following the 1979 revolution in Iran, tens of thousands of Iranian Jews trying to get into the United States were stopped by U.S. immigration officers in places such as Vienna and Rome.

So Eizenstat stepped in and convinced President Carter to "order the counselor officers to admit some 50,000 Iranian Jews," rather than send them back because they didn't have the appropriate visas.

"On issues like that, you do bring your perspective and your background," he said, citing in contrast "what happened during the Holocaust when Jews were kept out."

Although Jews were excluded from top posts until quite recently, one retired foreign-service officer also used his background to help his co-religionists 40 years ago.

William Frost, now the president of the Lucius N. Littauer Foundation, which supports Jewish studies at the university level, was stationed in Salzburg, Austria, in the 1950s to assist the flood of refugees following the Hungarian revolution.

Frost managed to break through to a former street-car conductor who would speak to no other investigators.

"He asked me if I was Jewish. When I said yes," he felt at home. Frost arranged for visas to the United States for the man and his family.

Eizenstat, like many Jews in the State Department, continues to face situations where their roots intersect with their official duties. Cited as the first ambassador to keep a kosher embassy residence when he served in Brussels, Eizenstat's portfolio now includes a multitude of issues surrounding Nazi gold. He also serves as special envoy on property restitution in Central and Eastern Europe.

Eizenstat is not alone. Madeleine Kunin, U.S. ambassador to Switzerland, was astonished to find her mother's name on a list of dormant Holocaust-era Swiss bank accounts published earlier this year.

And Albright made a special visit to the Czech Republic during the summer to visit the concentration camps where the Nazis killed her grandparents.

But perhaps one of the most surreal times that faith and duty crossed paths came during the marathon Hebron negotiations in January at Indyk's official ambassadorial residence in Israel. Miller, the No. 2 official on the U.S. Middle East peace-process team, called a break during the talks to gather a minyan from the U.S. and Israeli teams to say Kaddish for his mother.

Five of the Americans in the room were Jewish. Together with the Israeli team, they retired to the corner to say evening prayers. Instead of protesting, Palestinian officials later said they had gained respect for Miller's devotion to his Judaism.

If the Palestinians were surprised by that unexpected break in their negotiations, imagine the guests at the 1995 Bat Mitzvah of Ross' daughter who found themselves socializing with the Israeli and Syrian ambassadors.

Call it Bat Mitzvah diplomacy. □

(JTA correspondent Daniel Kurtzman in Washington contributed to this report.)

## Clinton announces initiatives to counter hate-driven violence

By Daniel Kurtzman

WASHINGTON (JTA) — Calling hate crimes the “antithesis of the values that define us as a nation,” President Clinton has announced a series of law enforcement and prevention efforts to counter the scourge of hate-driven violence.

Clinton announced the initiatives at a daylong White House Conference on Hate Crimes on Monday that brought together more than 350 civil rights activists, educators, religious leaders, law enforcement officials and victims of hate crimes.

The administration’s focus on the issue stems from Clinton’s race relations initiative.

“Anybody who thinks that in the world of today and tomorrow that he or she can hide from the kind of poison that we see in various places in our country is living in a dream world,” Clinton said.

“Whether we like it or not, our futures are bound together, and it is time we acted like it.”

Clinton said the government, among other steps, would create a network of local hate-crime groups to coordinate investigations and prosecutions and assign more than 50 new FBI agents and prosecutors to work on hate-crimes enforcement.

He also endorsed legislation that Sens. Edward Kennedy (D-Mass.) and Arlen Specter (R-Pa.) plan to introduce to give federal prosecutors authority to prosecute racial violence and hate crimes against women, the disabled, and gay and lesbian Americans.

Jewish groups participating in the conference praised Clinton for focusing national attention on the problem.

The Anti-Defamation League emphasized in a statement, however, that “the full potential of the conference will only be realized if it sparks the development of a forward-looking national prevention and education strategy to address hate crimes and the prejudice that motivates them.” □

## Yeltsin fires Jewish adviser in feud over economic policy

By Lev Krichevsky

MOSCOW (JTA) — A Russian Jewish business tycoon has been ousted from the inner circle of President Boris Yeltsin.

The dismissal of Boris Berezovsky, one of the most powerful men in Russia’s financial elite, ended a bitter public feud between him and the young reformers in the Kremlin.

Yeltsin signed the decree last week ousting Berezovsky from his post as deputy secretary of the National Security Council after meeting with First Deputy Prime Ministers Anatoly Chubais and Boris Nemtsov.

Berezovsky was one of several tycoons who threw their media and financial resources behind Yeltsin’s re-election campaign last year.

But in recent months he had a bitter falling out with economic reform chiefs Chubais and Nemtsov over how the state would sell off its assets.

Chubais and Nemtsov earlier this year accused Berezovsky of using his post in the National Security Council to promote his business interests.

Berezovsky flatly denied the charge.

Berezovsky’s dismissal was seen as a victory for the reformers, who have been struggling to repair Russia’s cash-strapped economy and to demonstrate to Western critics that their program of reforms would work.

The extent of that criticism was evident in a survey of Western business executives that was published last week in London in which Russia was voted the most corrupt country in the world.

Berezovsky, who built up his fortune by creating one of the country’s first car dealerships, expanded his business empire to include television and newspaper holdings as well as a large oil company, Sibneft.

During his year in the Kremlin, Berezovsky was a target of ultranationalists’ anti-Semitic propaganda.

Within weeks after his appointment to the National Security Council in October 1996, reports surfaced in the Moscow press that he had held Israeli citizenship since 1993.

According to a Russian law, no Russian with dual citizenship can be employed in government service.

Berezovsky, who at first denied that he had ever held dual citizenship, later admitted that he had indeed at one time possessed an Israeli passport.

Israeli officials subsequently confirmed that Berezovsky had requested that his Israeli passport be annulled after he was appointed to the National Security Council.

Berezovsky has also been dogged by rumors that he has close ties to organized crime and was involved in a contract murder, but none of the allegations were ever proven.

After his dismissal last week, Berezovsky said he may create a new political party and participate in parliamentary elections slated for 1999.

He also mentioned the possibility of running for president in the year 2000. □

## Israel, Vatican sign agreement

JERUSALEM (JTA) — Israel and the Vatican have signed an accord formally recognizing the legal status of Roman Catholic Church institutions in Israel.

The accord, which requires the Knesset’s approval, would give the church judicial standing similar to foreign non-profit organizations and corporations. It would also enable the church to handle internal issues independently.

Foreign Minister David Levy, who initialed the accord for Israel, said the agreement would strengthen already good relations between Israel and the Holy See.

The papal representative in Israel, Andrea Cordero Lanza di Montezemolo, said the agreement “marks a further important step in the process of normalizing relations between the Holy See and the State of Israel.”

Officials said the two sides had been working on the agreement since Israel and the Vatican forged diplomatic ties in 1994.

Rabbi David Rosen, head of the Anti-Defamation League in Israel and co-liaison to the Vatican, called the agreement “a significant achievement for the Catholic Church in Israel, and a significant achievement for Israel.”

Rosen added that the accord would help relations between the church and world Jewry as well. □

## Israeli soldiers clash with protesters

JERUSALEM — Israeli soldiers clashed with Palestinian protesters near the West Bank town of Bethlehem during demonstrations Monday demanding the release of a Palestinian prisoner.

Itaf Alayan, who was freed as part of the prisoner releases agreed upon in the Oslo accords, was detained several weeks ago.

The Islamic Jihad organization has threatened to carry out terrorist attacks against Israel if she is not released. □

**Israeli government may release secrets in assassination report***By Naomi Segal*

JERUSALEM (JTA) — Excerpts from the classified section of a government report on the Rabin assassination may soon be released.

The move, recommended by a team appointed by Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, is aimed at dispelling public speculation regarding conspiracy theories surrounding the murder of Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin two years ago.

The Shamgar Commission, which prepared the report on the assassination, concluded that there was no conspiracy involved. At the same time, a classified section of the report dealt with attempts by the Shin Bet to infiltrate the extremist right wing.

Rabin was killed Nov. 4, 1995, by a right-wing religious student, Yigal Amir, who later confessed to the murder and is serving a life sentence in prison.

The conspiracy theorists were given new fuel this week after Carmi Gillon, who headed the Shin Bet in November 1995, confirmed that Avishai Raviv, a right-wing activist who knew Amir, had been an agent for the domestic security service for eight years.

Among the conspiracy theories that began to circulate after the assassination was the claim that Raviv had been used by the Shin Bet to stir up sentiment against the right wing, which opposed Rabin's peace policies.

After the assassination, Raviv denied that he had worked for the Shin Bet.

Raviv was reportedly involved in distributing posters of Rabin in a Nazi uniform at a right-wing protest about a month before the assassination. That was the sort of inflammatory gesture some have claimed created the atmosphere leading to Rabin's murder.

In an Israel Television interview last Friday, Gillon described Raviv as a "problematic agent." At the same time, he stressed that had Raviv known Amir was plotting to assassinate Rabin, he would have conveyed the information to his operators.

Last week, Meir Shamgar, a former Supreme Court president, said the government was free to publish classified materials submitted to his commission, a move he said would help dispel the renewed speculation.

The team appointed by the prime minister, which was made up of government and security officials, recommended that the classified sections of the report pertaining to Raviv's activities be made public.

The classified section of the Shamgar report was made available to Cabinet ministers last week. Science Minister Michael Eitan demanded that Raviv be put on trial for instigating the violent political atmosphere that preceded Rabin's assassination.

Israeli media reported this week that a majority of the ministers were believed to support releasing excerpts from the secret section. A Cabinet decision on publication must still be approved by the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, the media reported. □

**Internet site launched to help Holocaust survivors find family***By Bill Gladstone*

TORONTO (JTA) — A Holocaust registry has opened its electronic doors.

The JewishGen Holocaust Global Registry, which was launched Sunday on the Internet, aims to provide a location for survivors around the world to list themselves and to search for friends and relatives who may still be alive.

"Until now, there has not been a central place to maintain the data on Holocaust survivors living around the world," said Susan King, director of JewishGen, the leading Internet site for Jewish genealogy, which created the new registry.

"Without such a tool, searching has been extremely difficult, costly and relatively unproductive," said King, a Houston-area travel industry professional.

She said that while oral testimonies and lists of survivors have been collected over the years, no one had established a worldwide mechanism to help relatives reconnect with each other.

"Child survivors who don't even remember their surnames may enter whatever information they have in the hope of discovering their roots," said King.

The Holocaust registry is accessible worldwide at <http://www.jewishgen.org> □

**Christian find discovered near Har Homa**

JERUSALEM (JTA) — Construction on a controversial neighborhood in Jerusalem has led to an important archaeological discovery — and, perhaps, a boost to the Israeli tourist industry.

While excavating near Har Homa, Israeli archaeologists said they discovered the rock upon which Christians believe Mary rested on her way to Bethlehem to give birth to Jesus.

The rock was found in the center of a fifth-century Byzantine church on a site owned by the Greek Orthodox Church. The find was uncovered during recent excavations near the southeastern Jerusalem neighborhood — after contractors damaged some of the church while laying a water pipe for construction workers.

The edge of the site was discovered earlier in the decade, but contractors were only allowed to return to the site last month.

Archaeologists believe that octagonal churches, such as the one uncovered, served as the inspiration for the Dome of the Rock, a mosque located on the Temple Mount in Jerusalem. After the discovery was made, the Israel Antiquities Authority announced that it would try to raise funds to develop the site and turn it into a mecca for tourists and pilgrims by the year 2000.

Construction at Har Homa has been a source of disagreement between Israel and the Palestinians. Peace talks were suspended for seven months after Israel decided in March to commence the Har Homa project. □

**Kissinger: Palestinian state certain**

JERUSALEM (JTA) — Henry Kissinger declared on a visit to Israel this week that an independent Palestinian state is "inevitable."

The former U.S. secretary of state said Israel should begin contacts with the United States to ensure that it receives the most concessions in exchange for agreeing to a Palestinian state.

Speaking in Tel Aviv, Kissinger made these remarks in the first Yitzhak Rabin lecture sponsored by the newly established Rabin Center for Israel Studies.

Kissinger, who served in the administrations of Presidents Nixon and Ford, and led the shuttle diplomacy that helped create the cease-fire agreements with Egypt and Syria after the 1973 Yom Kippur War, said Israel is paying a heavy price for not having strategic goals to achieve in the peace talks.

While he was careful not to single out the Netanyahu government for criticism, Kissinger said, "If one does not know the destination, each concession becomes much harder." □