

**NEWS AT A GLANCE**

- **Several Israeli Cabinet members urged the prime minister to call for early elections rather than capitulate to what they termed the "extortionist" demands of some coalition partners.** The calls came as Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu faces stiff opposition to his 1998 budget. [Page 2]
- **The 33rd Zionist Congress ended with no resolution over two contested Jewish Agency for Israel posts: treasurer and chairman of the newly created Education Department.** Consultations with Diaspora leaders are expected to take place over the next few weeks. [Page 3]
- **Israel's Sephardi chief rabbi condemned in a letter to Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat the alleged plot by Jewish extremists to throw a pig's head onto the Temple Mount.** Eliyahu Bakshi-Doron's letter came as one of the men arrested denied that he was involved in any such plot. [Page 4]
- **Vandals tore three arms off a publicly displayed menorah in a New York suburb.** The menorah in Scarsdale, N.Y., was also desecrated in 1995. Meanwhile, vandals spray-painted a swastika on an Islamic symbol displayed near the White House.
- **Some 186,000 books were seized from Jews in Austria during World War II and distributed to Austrian libraries, according to a World Jewish Congress study that is slated to be released next week.** The books can still be found in the libraries.
- **A World Jewish Congress study shows that some \$12 billion in personal assets were seized from European Jews during World War II.** Detailing the plunder from the Jews "helps humanize the victims," said Elan Steinberg, executive director of the WJC.
- **A 9-year-old Jewish boy designated the \$5,000 he won in a Northwest Airlines art contest to go to the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum.** Daniel Obeler of Illinois, whose award-winning art work is titled, "The Windy City," visited the museum Monday.

**NEWS ANALYSIS****Conviction of Carlos marks end of era in international terrorism***By Douglas Davis*

LONDON (JTA) — For more than two decades, "Carlos the Jackal" was the symbol of international terrorism.

This high-living killer-for-hire, who had sown fear around the world, had inspired authors and a genre of movies, the latest being the recently released film "The Assignment."

But when the fabled terrorist, whose real name is Illich Ramirez Sanchez, was convicted of murder last week, it was clear that the mystique was gone.

Indeed, it was a slightly comical, pathetic figure of a debauched and overweight 48-year-old playboy who emerged from a Paris court to serve a life sentence for killing two French secret service agents and their Lebanese accomplice in a Paris apartment on June 27, 1975.

Those charges reflected a mere token of the killings attributed to the Venezuelan-born doctrinaire Marxist, who is estimated to have taken at least 80 lives on behalf of his Palestinian and other masters.

France still expects to try Carlos for his alleged role in a series of bomb attacks that claimed 17 lives in France between 1979 and 1982.

He is also wanted in Germany for allegedly bombing Berlin's French cultural center, and in Austria for his most spectacular raid — the kidnaping of 11 OPEC oil ministers in Vienna in 1975.

The trial of Carlos marked the official end of his terrorist career, but he had already been supplanted by international terrorists of a different ilk.

Carlos has little in common with the shadowy Islamic terrorists of the 1990s, who specialize in indiscriminate mass murder as they pursue jihad, holy war, against the godless West with the promise of paradise-to-come.

Indeed, Carlos would rank high among their targets.

**Pursuing bacchanalian pleasures**

Their austere regime of faith bears no resemblance to Carlos' lifestyle, which was dedicated to the pursuit of bacchanalian pleasures: fast women, fine wines and chunky Cuban cigars by night; spy videos, business magazines and cafe culture by day.

The generation of terror that gave birth to Carlos was centered around a charismatic leader who was well paid and well connected, with networks that extended across Europe and into Asia — the Irish Republican Army in Britain, the Red Brigades in Italy, the Baader-Meinhof gang in Germany and the Japanese Red Army.

The personality cult remains a potent element for today's terrorists, but the object of adoration and obedience is not the romantic, university-educated, middle-class suburbanite, with trademark beard and designer sunglasses, who is propelled down a frenzied path toward revolutionary fervor and high explosives.

Instead, Islamic terrorist groups tend to be centered around religious leaders, such as the blind Sheik Omar Abdel Rahman, who inspired the attempt to blow up the World Trade Center in New York, and the quadriplegic Sheik Ahmed Yassin, founder of Hamas and champion of the Palestinian suicide bomber.

And unlike the tight, cellular structures created by their predecessors, the modern Middle East terrorist group is more likely to be "project-driven," based on custom-built units designed for specific operations, drawing on battle-trained specialists from such theaters as Afghanistan, Bosnia, Chechnya, Algeria, Azerbaijan, Egypt and Sudan.

These informal, decentralized terrorist structures of the 1990s are fluid, mobile and dynamic, posing a significantly greater challenge to counterterrorism experts than the operations of the past.

Some of today's terrorists live in hospitable Middle Eastern environments under the protection of Iran, Iraq, Syria, Lebanon, Libya or Sudan. But many more exploit the democratic freedoms of the West to preach their doctrine of religious extremism, to recruit followers, raise funds, plan operations, organize logistics and issue orders.

Today's terrorists are able to blend into their pluralistic, Western

environments, but they despise what they perceive as the liberal decadence of the West and remain uncompromising opponents of its accompanying materialist, secularist culture.

Carlos was a different breed.

Born in Venezuela in 1949, he is the son of a wealthy Marxist lawyer, Jose Altagarcia Ramirez Navas, and one of three brothers — Vladimir and Lenin — named for the first leader of the Soviet Union.

At age 17, Carlos traveled to London to study chemistry — “I’m great at making explosives,” he said at his trial — and two years later, in 1968, enrolled at Moscow’s Patrice Lumumba University, though Soviet authorities expelled him for participating in an unauthorized demonstration.

Having drunk deeply from the well of revolutionary thought, he emerged into the world in 1971 ready to put belief into practice.

He traveled to the Middle East and chose the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine — a militant, Marxist vehicle for promoting the Palestinian cause — to launch his career as an international terrorist.

One of his first acts, in 1973, was to brazenly walk through the front door of the London home of Edward Sieff, then a prominent Zionist leader and head of the British chain store Marks and Spencer, and coolly shoot him in the face.

Sieff survived, but the Jackal’s career was launched.

By the end of the 1980s, however, the world in which Carlos thrived was changing.

After the Cold War ended and Middle Eastern governments began peacemaking efforts, Carlos was abandoned by the very states — East European and Arab — that had supported his actions.

In 1991, Syria suggested that Carlos — who had established a comfortable life under cover of a Mexican businessman in a Damascus suburb with his German wife and fellow terrorist, Magdalena Kopp, and two children — find a home elsewhere.

Refused shelter by Iraq and Libya, he finally found refuge in the Sudanese capital of Khartoum in August 1993.

#### **Finds refuge with a belly dancer**

By all accounts, Carlos spent his final year of freedom indulging in the pleasures of the flesh rather than revolutionary fervor.

He had shed his family and arrived in Sudan with a glamorous Lebanese belly dancer.

Soon after, he acquired an attractive Sudanese companion. The trio became regulars in the Cypriot and Armenian clubs where bootleg alcohol is available at spectacular prices.

What Carlos did not know was that once in Khartoum he was tracked day and night by an American spy satellite, which is capable of monitoring objects as small as 6 inches.

On Aug. 13, 1996, Carlos finally let his guard down when he checked into Khartoum’s Ibu Khalmud hospital for minor surgery on a testicle. That evening, plainclothes Sudanese security agents persuaded him to transfer to a military hospital for his own security.

In the wee hours of Aug. 14, still groggy from the effects of the anesthetic, Sudanese security officials handed him over to French intelligence agents, who swiftly injected him with a powerful sedative, handcuffed and hooded him, before bundling him into a sack and whisking him off to a nearby airfield.

Seven hours later, the French government aircraft touched down outside Paris. When Carlos came to, he was

under arrest. Now, unless his vowed appeal is successful, he will spend the rest of his life in jail. □

(JTA correspondent Lee Yanowitch in Paris contributed to this report.)

#### **Netanyahu faces rebellion amid ongoing budget debate**

By Naomi Segal

JERUSALEM (JTA) — The apparent inability to finalize Israel’s 1998 budget could prove to be the death knell for the government of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

Several Cabinet members urged the prime minister this week to call for early elections rather than capitulate to what they termed the “extortionist” demands of some coalition partners.

Public Security Minister Avigdor Kahalani of The Third Way and Agriculture Minister Rafael Eitan of Tsomet said it was better to call for elections than submit the current budget proposal to the manipulations of coalition members demanding more funds for special interests.

Kahalani said his faction would submit legislation to dissolve the Knesset and hold new elections for the lawmakers and prime minister.

A majority of the 120-member Knesset would have to approve such legislation for it to pass.

Meanwhile, Communications Minister Limor Livnat of Likud appealed to Netanyahu to withdraw the proposed budget and resubmit it by the end of March.

The government has until March 31 to pass the budget assuming this week’s deadline for Knesset approval is not met.

If the later deadline is missed, the government will fall.

The calls by ministers came as coalition partners Gesher and Yisrael Ba’Aliyah continued to condition their support of the budget on a firm commitment from Netanyahu to allocate additional funds for social spending, such as education, development towns, mortgage assistance and rent subsidies.

Knesset member Meir Sheerit of Likud termed the demands “blackmail,” saying they were “outrageous” and “unprecedented.” Finance Minister Ya’acov Ne’eman was reported to be considering resigning if the budget framework is broken. Ne’eman said he would not cave in to what he termed “sectored interests.”

In the Knesset, the rebellious coalition members continued to hold out against the government, causing it to lose several votes to the opposition on portions of the budget bill.

Netanyahu, who has been holding marathon talks with the upstart factions, said Monday that he believed the coalition would fall into line by Wednesday’s deadline.

On the diplomatic front, it remains to be seen what impact a failure to pass the budget would have on negotiations with the Palestinians.

Netanyahu was reportedly given a three-week reprieve by the United States until mid-January to enable him to pass a budget before coming forward with a proposal for redeployment in the West Bank.

The extension was issued out of concern that hard-line members of Netanyahu’s coalition would turn the budget vote into a no-confidence motion if the prime minister announced any specific plan for a pullback before the budget was passed.

Indeed, Likud Knesset member Ze’ev “Benny” Begin said over the weekend that he planned to abstain in the budget vote because he believed the bill’s defeat could delay Netanyahu from presenting the specifics of a further redeployment. □

**Zionists adopt 'unity' resolution without support of the Orthodox***By Naomi Segal*

JERUSALEM (JTA) — Around-the-clock efforts at the 33rd Zionist Congress to achieve a unified position on religious pluralism failed here last week, and the worldwide gathering ended with the adoption of a resolution that Orthodox delegates could not support.

The battle was a defeat for Jewish unity but a victory for delegates representing the Reform and Conservative movements, which have been trying to win official status and recognition in Israel.

The congress also ended with no resolution on two contested Jewish Agency posts: treasurer and chairman of the newly created Education Department.

Candidates for those posts were not officially put forward.

Under the Jewish Agency bylaws, Diaspora Jewish leaders have the power to veto the Zionist Congress' choices for Jewish Agency chairman and treasurer, and they have the right to "consult" on those selected for the department chairmanships.

These consultations, involving leaders of the United Israel Appeal, Keren Hayesod and the Jewish Agency Board of Governors, are now expected to take place during the next few weeks.

The current chairman, Avraham Burg of the Labor Party, was elected to continue in his post for another two years.

He will be succeeded for the following two years by Salai Meridor of Likud.

On the religious pluralism resolution, marathon negotiations on a compromise draft that began Dec. 24 and continued late into the following night ultimately failed to secure the support of the Mizrahi Orthodox delegation.

But given the large representation at the congress of the Reform and Conservative delegates, the resolution passed the congress easily.

The resolution, penned by Burg, states that the congress, "out of deep concern for the unity of the Jewish people, calls on the leadership of the religious streams of Judaism in Israel and the Diaspora to cooperate with the Israeli government to guarantee the success" of a special committee headed by Finance Minister Ya'acov Ne'eman.

That committee has been working for months to try to achieve a compromise regarding the status of Reform and Conservative rabbis in Israel, who currently have no authority to perform conversions to Judaism, marriages or funerals.

**A plan if 'painful questions' are unresolved**

The resolution further states that if the committee fails to solve these "painful questions," the Israeli government should not allow any change to the Law of Return and any other legislation on religious affairs unless done with "wide approval and by bearing in mind the support of all parts of the Jewish people in Israel and the Diaspora."

The Law of Return grants automatic citizenship to any Jewish immigrant.

Orthodox forces have tried to amend the law so that it includes a traditional, halachic definition of who is a Jew.

Rabbi Eric Yoffie, president of the Reform movement's Union of American Hebrew Congregations, was quoted as telling Reform delegates after the vote on the resolution that "if we had lost the vote, it would have been used as proof positive that our movement and our issues in Israel did not enjoy the support of Diaspora Jewry. But clearly, that was not the case." □

**Leftist Israelis urge boycott of products made by settlers***By Naomi Segal*

JERUSALEM (JTA) — Israeli settlement leaders are saying a call by left-wing activists to boycott goods from the West Bank and Gaza Strip resembles actions by the Nazis.

More than 70 peace activists, among them academics, artists and authors, published an advertisement in the Israeli newspaper Ha'aretz last Friday calling for a boycott of goods produced in the settlements.

The advertisement stated that "every shekel to the settlements is a shekel against the peace."

Leaders of the Yesha Council, which represents settlements in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, said the move hinted of anti-Semitism from the Nazi era, a "dark time when Jewish factories were blacklisted."

"It is anti-Semitism by one Jew to another," said one settler leader.

Leaders of the council said international exports, mostly produce and flowers, generate some \$30 million to \$40 million dollars a year while millions more are earned on sales within Israel.

The council expressed concern that the call would encourage anti-Israel elements within the United Nations to call for an international boycott of goods produced in the territories.

Israeli media reported several months ago about calls within the European Union for such a boycott as a means of pressuring Israel in its negotiations with the Palestinians. □

**Departing Israeli police chief warns of right-wing activists***By Naomi Segal*

JERUSALEM (JTA) — Israel's top police official warned this week that hundreds of right-wing activists were prepared to break the law to achieve their political goals.

Police Commissioner Assaf Hefetz's remarks at his farewell reception came in the wake of the arrests of two Jewish extremists who allegedly planned to throw a pig's head onto the Temple Mount — site of the Dome of the Rock and the Al-Aksa Mosque — during the Muslim holy month of Ramadan.

Ramadan begins next week.

The suspects, Avigdor Eskin and Damien Pakovitch, remain in police custody.

According to police, the two hoped to provoke clashes between Arabs and Jews.

Eskin's lawyer, Naftali Wurzberger, said his client opposed the act.

Wurzberger appealed to a district court Monday to release his client, saying there was not just cause to keep him in custody.

Israel's Sephardi chief rabbi, Eliyahu Bakshi-Doron, condemned the alleged plot in a letter to Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat.

"We are sad to hear of the criminal plot by extremists who wish to harm the faithful and inflame relations between the two religions," he wrote.

Palestinian officials responded angrily to news of the alleged plan.

Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat called on the Israeli government to confiscate weapons from Jewish settlers, saying they must be prevented from taking actions that would harm the peace process.

Jerusalem's police chief met with heads of the Muslim wakf, which administers the Temple Mount, and briefed them on the investigation. □

## Baltimore federation rejects plan to open JCC on Shabbat

By David Conn

Baltimore Jewish Times

BALTIMORE (JTA) — Striving to avert a rift between local Jews, Baltimore's Jewish federation has rejected a plan to open a Jewish community center on Saturdays.

"I was very proud of the trustees in the manner in which they discussed this — with great passion, integrity and seriousness," Darrell Friedman, president of the Associated: Jewish Community Federation of Baltimore, said after the board voted 43-30 against the proposal.

The Dec. 16 decision came after a 34-7 vote last month by the Owings Mills, Md., JCC's board of directors to recommend that the facility, in a suburb north of Baltimore, be open on Saturday afternoons.

JCC and Associated leaders said the move was necessary to respond to the needs of the mostly non-observant Owings Mills Jewish community and the growing competition among health clubs in the area.

The prospect of the Saturday opening had infuriated part of Baltimore's large Orthodox community, who saw the move as a public desecration of the Sabbath. Some had suggested the issue could splinter relations permanently between Baltimore's Orthodox and non-Orthodox Jews.

Orthodox rabbis were elated and relieved by the Associated board's vote.

"The vote by the Associated shows, once again, that the Baltimore Jewish community is truly unique in its sensitivity and in its sense of cohesiveness," said Rabbi Ervin Preis in a statement from the Orthodox Rabbinical Council of Greater Baltimore.

The JCC plan had called for opening the building on Saturdays after 1 p.m. for members who wanted to use the swimming pool, gym and health club.

Under a 1979 compromise between the Associated and Orthodox leaders, the outdoor facilities — tennis courts, playground, ball fields and swimming pool — have been open for use on Saturdays during warm weather. □

## Roseanne stages own version of Chanukah play for children

By Tom Tugend

LOS ANGELES (JTA) — On the sixth night of the Festival of Lights, Roseanne put on a Chanukah play — and the tale of the brave Maccabees and the miraculous container of oil may never be the same again.

In the one-time matinee and evening performances, the director, narrator and author — listed as Roseanne Thomas in the credits — mixed show-biz shticks with the traditional themes to entertain parents and a raft of noisy kids in the small auditorium of the Kabbalah Learning Center.

Sitting in the second row on a hard folding chair and taking it all in was Madonna and her 1-year-old daughter, Lourdes, with not a single paparazzi within miles.

The cast represented almost the entire 4- to 7-year-old student body of the Kabbalah Day School. Referring to her young cast, Roseanne proudly noted that "this is the first time in history that children are being taught Kabbalah." And the program boasted that the day school "is the only school in the history of Judaism that offers a full curriculum of Torah studies blended with an emphasis on kabbalistic teachings along with an extensive secular program."

The rotund television star allowed that the Chanukah play made for "the most nerve-wracking day of

my career. It's one thing to make the network mad, but to make God mad..." Amid more traditional scenes, the director-narrator spiced up the proceedings with some innovations of her own:

- To force a pious Jew to worship idols, a Hellenizer holds up an Oscar statuette while the victim inquires if his apostasy will at least get him into Disneyland. Notes Roseanne, "Today, many Jews still worship this idol."

- The climactic battle between the Maccabees and the Seleucids is shown via video on a wide television screen, with Antiochus' forces aided by hordes of Scotch Highlanders, led by Mel Gibson, courtesy of the film "Braveheart."

Roseanne herself appears in the video as a reporter for television station KNN, describing the progress of the battle. As Mattathias dies, she urges the audience to stay tuned.

- In a swinging scene, depicting the desecration of the Temple, a 5-year-old cocktail waitress fills an order for "one Manischewitz straight up," while a line of similarly aged disco dancers strut their stuff.

Despite the banter, Roseanne takes her involvement with the Kabbalah Learning Center seriously. She spent more than two months researching and rehearsing the play, and she has attended classes at the center for more than three years. On her way out of the hall, she told an inquirer that "everything I believe in has come from Kabbalah," whose study has raised her to "a higher consciousness."

The center has been sharply criticized by mainstream rabbis for teaching a superficial version of Kabbalah, while a number of disenchanted former members have complained of pressure to donate more money to the center. None of this has lessened the center's appeal to Hollywood figures in search of spiritual solace and understanding. In addition to Madonna and Roseanne, reported disciples include the stars Barbra Streisand, Elizabeth Taylor, Courtney Love, Jeff Goldblum and Laura Dern. □

## Observant Israeli ministers get Sabbath-friendly phones

By Naomi Segal

JERUSALEM (JTA) — Some observant ministers in Israel's Cabinet are installing Sabbath-friendly telephones in their homes, an Israeli newspaper reported Monday.

The need for such a phone, which can be used with minimal desecration of the Sabbath, was underscored three months ago during the failed attempt by Mossad agents to assassinate a Hamas political leader in Jordan, according to Yediot Achronot.

Attorney General Elyakim Rubinstein, who is observant, was telephoned by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on the Sabbath and asked to leave immediately for the Jordanian capital of Amman. Afterward, Rubinstein turned to the Institute of Technology and Halachah in Jerusalem, which had developed an emergency telephone.

Rubinstein asked for one to be installed in his home, as did Interior Minister Eli Suissa of the Shas Party. Education Minister Zevulun Hammer, of the National Religious Party, is also reportedly considering having one installed.

The phone is battery-operated. It is dialed by inserting a peg into a hole on the phone that is pre-programmed with a specific phone number, according to the head of the institute, Rabbi Levy Yitzhak Halperin.

The peg sends a beam of light, which triggers the dialing mechanism. In this way, the user of the phone does not directly dial a number. Incoming calls are also received in a non-interventive manner, Halperin said. □