



# Daily News Bulletin

Vol. 76, No. 3

Wednesday, January 7, 1998

81<sup>st</sup> Year

## TOP NEWS IN BRIEF

### Museum cancels Israel program

The Smithsonian Institution canceled a controversial series on Israel that was slated to take a critical look at the Jewish state.

The national museum pulled the plug on the program in the wake of pressure from Jewish groups and members of Congress. [Page 4]

### Israeli shot in West Bank dies

An Israeli woman who was shot last week in the West Bank died in a Tel Aviv hospital.

Yael Mebar, 25, was shot Jan. 1 while riding in a car near an Arab village in an area under Israeli security control. The gunmen, who opened fire from a parked car, were believed to have fled to areas under Palestinian control.

### Netanyahu, Ross meet

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is sticking by his assertion that the peace process will proceed only if the Palestinians clamp down on terror.

The premier called on the Palestinians to fulfill their obligations under already-signed accords when he met Tuesday with U.S. Special Middle East Coordinator Dennis Ross.

Ross arrived in the region to prepare the ground for separate meetings Netanyahu and Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat are slated to hold later this month in Washington with President Clinton.

Along with pressing the Palestinians to fight terror, Ross is reportedly seeking from Netanyahu a commitment to turn over to the Palestinian Authority some 10 percent to 15 percent of the West Bank in a further redeployment of Israeli troops.

### Israel releases Arab prisoners

Israel released 23 Palestinians as part of a goodwill gesture for the Muslim holy month of Ramadan.

Among the prisoners released was a Palestinian woman held without charge since October who had become a symbol of resistance to many Palestinians.

Itaf Alayan, a 35-year-old activist with the militant Islamic Jihad movement, had staged a 40-day hunger strike that ended last month when she reportedly received assurances from Israeli officials that her case would be reviewed.

She had been held in administrative detention under military laws that enable Israeli officials to hold people considered security risks indefinitely without charging them or bringing them to trial.

## BEHIND THE HEADLINES

### Resignation marks latest twist in David Levy's political career

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM (JTA) — When David Levy resigned as Israel's foreign minister this week, he finally received what has long eluded him: center stage in Israeli politics.

Since the Moroccan-born construction-worker-turned-politician first entered the public eye when then-Prime Minister Menachem Begin appointed him to the Cabinet in 1977, Levy has often used the threat of resignation to gain more power for himself and economic benefit for the Middle Eastern and North African Jews whom he represents.

But Levy's resignation Sunday was not just a power play by one of the country's most successful Sephardi politicians.

It also reflected his opposition to the government's economic policy, his disagreements over the pace of the Israeli-Palestinian peace process, and, perhaps most importantly, his long-standing rivalry with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

Long before Aryeh Deri, the Moroccan-born leader of the fervently Orthodox Shas Party, came to reflect the anger of Sephardi Jews in Israel, David Levy was there.

Levy personifies the alliance between the Ashkenazi-ruled Herut movement — which eventually formed the nucleus of the Likud — and the masses of Middle Eastern Jews, who were frustrated with what they saw as discriminatory treatment by the Labor Party.

Levy built his career from the grass roots, using his experience as a construction worker to become a political activist and labor leader.

And it was this working-class background that served Levy as he rose in the Likud ranks.

During the past two decades, he has held numerous posts in the party, including stints as housing minister and deputy prime minister, as well as foreign minister in the government of Yitzhak Shamir.

Indeed, when he appointed Levy to the Cabinet, Begin said it was "a gesture of gratitude to our brethren, the Middle Eastern Jews, who supported us."

Levy's unusual background also appeared to create a street-fighting style that characterized his political machinations.

Indeed, Levy's resignation came only after he had threatened several times to leave the government.

And these threats hearkened back to earlier times.

In 1992, just a few months before elections, Levy came close to resigning from Shamir's government after some of his Sephardi allies were relegated to low positions in Likud's lineup of candidates for the Knesset.

Levy has also had ideological differences with Likud.

Before he formed the Geshar Party in 1995, he had long been the strongest voice in Likud for his working-class constituency, and he has continued his fight for more social-service programs in the governing coalition.

Indeed, it was the lack of support for these programs that he said was the lightning rod for his resignation.

Levy has also been a moderate amid a sea of hard-liners.

At the peak of the 1982 Lebanon War, he was among the few who spoke loudly and clearly in favor of an Israeli pullout.

Last month, he refused to accompany Netanyahu to his meetings with U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, saying that the discussions were a waste of time unless the premier came armed with specific proposals for a further redeployment from the West Bank.

But when Levy finally threw in the towel this week, it was because, in his own

## MIDEAST FOCUS

### Military chief visits Hebron

Israeli Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Amnon Shahak toured Hebron.

The divided West Bank town has been a site of heightened tensions since two pipe bombs were thrown at a Jewish kindergarten last week.

Israel transferred most of Hebron to Palestinian rule a year ago, but retained control over an area where some 450 Jewish settlers reside.

### Soldiers hurt in training accident

Three Israeli soldiers were injured in a training accident in southern Israel.

One soldier was moderately hurt and two others were lightly injured when a shell exploded.

### Sharon as foreign minister?

A Likud Knesset member proposed that National Infrastructure Minister Ariel Sharon be appointed foreign minister and Dan Meridor take over Sharon's ministry, according to an Israeli news report.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu took over the Foreign Ministry, which was vacated earlier this week by David Levy's resignation.

Netanyahu said he would not appoint a new foreign minister until after Israel decides on a further redeployment.

### Fire delayed missile project

A fire at an Israeli defense plant last April delayed the Arrow anti-missile missile project by at least a year, said Labor Knesset member Ephraim Sneh.

The fire cost approximately \$29 million in damages, he added.

### Egypt advised on maneuvers

The U.S. State Department told Egypt that joint naval maneuvers with Israel and Turkey did not pose a threat to Arab countries. Egypt, which has been critical of the operation, declined to send an observer.

words, he "has had it." He could no longer work with Netanyahu.

Levy's personal dispute with Netanyahu dates back to October 1991, when Shamir bypassed him to be his second in command at the opening round of the Middle East peace talks in Madrid. Shamir's choice: Netanyahu, who was then Levy's deputy in the Foreign Ministry.

Shamir's reasons for choosing Netanyahu over Levy were likely the same ones that eventually propelled Netanyahu to the prime minister's post that Levy has long coveted.

Netanyahu has a political charisma that Levy cannot seem to cultivate: The premier is fluent in English, a language that Levy does not know, and he is photogenic.

It is no secret that Levy has always dreamed of becoming premier. When Begin resigned in 1983, Levy made a dramatic announcement: "Menachem Begin," he exclaimed, "you have got yourself an heir."

But over the years, he repeatedly lost his campaigns to become the Likud's top candidate, declaring at one point, "I have realized that the movement in which I was raised and in which I had invested all my life, is not ripe to be led by a Moroccan."

After Levy formed his own party, he agreed not to run for premier in exchange for a promise that seven Geshet members would be given reasonably high slots on the Likud list.

Geshet members took five Knesset seats in the 1996 elections and Levy received the foreign affairs portfolio.

But this move did not pacify him for long.

Even before Netanyahu asked the Knesset for a vote of confidence in his coalition government in July 1996, Levy threatened to quit unless his long-time partner Ariel Sharon received a Cabinet appointment. Sharon became one of the more powerful ministers in the Cabinet.

Since then, Levy has threatened to resign at least four more times, most recently about three months ago when, following the failed assassination attempt on Hamas leader Khaled Mashaal in Jordan, Netanyahu bypassed him in negotiations over the return of two Mossad agents, using Sharon and Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai instead.

When Levy carried through on his threat, leading to renewed speculation that he might form an alliance with the Labor Party, it garnered him favorable headlines.

"Levy quit like a man," read a banner headline in Ma'ariv.

But many of his supporters were disappointed. The man who had long symbolized the rising political power of Middle Eastern and North African Jews might have demonstrated that he is honorable, but, for the time being, he is out of the top echelons of government. □

## Voices of survivors captured for tribute to freedom fighters

By Naomi Segal

JERUSALEM (JTA) — A Jerusalem composer has fused recordings of concentration camp survivors during the liberation of the camps with original music to commemorate Jewish freedom fighters during the Holocaust.

Stephen Horenstein, founder of the Jerusalem Institute of Contemporary Music, recently unveiled the compilation piece, which was 10 years in the making.

After being approached to collaborate on an "environmental sound sculpture" to honor Jewish freedom fighters, he said, he stumbled onto a rare collection of 78-speed records stored at Yad Vashem, the Holocaust memorial in Jerusalem.

"Using special electronic filter technology, I was able to cut through the many layers of decay and recover the glorious sounds from 12 of the records. What I heard were people singing and talking, mostly in Yiddish," he said.

He then combined the recordings with a modern composition, to create the seven-minute piece named "Andarta," Hebrew for memorial.

Horenstein first presented the piece before Jewish educators participating in the Eighth Jerusalem Fellows Colloquium in Jerusalem earlier this year.

Horenstein plans to release it this spring as part of a retrospective CD of his life's work. □



## Daily News Bulletin

Caryn Rosen Adelman, *President*  
Mark J. Joffe, *Executive Editor and Publisher*  
Lisa Hostein, *Editor*  
Kenneth Bandler, *Managing Editor*  
Lenore A. Silverstein, *Business Manager*

JTA DAILY NEWS BULLETIN is published five days a week, except holidays, by the Jewish Telegraphic Agency Inc., 330 Seventh Ave., New York, N.Y. 10001-5010. For information about how to subscribe by e-mail, fax or regular mail, call (212) 643-1890, or visit our Web site at [www.jta.org](http://www.jta.org).  
© JTA Reproduction only by previous arrangement.

## JEWISH WORLD

### Argentine Jews seek stiffer laws

Argentine Jewish leaders want stiffer criminal penalties for those convicted of cemetery desecrations.

The president of the Argentine Jewish umbrella organization DAIA, Ruben Beraja, called on the government to classify cemetery attacks as hate crimes. The call came during a ceremony Sunday at which the local Jewish community repudiated two attacks against Jewish cemeteries located near Buenos Aires on Dec. 24 and Dec. 31.

Under current law, attacks against cemeteries are classified as "vandalism against private property," but there are no criminal penalties to reflect the racist motives behind the attacks.

Nearly 90 tombstones were destroyed in the attacks, which Buenos Aires' new civilian police chief said were carried out by members of the capital's notoriously corrupt police force.

### AJCongress contests creche

The American Jewish Congress asked the U.S. Supreme Court to review a case in which a Christmas display was allowed to remain in a public square in Syracuse, N.Y.

The AJCongress asked the court to overturn a federal court of appeals decision that the display, which depicts the birth of Jesus, does not violate the separation between church and state.

### Israeli education ranks high

Israelis are among the best educated people in the world, according to the results of a recent international survey.

Israel ranked second in the percentage of its residents who hold at least a high school degree, according to the survey conducted by the France-based Organization of Economic Cooperation and Development.

The survey found that 35 percent of Israelis between the ages of 25 and 64 hold at least a high school degree.

The survey also found that some 20 percent of Israelis hold university degrees, which placed the country third in the industrialized world.

In 1983, by comparison, about 11 percent of Israelis had university degrees.

Much of that increase was attributed to the large influx of educated immigrants from the former Soviet Union during the early 1990s.

### Norway appoints Mideast envoy

Norway appointed as its Middle East envoy a member of the team that helped engineer the 1993 Oslo accords between Israel and the Palestinians.

Norway hopes Terje Larsen will help revive the stalled peace process.

## 100 years later, France ready to honor Dreyfus Affair victims

By Douglas Davis

LONDON (JTA)— French leaders are finally ready to pay homage to Capt. Alfred Dreyfus.

Exactly 100 years after Emile Zola penned his famous "J'accuse" in defense of Dreyfus, French officials will gather next week to commemorate the writer and the wrongly convicted Jewish officer.

The Jan. 13 ceremony, set to recall one of the most shameful episodes in French history, will be attended by President Jacques Chirac, Prime Minister Lionel Jospin, Justice Minister Elisabeth Guigou and Defense Minister Alain Richard.

It was not until the mid-1970s that the Dreyfus Affair could even be mentioned on French state radio and television. And it was not until 1995 — 101 years after Dreyfus was convicted — that Gen. Jean-Louis Murrut, head of the army's historical service, publicly admitted that the army had made a mistake after all.

The presence of the French president and his most senior ministers at next week's tribute to Dreyfus and Zola suggests that France is finally coming to terms with another unsightly stain on its history.

Dreyfus was arrested in 1894 after a French spy in the German Embassy found a document purportedly in Dreyfus' handwriting that provided sensitive information to the Germans. After a military show trial, Dreyfus was convicted of espionage, publicly stripped of his military medals and sentenced to life imprisonment on Devil's Island, a French penal colony off the coast of French Guiana.

The trial convulsed France in a violent anti-Semitic spasm.

Jewish shops and synagogues were destroyed in 50 French towns. The fury then spread to the French colony of Algeria, where Jewish cemeteries were desecrated and entire Jewish neighborhoods were ransacked.

Among the hundreds of journalists who converged on France to witness the Dreyfus trial was Theodor Herzl, an assimilated Austrian Jew who covered the event for his Viennese newspaper. The trial created in Herzl a foreboding about the fate of European Jewry and convinced him to devote himself to the establishment of a Jewish state.

The Dreyfus Affair also had a powerful effect on Zola, France's leading author, who wrote a 39-page open letter condemning anti-Semitism and denouncing France's military and judicial establishment. Newspaper editor Georges Clemenceau, who later served as prime minister, published the letter as an article on Jan. 13, 1898, with the words "J'accuse" — French for "I Accuse" — splashed across the front page.

Zola acknowledged the personal risks he was taking in blatantly defaming some of the most powerful men in France. The following month, Zola was summoned to court and sentenced to one year in jail. Instead of a cell, he chose exile in England.

To all but the most committed anti-Semites, it was clear that Dreyfus was a scapegoat and that the real spy was a different officer, Maj. Ferdinand Esterhazy.

Esterhazy was eventually tried. But after deliberating for just three minutes, the military judges acquitted him rather than expose the army to ridicule for its past error.

But justice of a sort eventually caught up with Esterhazy when his German controller implicated him just before committing suicide.

Yet even irrefutable proof that Esterhazy, not Dreyfus, was the traitor proved insufficient to convince the army to admit its mistake.

Dreyfus was retried — and again convicted, but his life sentence was reduced to 10 years. Finally, on Sept. 18, 1899, after both the French state and the army had become the object of derision, Dreyfus was granted a presidential pardon.

Two weeks later, Zola was granted amnesty and permitted to return to France. When Zola died on Sept. 28, 1902, passions were still running high.

A crowd of 50,000 Parisians accompanied the coffin to the Montmartre cemetery, where they were attacked by about 5,000 nationalists and anti-Semites. Two shots were fired at Dreyfus.

Though still not technically cleared of treason, Dreyfus rejoined the army. He was promoted to the rank of colonel and awarded the Legion of Honor in 1919. He died on June 12, 1935. □

## Bowing to pressure, Smithsonian pulls plug on 'Israel at 50' series

By Matthew Dorf

WASHINGTON (JTA) — The Smithsonian Institution has canceled a controversial "Israel at 50" series that was slated to take a critical look at the Jewish state.

Bowing to pressure from some American Jewish groups and threats of congressional hearings, the Smithsonian pulled the plug on a seven-week speaker series scheduled for this spring.

The program was proposed by the New Israel Fund, which was to be a co-sponsor with the prestigious national museum.

Instead the Smithsonian Associates, the museum's research and outreach arm, will run its own program in the late spring or early summer.

The New Israel Fund, a liberal fund-raising organization that gives money to Israeli groups which promote civil rights and social change, lambasted the organizations that had led a campaign against the program.

"We are deeply disappointed that the Smithsonian has been forced by a fringe group of Jewish McCarthyites, led by Americans for a Safe Israel, to back out of the lecture series," said the NIF's executive director, Norman Rosenberg.

During the past week, the Smithsonian came under fire from the editorial pages of the Washington Times, New York Post and Boston Herald for the program.

U.S. Rep. Michael Forbes (R-N.Y.) joined the fray, calling on Congress to hold hearings.

The program, which was tentatively titled, "Israel at 50: Yesterday's Dreams, Today's Realities," was billed as a look at the "difficult challenges that Israel must meet if it is to fulfill its founders' vision of a nation based on the concepts of 'freedom, justice and peace,'" according to a program provided by the NIF.

Program topics were scheduled to include: "Peace: The Price of Occupation"; "Full and Equal Citizenship? The Place of Israel's Palestinian Citizens"; and "The End of the Zionist Dream? The Rise of Post-Zionism."

But after groups such as Americans for a Safe Israel, B'nai B'rith and the Anti-Defamation League voiced opposition to the program because they believed it was biased, the New Israel Fund backtracked and said it was still working on the final program.

In fact, some Likud Party speakers were added to the series in recent days.

But that was not enough for the Smithsonian, which pulled out of the program on Tuesday.

"It is our intention to highlight Israel's achievements in its stunning 50-year history, to consider some of the key issues it faces, and to examine its hopes for the years ahead," the Smithsonian wrote in a letter to Forbes. "To that end, we are developing a program that will be fair and appropriate."

In a telephone interview, Forbes hailed the Smithsonian's decision.

"It was clearly a one-sided approach and was not going to be a celebration of the 50 years of the Jewish state, but a critique by the left of the Jewish state," Forbes said.

The Smithsonian rejected a proposal by the Anti-Defamation League to join as a co-sponsor with the New Israel Fund and revamp the program.

New Israel Fund officials, who only last week were relishing

their success in convincing the Smithsonian to sponsor their program, defended its intent.

"It was designed to take an in-depth look at Israel's prodigious accomplishments in its first half-century and some of the challenges facing this vibrant young democracy as it enters its next half-century," Rosenberg said.

For his part, the executive director of Americans for a Safe Israel defended his group and hailed the Smithsonian's decision.

"The program should be fair and without any bias to one side," Herb Zweibon said.

Many others welcomed the Smithsonian's decision as well.

"While I do not expect the Smithsonian to have a birthday party, there was very little they were celebrating," said Abraham Foxman, the ADL's national director. "It was a shopping bag of all the flaws and anxieties. It was skewed."

For its part, the Israeli Embassy said it had no problem with the original program. According to an Israeli official, the Smithsonian plans to invite the Israeli ambassador to participate in its new program, now in the planning stages. □

## Anti-missionary Web site sparks ire of Jews for Jesus

By Faygie Levy

NEW YORK (JTA) — A legal battle may be brewing between a messianic group and an anti-missionary activist over the use of a Web site address.

The site — [www.jewsforjesus.org](http://www.jewsforjesus.org) — is not a site maintained by Jews for Jesus; rather, it is aimed at stopping the missionary group. The nearly 4-week-old site was created by Steven Brodsky, a litigation lawyer and Web developer from West Orange, N.J., who wanted to help people who have "lost their way" or have questions about Judaism.

The site asks people to "come home to the truth and beauty of Judaism" and challenges them to find out how "Jews for Jesus is founded upon deceit and distortion of facts."

Brodsky's site is linked to the Web site of the anti-missionary organization Outreach Judaism. And that has Jews for Jesus, which has its own Web site — [www.jews-for-jesus.org](http://www.jews-for-jesus.org) — up in arms.

A lawyer for the messianic organization e-mailed Brodsky and warned him that if he did not stop using the domain name or Web address, then the group would take legal action for trademark infringement.

Brodsky is using a "blatantly fraudulent and deceitful practice of luring people to a Web site that is called Jews for Jesus when they are just the opposite, Jews against Jesus," the executive director of Jews for Jesus, David Brickner, said in a news release.

"If Brodsky does not drop his misleading use of our name, we are ready to use all legal remedies available to us," Brickner added.

Brodsky said he is not violating any trademark and has no intention of backing down.

"I am not infringing on their rights in any way," he said in a telephone interview. "They have not trademarked the domain name, which is [an] entirely separate area of the law."

As for the charge that he is being deceitful, Brodsky said, "I make it very clear that it is not Jews for Jesus.

"The issue here is not trademark infringement, it's the truth," he said, adding, "That's why Jews for Jesus is attacking me, they're afraid of the truth." □