



# Daily News Bulletin

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81<sup>st</sup> Year

## TOP NEWS IN BRIEF

### Deadline looms on talks

Israeli and Palestinian negotiators met for another round of talks aimed at breaking the stalemated peace process. The Palestinian Cabinet issued a statement before the talks began, calling them a "total waste of time." A leading Palestinian Authority official, Nabil Sha'ath, said the Palestinians would suspend the talks if no progress was made in the coming days. [Page 4]

### Labor officials visit Washington

Leaders of Israel's opposition Labor Party met with U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern Affairs Martin Indyk, members of the House of Representatives and officials from the American Israel Public Affairs Committee.

The delegation is slated to meet this week with the U.S. national security adviser, Sandy Berger, and Secretary of State Madeleine Albright. [Page 1]

### Nazi trial opens in New York

Opening arguments were heard in a New York federal court in the trial of former Nazi Jakob Reimer. The U.S. Justice Dept. is seeking Reimer's denaturalization because, officials say, he lied about his participation in the wartime killing of Jews in his 1952 application to immigrate to the United States. Reimer's attorney, former U.S. Attorney General Ramsey Clark, said Reimer was not directly involved in killing Jews.

### Yad Vashem criticizes crosses

The Yad Vashem Holocaust Memorial in Jerusalem called on Poland to remove some 50 crosses erected last month outside the site of the Auschwitz death camp. The memorial said the crosses were a "provocative act" by "extremist groups." The crosses were erected by a Catholic workers group as part of a campaign to maintain Christian symbols at the site.

### Farrakhan follower accused

Jewish leaders in Britain are calling for the prosecution of a follower of Nation of Islam leader Louis Farrakhan on charges of inciting racial hatred. The call came after Paul Twino accused the British government of capitulating to its "Hebraic puppeteers" when it barred Farrakhan from entering Britain last month. [Page 3]

## NEWS ANALYSIS

### Veteran of U.S.-Israel tensions returns as Jewish state's envoy

By Matthew Dorf

WASHINGTON (JTA) — When Zalman Shoval arrived here last month, a Middle East analyst gave Israel's new ambassador a bottle of aspirin.

But Shoval, a veteran of the Washington political minefield, remained one step ahead. Pulling a small container from his suit pocket, Israel's chief diplomat in the United States told the audience gathered for his inaugural speech that he already carries aspirin with him.

This should come as no surprise, given his first tenure as ambassador earlier this decade. Shoval said at the time the years 1990 to 1993 were "probably been the most difficult period ever" in the history of U.S.-Israel relations.

The period was marked by open strife between Jerusalem and Washington over the expansion of Israeli settlements, U.S. loan guarantees to assist Israel with the mass immigration from the former Soviet Union, the 1991 Gulf War and the start of Arab-Israeli peace talks in Madrid later that year.

For his experience of managing bilateral tensions while serving the last Likud prime minister, Shoval, 68, was tapped by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to return to Israel's Embassy here.

This time around, too, Shoval's tenure is likely to be fraught with difficulty.

He returns to the embassy at a time of friction between the White House and the Israeli government over the peace process, specifically regarding a U.S. proposal for Israel to transfer an additional 13 percent of the West Bank to the Palestinian Authority.

Shoval also is likely to find himself doing battle with the Israeli opposition — on American soil.

Indeed, Labor Party chairman Ehud Barak was in Washington this week, leading a delegation of senior officials from his party in meetings with administration and congressional officials, as part of an ongoing lobbying drive to push Netanyahu's hand in the peace process.

But Shoval also faces a challenge that he did not encounter on his last tour — the task of rebuilding the embassy's stature.

Many pro-Israel activists hope that Shoval's arrival will mark the end of what many call a "sad chapter" in the embassy's history.

His predecessor, former Likud Knesset member Eliahu Ben-Elissar, was the subject of frequent rumors — he flew to Israel twice to fight to keep his job — and of embarrassing reports.

Visiting Israeli Cabinet members left him in a car outside the State Department at least once.

Ben-Elissar was also once left sitting in a hotel lobby so that he would not overhear an important conversation.

While Ben-Elissar's two-year tenure was marked by such isolation and by conflict with Netanyahu, Shoval, a Likud centrist, has direct access to the Prime Minister's Office.

In fact, during an hourlong interview last week at the ambassador's office, Shoval received his "daily" call from Netanyahu.

Ben-Elissar is now serving as ambassador to France.

By all accounts, restoring the embassy's reputation will not be easy.

Middle East analysts from all sides of the political spectrum say U.S.-Israel

## MIDEAST FOCUS

### Unemployment battle planned

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu created a council to fight growing unemployment. The move came after the latest statistics indicated that unemployment had reached 9.3 percent in May, with some 210,000 Israelis out of work. Israel's Industrialists Association predicted that the rate could reach 10.5 percent next year, with 240,000 unemployed.

### Haredim attack television crew

Fervently Orthodox youths threw stones at an Israeli television crew that was broadcasting a report on Conservative and Reform women praying at the Western Wall on Tisha B'Av, according to the Israeli daily Ha'aretz. The crew had to stop broadcasting after the youths tried to damage television equipment and disconnect the camera and sound cables.

### Union rejects Israeli ties

The Palestinian Journalists Union called on its members to sever all contacts with their Israeli counterparts. A union official said the Arab Journalists Union, with members in 16 Arab countries, had adopted a similar stance last month and was planning to blacklist all members who ignored the ban.

### Palestinians seek prisoners

Palestinian officials gave Israel a list of 120 Arab prisoners they want released. Israel's public security minister, Avigdor Kahalani, said last week he supported freeing some Palestinian prisoners as a confidence-building measure.

### Israel puts Arrow on display

Israel displayed a model of its Arrow anti-missile system at a military exhibition in Tel Aviv marking the Jewish state's jubilee. But a key component of the system, which is still in the testing phase, was kept from public view. The system, co-financed by Israel and the United States, is expected to be deployed next year.



## Daily News Bulletin

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relations are likely headed for renewed confrontation. Even if Israeli and Palestinian negotiators reach an agreement on a U.S. plan to break the deadlocked peace process, many fundamental disagreements loom ahead over issues reserved for the final-status talks.

If those negotiations commence, Shoval could again find himself in the midst of an open conflict between the United States and Israel on such contentious matters as settlements, Palestinian statehood and the status of Jerusalem.

To keep relations smooth, Shoval hopes to take a lesson from his last tour here.

President Bush thought that he had received a commitment from then-Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir to stop building new settlements. As Israel continued to break ground on new settlements, the Bush administration seethed and threatened to hold up the loan guarantees.

In order to maintain good relations, Shoval wants to "avoid misunderstandings or accusations of not having said the truth or the whole truth."

Therefore, he said, the time is coming to communicate Israel's "red lines" on final-status issues to the Clinton administration.

With decision time "getting much nearer," Shoval said, some of the disagreements between Israel and the United States "may become much more concrete now."

"In the past, we said, and the Americans said, 'Okay, one day when we come to the actual negotiations we will have to see.'"

But, the envoy added, "Maybe we disagree and we have to fight about it."

Anticipating these possible disagreements, Shoval wants to see the American role in the peace process revert back to that of mediator.

Ironically, at Israel's request, U.S. negotiators have sat at the table with the parties as an active participant since last year.

What Shoval wants has recently transpired: U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright recently urged the two sides to meet alone to resolve the differences that have stalled the peace process.

As a result, Israeli and Palestinian officials have been meeting in Israel without the presence of American representatives.

When Shoval ended his first tour as ambassador he cautioned: "We can't let the Arabs think that they have to negotiate with America instead of Israel."

Many fear that the current U.S. plan has created exactly that dynamic.

"I would not use the term 'a smaller United States role,'" Shoval said when asked about the proper balance for American intervention. "Ideally, it should be a somewhat different American role."

At his speech at the Washington Institute for Near East Policy, where he was offered the aspirin, the new ambassador said that if the United States becomes a "judge" in the peace talks, it "could create bilateral disagreements in the future between us and the U.S."

"We would rather have disagreement with our Arab interlocutors than with America," he said.

By way of illustration, Shoval said negotiations for both the Egyptian and Palestinian peace accords began without the Americans at the table.

This does not mean that the deals could have been closed without the United States, he added.

"As it says in the book of Genesis, America saw that it was well and came to play a leading role," he said.

Even though this role led to the Oslo accords, which Shoval continues to criticize, the ambassador — like his country's government — promises to press ahead with the peace process.

Indicative of his diplomatic skills, Shoval danced around his opposition to the Oslo accords with the help of a dictionary.

"I wouldn't say that my government is devoted to the Oslo agreement — that we are affectionate, fond or loving towards it," he said.

"But I can say, unequivocally, that we are committed to it. I know that committed also means to be consigned to a mental institution for the insane — some on the right may think so," he said.

"But this is not what I mean." □

## JEWISH WORLD

### Low named OMB director

The Senate confirmed Jack Low, 42, to serve as President Clinton's director of the White House Office of Management and Budget.

As deputy budget chief and a senior White House domestic policy aide, Low was instrumental in constructing the compromise that restored some federal welfare benefits to legal immigrants.

### Israeli Embassy denies reports

The Israeli Embassy in Bonn denied German press reports that Israel refused to recognize the Orthodox conversion of the daughter of German Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel and will not grant her citizenship.

Embassy officials said there had merely been bureaucratic delays in processing the citizenship application of Andrea Kinkel, who is married to an Israeli and had converted in the United States.

### Gotti's Jewish connection cited

Lawyers for John A. "Junior" Gotti are arguing that allegations of his being a mob boss are unfounded because his mother and wife have Jewish ancestry.

Under mob rules, a full member of the mob must be 100 percent Italian, the lawyers argued during a court battle in New York. Federal prosecutors countered that the mob relaxed the rules years ago.

Gotti, whose father, John J., is now imprisoned for life for his activities as head of the Gambino crime family, could be sentenced to 20 years in jail if convicted of racketeering.

### Film focuses on Jewish identity

A movie in which actress Minnie Driver plays a Sephardi Jew in 19th-century London opened in Los Angeles and New York.

In "The Governess," Driver plays a woman who hides her Jewish identity when she takes a job in a household on a remote Scottish island following the death of her father. The movie will be released across North America on Aug. 14.

### Patinkin on Lower East Side

Broadway and television star Mandy Patinkin tells an immigrant's emotional tale in a new one-man show, "Mamaloshen," performed at a former synagogue on New York's Lower East Side.

The performance, which runs for three weeks, is part of what has been called the 45-year-old singer's "restoration project" of the Jewish musical tradition.

Patinkin's choice of venue, the Angel Orensanz Foundation and Center for the Arts, opened in 1992 as part of the revitalization of the immigrant neighborhood in downtown Manhattan.

## Chief rabbi asks Lithuania to transfer Torahs to Israel

By Lev Krichevsky

MOSCOW (JTA) — Israel's chief Ashkenazi rabbi has asked Lithuania to transfer dozens of Torah scrolls to the Jewish state.

The scrolls, currently housed in the Baltic nation's main library, are at the center of a dispute between Lithuania and Jewish groups, both in Lithuania and abroad, over the ownership of a large repository of Judaica material.

More than 300 Torahs and some 52,000 Hebrew and Yiddish books were transferred to the library after they were discovered languishing in a church in Vilnius, the Lithuanian capital. Nearly 94 percent of the country's Jewish community perished in the Holocaust. Yisrael Meir Lau, who visited the Baltic nation last month, told Lithuanian President Valdas Adamkus that "museums and libraries are not an appropriate place" for religious items, according to Simonas Alperavicius, chairman of the Lithuanian Jewish community.

Lau's request comes as an international coalition is continuing to work with the library to catalog the Judaica collection.

Deciding who the rightful owners of the materials are will take place after the documentation process is concluded, said Jerome Chanes, program director for the National Foundation for Jewish Culture, the New York-based group that is coordinating the coalition.

While it will take several years to catalog the materials, Chanes said, deciding who rightfully owns the Torah scrolls "will be handled before everything else."

But Alperavicius said the issue would be difficult to resolve. With only two functioning synagogues, Lithuanian Jews cannot make use of most of the scrolls.

And the Lithuanian Parliament seems unlikely to approve any request to release the scrolls from the national library.

Most of the lawmakers believe that the scrolls are part of Lithuania's national heritage and should remain in the country.

In a telephone interview from Vilnius, Alperavicius said Adamkus has promised Lau that he would meet with Lithuanian Jewish community to discuss "what could be done on this issue." □

(JTA intern Julia Strongwater contributed to this report.)

## Farrakhan follower may face charges

LONDON (JTA) — A follower of Louis Farrakhan is creating an uproar in Britain.

Jewish leaders in Britain are calling for Paul Twino to be prosecuted on charges of inciting racial hatred after Twino accused the British government of capitulating to its "Hebraic puppeteers" when it barred the Nation of Islam leader from entering Britain last month.

Twino also said in a letter to British Home Secretary Jack Straw that the Board of Deputies of British Jews, the representative body of British Jewry, is a "loathsome and slanderous generation of talmudic vipers."

"With insolence unparalleled," Twino wrote, "the Jews have been shameless in their mutilation of his utterances.

"The absurdity of the false allegations leveled against the Honorable Minister Louis Farrakhan has been outweighed only by their sheer vindictiveness."

Twino also warned the British government of dire consequences if the order banning Farrakhan was not reversed.

The board of deputies director-general, Neville Nagler, said Twino's language was "highly abusive toward the Jewish people and has many passages which reflect the writer's hatred toward members of our community. It might incite followers of the Nation of Islam to hatred against Jews."

A spokesperson for the prosecutors office said it was still considering whether to take action against Twino. □

**BEHIND THE HEADLINES****Hit film 'Saving Private Ryan' features a Jewish infantryman***By Tom Tugend*

LOS ANGELES (JTA) — When Steven Spielberg first saw Adam Goldberg in the ABC television series "Relativity," the director scribbled a three-word memo to himself: "intense, funny, Jewish."

Out of this thumbnail description grew Goldberg's role as Pvt. Stanley Mellish, the Jewish infantryman in "Saving Private Ryan." The unflinchingly realistic World War II movie, starring Tom Hanks, has opened to widespread critical superlatives.

It's also been the top-grossing movie in America since it opened late last month.

Goldberg's role has been warmly embraced by Hollywood Jews, who thank him "for representing us so well." Jewish newspapers call for interviews, most of which he declines.

The adulation makes Goldberg uneasy. He abhors the idea of being stereotyped as a "Jewish" actor. "I want total latitude in my work," he says during a 90-minute interview at his girlfriend's home in the Hollywood Hills.

To keep the record straight, he also points out that according to halachah, or Jewish law, he is not Jewish. His father is Jewish, but his mother is a non-practicing Catholic.

Ironically enough, it was his mother, who enrolled him in Jewish day school at Temple Emanuel in Beverly Hills, Calif., which he attended from first to sixth grade.

The experience "pretty well burned me out on the religious aspect of Jewishness," he says. Indeed, he refused to have a Bar Mitzvah. "I felt that unless I really believed in what I would be saying, then everything was a sham and in a sense disrespectful to the religion," he says.

Yet, at a crucial point in his career, Adam rejected the option of jettisoning his Jewish-sounding name. Shortly before starting work on the 1993 high-school film "Dazed and Confused," he decided to anglicize his family name. But at the last second, he decided against the change.

Why? "The idea just made me uncomfortable," he says.

When Goldberg auditioned for "Saving Private Ryan," he had not seen a script, and the character of Pvt. Mellish did not yet exist. Goldberg was trying out for the role of Pvt. Reiben, the rebellious non-Jewish soldier from Brooklyn, N.Y., which ultimately went to Edward Burns.

Goldberg first saw the Mellish role just three weeks before the start of shooting when "someone surreptitiously slipped me the script," he says.

Even after he won the role, the film itself almost fell apart.

When Goldberg and the seven other men in his infantry squad arrived in England in June 1997, they were met by ex-Marine Capt. Dale Dye, a man "with the coldest and steeliest-looking eyes I had ever seen," recalls Goldberg.

Dye proceeded to put the "recruits" through a hellish boot-camp training. After four days of intensive drills in a constant rain, practically no sleep in soaked pup tents and ailments ranging from fever and blisters to vomiting, the actors rebelled.

Seven of the "soldiers" decided to quit the film. Only Tom Hanks dissented, telling the men they would regret their decision 25 years later. Hanks asked for a second vote. This time, the

majority decided to stick it out. Goldberg cast one of the two dissenting votes.

"I knew how the vote would go, but I wanted to make my point," he says. "I felt I owed that much to my integrity."

Even during the film's shooting, the character of Pvt. Mellish changed.

"It started out as a wise-ass, tough Jewish kid," says Goldberg. "Then it became this real obtuse guy, the butt of jokes. Finally, we went back to the wise-ass kid."

In contrast to earlier wartime books and films, such as the 1958 film "The Young Lions," which stressed anti-Semitism in the U.S. Army, "Private Ryan" takes Mellish's Jewishness for granted.

There are only three brief incidents, all initiated by Mellish, to show that he is a Jew, and one has to pay fairly close attention to catch them.

The first comes right after the opening D-Day invasion sequence, when one of Mellish's friends finds a decorated Hitler Youth knife and hands it to him. Mellish looks at it, jokes "Now it's a Shabbas challah cutter" and then breaks down and cries.

In the second incident, during a close combat scene, a German soldier hurls odd insults — "Babe Ruth is a Jew" — and Mellish yells back, "Your priest was circumcised by my rabbi."

Finally, in the most affecting of the three incidents, Mellish confronts a line of German prisoners of war, pulls out a Star of David rubber-banded to his dog tags, shoves it into a German's face and repeats, "Ein Jude, ein Jude, ein Jude."

Goldberg, who at 27 looks younger and skinnier than on screen, has a busy upcoming schedule. He will next be seen in the Ron Howard film, "ed TV," and he has an exclusive deal with ABC to develop and star in his own television series.

Goldberg plans to continue acting, but wants to focus on writing and directing his own films. His neo-noir "Scotch and Milk," a jazz-laden movie, shot in black-and-white, was recently screened at the Los Angeles Independent Film Festival. □

**Deadline looms on talks**

JERUSALEM (JTA) — Israeli and Palestinian negotiators have met for another round of talks aimed at breaking the stalemated peace process.

The Palestinian Cabinet issued a statement before the talks began, calling them a "total waste of time."

A leading Palestinian Authority official, Nabil Sha'ath, said the Palestinians would suspend the talks if no progress was made in the coming days. Sha'ath was joined by other Palestinian officials in saying that Monday's talks — involving an aide to Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, Yitzhak Molcho, and Palestinian negotiator Saeb Erekat — had better prove decisive.

Netanyahu criticized what he called the Palestinian "ultimatums."

He told a news conference Monday, "I think the Palestinians would be ill advised to create artificial crises."

Meanwhile, the U.S. State Department called on Israel and the Palestinians to put "specific proposals" on the negotiating table in order to reach an agreement on a further Israeli redeployment from the West Bank.

Contradicting top U.S. officials who said last week that the peace process was nearing collapse, State Department spokesman James Rubin told reporters, "We do believe the parties are moving closer to an agreement." □