



# Daily News Bulletin

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## TOP NEWS IN BRIEF

### Middle East negotiations halted

Israeli-Palestinian negotiations have come to a halt in the wake of the murder of two Jewish settlers in the West Bank.

The latest breakdown in the talks came amid reports that the sides were close to an agreement on a further Israeli redeployment from the West Bank.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu demanded Thursday that Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat condemn the shooting near Yizhar before negotiations resume. [Page 2]

### Nazi bill passes House

The U.S. House of Representatives unanimously passed a bill that would declassify U.S. files on Nazi war crimes.

The bill, which now goes to President Clinton, would require the government to disclose documents that detail, among other things, the relationships between suspected Nazi war criminals and U.S. intelligence.

### Settler: Handover a done deal

An Israeli settler leader said Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu had already decided to hand over parts of the West Bank close to Jewish settlements to the Palestinians.

Israel's Cabinet Secretary, Danny Naveh, confirmed that the discussions between the premier and the mayor of the Jordan Valley regional council had focused on parts of the Judean Desert. [Page 2]

### Flatow amendment passes

The U.S. House of Representatives passed an amendment that clears the way for families of American terrorist victims to collect punitive damages from liable foreign nations.

The amendment, authored by Rep. Jim Saxton (R-N.J.), bars the Justice Department from spending any U.S. tax dollars to intervene against any such claims.

The Justice Department has objected to attempts by the Flatow family to collect on a \$247.5 million judgment by having frozen Iranian assets in the United States turned over to them.

Alisa Flatow, a 20-year-old American student, was killed in a terrorist attack in the Gaza Strip in 1995.

## AROUND THE JEWISH WORLD

### Orthodox intern program trains young Jewish political activists

By Daniel Kurtzman

WASHINGTON (JTA) — They are some of the best and brightest in the Orthodox Jewish community, and over the past nine summers the Orthodox Union has been placing them near the heart of power in the nation's capital.

This year, nearly 40 college students spent six weeks immersed in the Washington political scene through the O.U.'s summer internship program.

The program, which attempts to groom the next generation of activists to represent Orthodox Jewish interests in the political arena, places students in the offices of Republican and Democratic members of Congress, Jewish organizations such as the American Israel Public Affairs Committee — even the Library of Congress.

While many young Jews intern in Washington during the summer, the O.U.'s program is the only one on Capitol Hill run by a Jewish organization.

"They certainly get a more intimate knowledge of politics and government," said Nathan Diament, director of the O.U.'s Institute for Public Affairs, which chooses the select group from among hundreds of applicants.

"They come away with some substantive knowledge, they get to network a little bit, and hopefully, more than anything else, they get inspired to stay involved, both in politics and in Jewish communal life as well."

Indeed, for students studying and preparing for careers in the public policy arena, the experience can prove invaluable.

"It really flushed out what you learn in political science classes," said Karen Zelenetz, a 19-year-old sophomore at Columbia University in New York. "It gave a different dimension to text book material."

Zelenetz worked for Rep. Charles Schumer (D-N.Y.), who represents her Brooklyn district.

Her experience proved particularly exciting as she watched Schumer campaign for Senate, seeking to oust Sen. Alfonse D'Amato (R-N.Y.).

"You become a real loyal fan of your congressman when he's running, watching the polls and things like that," she said.

For Joseph Levine, interning for Rep. Benjamin Gilman (R-N.Y.), chairman of the House International Relations Committee, offered an opportunity not only to learn about the political process, but to make a contribution.

Levine, a 21-year-old junior at Columbia University from Los Angeles, spent most of his time researching and writing reports on legislative issues while also answering some constituent mail and helping draft an occasional letter to the vice president or secretary of state.

A highlight of his summer was spending a day with Gilman, who took him to a committee meeting, introduced him to foreign dignitaries in the hallways and brought him along for a visit to the White House.

"I think I have a real better understanding of how government functions, how politics works and what it means to get a bill through Congress," Levine said.

"One thing that surprised me," he added, "was how much the committee staff was really involved in the legislative process."

Usually the congressman will say, 'This is an issue I want to take care of,' and the committee staffer will really take that issue to its end and write the legislation, gather signatures and make it happen, sometimes without the congressman really overseeing

## MIDEAST FOCUS

### Officials: Don't expand Yizhar

Senior Israeli security officials warned against expanding the West Bank settlement where two settlers were killed earlier this week. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu pledged after the attacks to build a "new neighborhood" at Yizhar.

### Rabbi calls for 'sub-marriages'

A leading Orthodox rabbi in Israel called for the institution of civil marriages in Israel that will carry no religious weight. Yisrael Rosen, the head of the Chief Rabbinate's Conversion Authority, said he believes his proposal for "sub-marriages" is necessary because of the high number of recent immigrants to Israel who are not Jewish.

### U.N. panel condemns Israel

A United Nations panel of human rights experts condemned Israel's interrogations of prisoners and its treatment of residents of the West Bank and Gaza Strip. The panel's report, which reportedly contains four paragraphs of positive conclusions and seven pages of negative ones, expressed concern that Israel denies the need to implement the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. An Israeli spokesman said Israel must balance its commitment to human rights with its need to protect its citizens.

### Ashrawi quits Cabinet

A leading Palestinian politician quit the Palestinian Cabinet. Hanan Ashrawi said she would not accept a position as tourism minister in Yasser Arafat's new government because of corruption and Arafat's handling of peace talks with Israel.

### Tunisia refuses Israeli envoy

Tunisia refused to issue a visa to Israel's incoming envoy to the North African country. The move comes amid a worsening of relations between the two countries, which established diplomatic ties in 1995.



## Daily News Bulletin

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it much at all." In addition to their work experience, the O.U. staff brought the interns together for regular interactive sessions, including Shabbatons and Torah lectures by rabbis in the area.

"There's a whole program built around what goes on in their daily internship activities," Diament said.

Like most Hill internships, much of the interns' day-to-day work is far from glamorous, including photo copying and clipping news reports.

"I wasn't expecting an incredibly wonderful job of making policy," said Daniel Pilarski, a 20-year-old junior at the University of Chicago from College Park, Md. "I expected it to be a lot of grunt work, but I've been seeing a lot of interesting things."

A high point for him was meeting a variety of political figures at various events, including President Clinton and Vice President Al Gore.

Working in one of the few congressional offices located in the Capitol building itself, Pilarski also ended up seeing far more than he might have bargained for.

He was in the Capitol when last month's shooting occurred, one floor above the horrifying scene that left two police officers dead and a tourist seriously wounded. He was in the middle of faxing something when he heard "a lot of noise and bustling," followed by a flood of tourists rushing into the office.

"They locked us in there for an hour and a half," he said. "We didn't really know what was going on but we knew there was a gunman in the building."

"I was clearly kind of scared," he said, adding that when he learned what happened he was grateful to be alive.

If the gunman had run up the stairs instead of going into House Majority Whip Tom DeLay's office, "he would have come right where we are," said Pilarski.

"I'm very grateful to those officers who gave their lives to help save my life." □

## Netanyahu demands Arafat condemn attack on settlers

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM (JTA) — Israeli-Palestinian negotiations have come to a halt in the wake of the murder of two Jewish settlers in the West Bank — amid reports that the sides were close to an agreement on a further Israeli redeployment from the West Bank.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu demanded Thursday that Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat condemn the shooting near Yizhar before negotiations resume.

Although Israeli and Palestinian officials met Wednesday, as scheduled, after the attack, no meetings took place Thursday and no further negotiations were planned.

Dr. Ahmed Tibi, an Israeli Arab adviser to Arafat, said the Palestinian leader had not condemned the attack because the Palestinian Authority draws a distinction between what they call regular Israelis and the settlers.

The sides have been meeting in an effort to bridge gaps that would enable Israel to agree to a 13 percent pullback, a figure proposed by the United States months ago and already accepted by the Palestinians. Netanyahu reportedly has agreed to a 10 percent withdrawal, but has been trying to find a way to meet the U.S. proposal without giving the Palestinians full control over an additional 3 percent.

After meeting in Amman on Thursday with Jordan's Crown Prince Hassan, Israel's public security minister, Avigdor Kahalani, said a compromise formula on the 3 percent was in the making, but he refused to elaborate.

During their three-hour meeting, Kahalani handed Hassan a message from Netanyahu that the negotiations with the Palestinians were "close to a solution."

Further indications of a possible compromise came from an Israeli settler leader who, after meeting with Netanyahu on Thursday, charged that the premier had already decided to transfer to the Palestinians parts of the West Bank close to Jewish settlements, a move the settlers believe may harm their security.

Israel's Cabinet Secretary, Danny Naveh, confirmed that the discussions between the premier and the mayor of the Jordan Valley regional council had focused on withdrawal from parts of the Judean Desert. □

## JEWISH WORLD

### Suit filed against Jewish group

A Holocaust survivor filed a lawsuit against the Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany.

Gabrielle Hammerstein, an opera singer, is seeking \$25 million in damages.

She charges that the Claims Conference tried to block restitution owed to her from her parents' estate and obtain the money from the German government for itself. The Claims Conference said it withdrew its claim to Hammerstein's property in 1995.

### House defeats anti-sanctions act

The U.S. House of Representatives defeated a measure aimed at preventing the federal government from filing lawsuits to block state and local sanctions against Swiss banks.

The measure had been introduced in anticipation of a possible ruling by the World Trade Organization that such sanctions are illegal.

Some lawmakers said the United States, as a member of the WTO, would be obligated to compel states and municipalities to abide by the organization's ruling, possibly through lawsuits.

But there is no indication the administration is considering any such legal action.

### Religious workers penalized

A measure recently adopted by the Russian Foreign Ministry requires foreign religious workers to obtain a new visa every three months.

The law requires workers to leave the country four times a year and receive a new visa at a Russian Consulate in their home country before they can return to Russia to continue their work.

### Poland refuses to remove crosses

The Polish Cabinet said it would not remove crosses recently put up outside the site of the Auschwitz death camp. In a statement, the government said it was up to the Vatican, as a result of an agreement between Poland and the Church, to decide what to do with religious symbols.

Meanwhile, nationalist and Catholic activists erected two additional 9-foot crosses near the former death camp.

### Exhibit features Hitler globe

A new art exhibition in Washington, D.C., features Adolf Hitler's desk globe from his Berlin bunker. "World War II Through Russian Eyes" presents artifacts culled from Russian military archives — many on view for the first time.

The privately organized exhibition will travel to five other U.S. cities after a monthlong run in the new Reagan federal office building.

## German politician seeks funds for Holocaust museum in Berlin

By Deidre Berger

FRANKFURT (JTA) — As the controversy regarding a proposed Holocaust memorial in Germany rages on, a private group has called for the establishment of a museum here that would focus on the perpetrators.

A "central museum is needed to depict not just the sufferings of the victims but the profiles of the perpetrators," said Rolf Wernstedt, a German Social Democratic Party politician who is president of the Foundation for a German Holocaust Museum.

Wernstedt made his comments at a news conference in Bonn on Tuesday where the establishment of the foundation was formally announced.

The proposed museum, the left-leaning politician said, could challenge visitors to continue reflecting on the background of the Holocaust and its lessons for contemporary life.

Wernstedt said the museum would differ from the Yad Vashem Holocaust Memorial in Jerusalem and the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, which focus on the sufferings of Holocaust victims.

The German museum, he said, could focus on the issues raised by German participation in the Holocaust.

"Who were these perpetrators? How can we evaluate their background? What was the history of anti-Semitism in different areas of daily German life?" Wernstedt proposed as some of the questions that could be researched at the museum.

Exhibitions at the proposed museum would include, in addition to the genocide of European Jewry, the murder of Gypsies and other peoples singled out for persecution by the Nazis.

Wernstedt said the group did not want to compete with efforts to build a Holocaust memorial in Berlin, which has been mired in controversy about the location and design of the memorial for a decade.

This week, the government of the city of Berlin postponed its decision on the project from Aug. 18 to Aug. 25.

A professor in Hanover, Hans-Jurgen Haessler, first proposed the idea of such a museum in 1993.

Since then, Haessler has mobilized support from hundreds of prominent Germans, including politicians, church leaders, historians, museum curators and writers such as Gunther Grass.

Foundation director Wernstedt says that since the group formed a foundation several weeks ago, private and corporate sponsors have already pledged tens of thousands of dollars.

A concept for the museum is currently being drafted and should be completed by December, according to Wernstedt.

But he says a museum will only be possible with financial support from federal, state and local authorities as well. The group has sponsored several public colloquia on Holocaust education issues, but has been unable to secure public financing for the museum.

Until the museum is built, the foundation plans to sponsor exhibitions, lectures, conferences and educational programs relating to the Holocaust.

The future of the plans may be affected by Germany's federal elections, which are scheduled to be held Sept. 27.

The Social Democratic Party's candidate for chancellor, Gerhard Schroeder, recently said he favored the establishment of a documentation center in Germany on the Holocaust.

Schroeder's center-left party is currently leading the conservative party of Chancellor Helmut Kohl at the polls.

A documentation center focusing solely on the crimes of the SS is currently being built in Berlin.

That center, which will be called "The Topography of Terror," is expected to open in the year 2000. □

## Max Fisher, at 90, remains major player in Jewish politics

By Julie Edgar

Detroit Jewish News

DETROIT (JTA) — Max Fisher is the quintessential behind-the-scenes player.

He says he rejected a Cabinet post in the Nixon Administration because he wanted to be an adviser than an employee.

But at the age of 90, Fisher remains deeply involved in American Jewish politics, as his recent birthday parties made clear.

Henry Kissinger, Gerald Ford, George Bush and Newt Gingrich all made appearances at his parties at the Detroit Institute of Arts and Ritz-Carlton here.

Sitting by a pool, he said, is a "bore."

Supporting Jewish causes, of course, is at the top of Fisher's list.

Last month, Fisher, who has served as head of the United Jewish Appeal, Council of Jewish Federations and the Jewish Agency for Israel during his distinguished career as a lay leader, helped stitch together the recent merger of the UJA and the CJF at a recent meeting in Chicago.

Fisher, who made his money in the oil refinery business, still hosts the Allied Jewish Campaign kickoff at his home in suburban Detroit each fall for contributors of \$75,000 or more, pulling in between \$11 to \$12 million.

Robert Aronson, executive vice president of the Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Detroit, said the event is one of the biggest fund-raisers in the country.

Fisher's genius is in his ability to bring together disparate elements of the Jewish community under a common ideal, Aronson said.

"I do not believe there will be another person who brings together the attributes and people like he has because of his personal ability, but also because of the times we've lived through: the creation of the state, the airlift of weapons to Israel during the 1973 war, the kinds of things where Max has played a pivotal role," he said.

"I don't believe you'll see the emergence of another Jewish leader who has as much influence in as many places as Max has had."

Fisher is passionate about the State of Israel, returning back again and again to the idea that it is a refuge for all Jews, that Israel still faces the challenge of integrating Russian and Ethiopian immigrants.

"The position of the Jew in the world is strengthened with a strong Israel," Fisher said.

Fisher is often looked upon as the linchpin in Israel's defeat of Jordan, Egypt, Syria and Iraq during the Six-Day War in 1967. He was able to mobilize a national fund-raising drive that raised \$200 million for the war effort within a few months.

Today, even without imminent threat of war in the Middle East, Fisher is as dedicated as ever.

In fact, Fisher gives more money to the Jewish state than ever before.

His position on the Oslo Accords is to let the Israeli government and people work out their differences.

He also believes that whatever the U.S. policy is toward Israel, it will always support the state.

It's not for me to dictate the policy, he said.

"I've always taken that position and they know that in Israel," he said.

"Whatever government is in power, I try to work with them and be helpful. I can tell them things privately, but publicly, never."

Although Fisher is troubled by the rising political power of the fervently Orthodox in Israel, he said their clout will wane with time.

Fisher is as dedicated to Jewish life at home as he is to the strength of Jewish life abroad.

It was he who, as CJF president in 1971, first raised the idea of funding Jewish day schools.

"People thought I was nuts," said a man who did not have a Bar Mitzvah until he was 75.

"I was applauded by some and I was not applauded by a lot of others. The point I make is this: There's a trend toward giving children a Jewish education. I think it's a healthy thing."

Although his immigrant parents — his father was a peddler — kept a kosher home in Salem, Ohio, Fisher did not have much of a Jewish education.

"Jewish education is like trying to pick up a bowl of Jello that has fallen to the floor. It's hard to handle," he said. "It has to come from the home. You can't force it."

His fondness for Ohio State University, where he majored in business and also starred as a center on the football team, led him to finance a new seven-building business school complex on campus.

The first two buildings are scheduled to open in October.

"I was always active in the school," he said.

"I got a degree, was chosen as outstanding alumnus. I always believe as you go through life, you should put back a little of what you have.

"I do it in Israel, in Detroit, in Salem, at Ohio State University."

Fisher acknowledged that his only real regret is not having spent enough time with his five children when they were young.

But, he said, he gets a kick out of the fact that they have become as committed to the future of both the general and the Jewish communities as he is.

Fisher is the grandfather of 13 and great-grandfather of five. He is loathe to talk about his successors in the Jewish world. Leaders, he noted, just "surface."

President Clinton was an unknown two years before his run for the presidency.

Harry Truman was as well, he pointed out.

"A man who is going to be a leader has to have people who will follow.

"He has to develop a consensus, to bring people together," Fisher said.

He considers himself that kind of leader, and noted with pride that he was one of the first Jews to get involved with United Foundation — now the United Way Community Services.

"A good Jew is a good citizen, and philanthropy comes from Jewish tzedakah. Long before Christianity, we took care of people."

But he hesitates when asked what he most wants to be remembered for.

"I don't know. I am what I am. Max Fisher. I hope it stands for something." □