



# Daily News Bulletin

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81<sup>st</sup> Year

## TOP NEWS IN BRIEF

### Anti-Clinton signs appear in Israel

Signs reading "Clinton Go Home" and depicting the U.S. president in an Arab headdress appeared in Israel days before Clinton was slated to visit Israel and the Palestinian self-rule areas.

Israeli hard-liners, including several Cabinet ministers, believe Clinton's planned visit to the self-rule areas will give legitimacy to Palestinian aspirations for statehood.

But Israeli Foreign Minister Ariel Sharon told Jewish leaders in New York that Clinton will be "a most welcome guest in Israel."

Sharon also said he favors a national unity government as a way to solve the long-term problems facing all Jews.

Speaking in New York to the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, following a high-level visit to Washington, Sharon also urged that the issue of Israel's continuing presence in Lebanon be dealt with separately from peace negotiations with Syria.

### PLO group backs Arafat letter

Members of the PLO Central Committee reaffirmed a letter that Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat sent to President Clinton in January declaring that the anti-Israel clauses in the Palestinian charter are null and void.

The Palestine National Council is expected to take similar action next week at a meeting that Clinton is slated to attend.

### Russian Jews refuse Zyuganov

Russian Jewish leaders said they would not meet with Communist Party leader Gennady Zyuganov until he takes a clear stand on the anti-Semitic comments made recently by Communist lawmaker Albert Makashov.

Zyuganov's request to meet with the leaders came after he met with Israel's ambassador to Russia and a German Jewish leader in an apparent attempt to improve his party's reputation in light of Makashov's remarks.

Meanwhile, some residents of the Russian city of Novosibirsk recently found their mailboxes stuffed with anti-Semitic leaflets.

The leaflets blamed Jews for Russia's economic hardships. [Page 4]

## FOCUS ON ISSUES

### New charities shatter myth about philanthropy in Israel

By Mark J. Joffe

KIBBUTZ SHEFAYIM, Israel (JTA) — Diaspora Jews give dollars to Israel, while Israeli Jews give their lives.

So goes the common conception that philanthropy in Israel is a one-way street, with North American Jews doing all the "giving" and Israelis doing only the "taking."

That myth is being shattered by an explosion of philanthropic efforts in Israel that has been building over the past few years and really erupted during the last 12 months. In the last year alone:

- A grassroots fund-raising campaign, called Spirit of Israel, in which Israelis give to earmarked programs run by the Jewish Agency for Israel, was launched and has already brought in 17,000 contributions totaling some \$4.5 million.
- A Lion of Judah campaign, modeled after the United Jewish Appeal Women's Division program bearing the same name, has been launched in Israel and already counts 56 members among its ranks.

- A United Way-style campaign has set up shop in Israel and is hoping to launch its first campaign next March.

"There are fantastic changes taking place here," says Nicky Capelouto, a businessman who immigrated here from South Africa 20 years ago and now chairs the Spirit of Israel campaign.

"We've got a society that is moving forward with a sense of responsibility for its own issues."

This new burst of philanthropic initiatives can be attributed to a number of factors. First and foremost is Israel's new affluence.

There are now 2,500 millionaire families in Israel, according to Shalom Elcott, who is preparing to launch a nationwide United Way campaign here.

"We've reached a point in Israel where there is enough wealth to contribute to social causes," says Moshe Teomim, co-owner of what is reputed to be Israel's largest market research and advertising agency.

And according to Teomim, Israelis are already doing so. A recent survey conducted by his firm found that 72 percent of Israelis contribute money to a cause, and 74 percent of commercial businesses are involved in community causes of some sort.

Part of the push has come from Diaspora fund-raisers, who have been trying to foster the notion of a philanthropic "partnership" in recent years. The Jewish Agency was considered a major impetus behind the Spirit of Israel campaign and provided much of the seed money for the project.

The American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee has also launched a number of projects in Israel during the past decade aimed at developing an indigenous network of social services funded by Israelis.

Among those projects is an umbrella group called the Third Sector, which serves as a sort of clearinghouse for Israeli self-help groups. Today 350 not-for-profit agencies belong to the Third Sector, which has become a Good Housekeeping-style seal of approval for these charities.

But there has also been a strong push for philanthropy from within Israeli society, as many Israelis have become increasingly concerned about a number of social problems facing the country that they do not think the government is capable of addressing.

One of those Israelis is Ronny Douek, a 40-year-old businessman from Ramat Ha-

## MIDEAST FOCUS

### Premier orders crackdown

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu ordered a crackdown on Palestinian unrest.

It is "our duty to activate the Israeli army" to deal with the unrest "in the firmest way possible," the premier said.

His statement comes after more than a week of often violent demonstrations across the West Bank in which protesters demanded the release of Palestinian activists held in Israeli jails.

### Settlers to accept compensation

Residents of a Jewish settlement that became surrounded by Palestinian self-rule areas following last month's troop redeployment in the West Bank said they would accept compensation in exchange for moving.

In a letter to a member of the Knesset, 39 of the 43 families living in the settlement of Ganim wrote that they would be open to such an arrangement. The letter was sent after a shooting attack Monday near Jenin, in which a resident of a nearby settlement was wounded.

### Jets swoop over Beirut

Israeli jets swooped low over Beirut for a second day, their sonic booms frightening the city's residents.

The jets staged the mock raids after Israeli officials threatened to hit Lebanese power plants and other sites to retaliate for Hezbollah attacks that killed seven Israeli soldiers late last month.

### Central America thanks Israel

A delegation of ambassadors from Central American countries met with Israeli President Ezer Weizman to thank the Jewish state for its assistance to stricken areas hit by Hurricane Mitch in October.

Shortly after the hurricane struck, Israel dispatched medical and other emergency supplies to areas devastated by the storm.

sharon who founded Zionism 2000 — a movement aimed not only at aiding social causes but also at bringing about social change in Israel.

Douek was spurred to action a few years ago by a feature story in the Israeli mass daily Yediot Achronot about the depressed living conditions in the "caravans" set up for recent immigrants from Ethiopia. Disgusted at how the Ethiopians were being treated, Douek set up a charitable trust to fund the construction of community centers at three of the housing sites.

A year later, Douek turned his energy to another social problem that he felt the government was neglecting: drug abuse among Israeli teen-agers. He set up Alternative, a mobile campaign that seeks to educate teens about the dangers of using drugs.

But it was the assassination of the late Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin that convinced Douek the nation's social problems were a symptom of a larger problem of national attitude and values. And so he gathered together a group of 200 thinkers — business people, journalists, actors, lawyers and others — and created Zionism 2000: A Movement for Social Responsibility.

Today the philanthropy, based at this kibbutz, sponsors three major projects: Leadership 2000, an education and service program aimed at fostering democratic values and leadership skills among youth; Business for the Community, a program aimed at getting corporations to take on community improvement projects; and Extend a Hand to One Child, a program in which well-off families volunteer and provide cash assistance to children from needy families, so that they can receive better educational opportunities.

The idea behind these projects is not only to supplement government efforts to address various social problems, but also to help ordinary Israelis develop a sense of responsibility for their fellow citizens.

"There are hundreds of people in our organization who are giving hours of their time to do something" says Douek. Israelis are beginning to "control their own destiny and the destiny of the country."

Fostering that sense of responsibility is also a goal of the Spirit of Israel campaign. The campaign was the brainchild of Avraham Burg, the charismatic chairman of the Jewish Agency Executive.

Burg and the Jewish Agency itself have been trying to develop the idea of an Israel-Diaspora philanthropic partnership, rather than the more traditional one-way flow of money from UJA campaigns to the Jewish state.

It would be wrong, though, to think of Spirit of Israel as the Israeli branch of the United Jewish Appeal. Its founders recognized immediately that a different type of "culture of giving" would be needed on Israeli soil.

"We felt it was important that this campaign be representative of the masses," says Joe Dushansky, the campaign's executive director. "We want to try to get across to every Israeli the importance of philanthropy."

And so the campaign set up polling stations all over Israel last year in which voters were asked to rank their philanthropic priorities. The cause that won was providing assistance to elderly needy people, in a country where there is a shortage of beds for people requiring around-the-clock nursing care.

Last spring, the group launched a campaign dedicated solely to providing assistance for the elderly. One of Israel's television stations pitched in by agreeing to air a series of 30-second public service announcements promoting the campaign.

Spirit of Israel hopes eventually to reach 250,000 donors by focusing on many small gifts, rather than a few large ones. "We treat the donor of one shekel the same as everyone else," Dushansky explains.

Another type of mass appeal is just now getting under way. This one is an attempt to set up a United Way campaign in Israel, in which employees would donate a portion of their paychecks to a philanthropy of their choice.

The project, which opened its offices in September, was initiated by Shari Arison, president of the Arison Foundation and a member of the family that owns Carnival Cruise Lines. It hopes to begin raising money next March.

"We're trying to take a concept that's about 100 years old and replicate it in Israel," explains Shalom Elcott, the project's director.

"Our objective is to empower people," he says. "We think that we can effect a major change that will ultimately reduce the obligations of Diaspora Jewry" to fund humanitarian needs in Israel. □



## Daily News Bulletin

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## JEWISH WORLD

### Clinton urged on Pollard case

Seven former U.S. secretaries of defense urged President Clinton to reject Israel's request to free Jonathan Pollard.

"Notwithstanding our strong support for Israel, we believe that granting clemency to Mr. Pollard would encourage those who would harm our country," said the letter to Clinton, which was signed by Frank Carlucci, Richard Cheney, Melvin Laird, Elliot Richardson, Donald Rumsfeld, James Schlesinger and Caspar Weinberger. As part of the October Wye peace accords, Clinton agreed to review Pollard's life sentence, imposed for spying on the United States for Israel.

### Reno attends museum ceremony

U.S. Attorney General Janet Reno attended the swearing-in for new members of the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Council, the Washington museum's governing body. Five of the 10 new members of the council attended the Tuesday evening ceremony. Those reappointed to the council include U.S. Middle East envoy Dennis Ross and Michael Berenbaum, president of the Survivors of the Shoah Visual History Foundation.

### Livingston backs peace process

The incoming speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives said "it is imperative for the Jewish people" to support the Middle East peace process "because the alternatives are too unimaginable." In his most extensive remarks to date on the subject, Rep. Bob Livingston (R-La.) told a Jewish Republican group that the United States should pursue a "fair and honorable peace for both sides."

### WJC negotiating with bank

An official with the World Jewish Congress said the group is making progress in talks with a German bank on claims against it by Holocaust survivors.

The talks with Deutsche Bank "have entered a rather constructive phase," said WJC Executive Director Elan Steinberg. The bank is facing a class-action lawsuit from survivors, who allege it profited from trade in Holocaust victims' gold. At least one U.S. regulator has called for a delay in the bank's planned merger with the U.S. firm Bankers Trust until the claims are settled.

### Clinton seeks to create award

President Clinton called for the creation of an award for "especially meritorious contributions" in the area of human rights. Clinton directed U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright to establish the award as part of commemorations marking the 50th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which the United Nations adopted to avoid a repetition of the Holocaust.

## Resolution on anti-Semitism brings U.N. around full circle

By Julia Goldman

UNITED NATIONS (JTA) — A decision by the United Nations this week to consider anti-Semitism as a form of racism returns the world body to its roots on the human rights front.

The General Assembly unanimously approved a resolution to list anti-Semitism among other concerns to be investigated by a special U.N. monitor on racism, including racial incidents and discrimination "against blacks, Arabs and Muslims," xenophobia and "Negrophobia."

The Dec. 9 resolution came on the 50th anniversary of the U.N.'s genocide convention and one day before celebrations of the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights, both of which were inspired in large part by the systematic murders perpetrated by the Nazi regime.

"Yesterday, this assembly reaffirmed that all forms of racism, including anti-Semitism, must be defeated in the struggle for human rights," U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan said at the ceremonies commemorating the human rights document.

"To the United Nations, this anniversary is more than a milestone," Annan said. "It is a mirror that reflects how far we have come and how long we have to go."

Although the issue of specifically listing anti-Semitism was raised in Geneva several years ago, according to Israel's deputy permanent representative to the United Nations, Aaron Jacob, the Dec. 9 resolution is the first to specifically mention of anti-Semitism by the 185-member General Assembly.

In November 1975, the General Assembly adopted a resolution declaring that "Zionism is a form of racism and racial discrimination." The resolution was repealed in 1991, against the opposition of most Arab member-states.

In March, at a meeting in Jerusalem of the World Jewish Congress' Israel Council on Foreign Relations, Annan had denounced all forms of anti-Semitism and called the 1975 resolution on Zionism "lamentable." The resolution's adoption was "the low point in relations whose negative resonance even today is difficult to overestimate," he said.

Jacob called this week's decision a "welcome development," one that was championed by the "intense efforts" of Jewish organizations in pushing for the resolution. Turkey was also instrumental in overcoming the objection of Arab and Muslim member-states to the inclusion of the term in the resolution, originally put forth at the U.N. Human Rights Commission in Geneva.

The idea for a U.N. official to monitor forms of racism, including anti-Semitism, was the brainchild of Morris Abram, a former U.S. ambassador to the United Nations in Geneva who now chairs U.N. Watch, a Geneva-based affiliate of the WJC.

Abraham Foxman, national director of the Anti-Defamation League, called the General Assembly's action "long overdue." In a statement, Foxman said the move is "particularly significant" in light of the fact that in 1995, the U.N. omitted "specific mention of the Jewish victims of World War II in a United Nations declaration marking the 50th anniversary" of the war's end.

The Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide was the first human rights treaty adopted by the United Nations.

Raphael Lemkin, the international lawyer who coined the term "genocide," pressed for the treaty's adoption by the General Assembly in 1948. □

## Anti-Semitism rises in Australia

SYDNEY (JTA) — Anti-Semitic incidents reached record levels in Australia during the year ended Sept. 30, according to the main Jewish umbrella group there.

There were a total of 324 such incidents, a 22 percent increase over the previous 12 months and 16 percent higher than the previous record. On the positive side, the number of violent incidents and serious physical confrontations was well below average, a situation that the Executive Council of Australian Jewry attributed to increased security at synagogues and other Jewish institutions. □

## Jewish leadership in Russia struggles with worsening climate

By Lev Krichevsky

MOSCOW (JTA) — Responding to rising concern about the deteriorating climate of anti-Semitism in Russia, Jewish organizational leaders are grappling with how best to ensure the Jewish community's safety.

At a meeting this week, the governing board of the Russian Jewish Congress decided it would lobby the international community to halt contacts with Russia's Communist Party because of its failure to censure one of its members of Parliament, Albert Makashov, who made several public anti-Semitic statements earlier this fall. But some members of the umbrella group are saying that the move does not go far enough, while others believe the threat of anti-Semitism has been overstated.

The debate over the extent of anti-Semitism in Russia and what steps to take in response comes against the backdrop of a deteriorating climate for Jews in Russia. In addition to Makashov's remarks and the Duma's failure to censure him, a lawmaker long supportive of Jewish interests, Galina Starovoitova, was assassinated last month.

Most leaders of the congress, which unites leading representatives of the business community, public figures and prominent rabbis, agree that the Russian Jewish leadership should carry out a low-profile political offensive against anti-Semitism.

"Our mission is not about loud public statements, but about pragmatic work inside and outside of Russia," Yevgeny Satanovsky, a member of the group's board, said after the closed meeting.

It was with this goal in mind that a majority of participants at the meeting supported the initiative of Vladimir Goussinsky, the group's president, to ask the U.S. Congress, the European Parliament and legislative assemblies of major European nations to halt all contact with the 121 Communist and nationalist lawmakers who rejected the censure resolution, according to Moscow Chief Rabbi Pinchas Goldschmidt, a board member.

But some board members are questioning what positive impact these moves will have on Russian Jews.

"I don't feel that everything that could have been done was done," said Rabbi Berel Lazar, the chief emissary of the Lubavitch movement in Russia. "All this activity doesn't reassure the Jewish population and doesn't change the minds of the people on the street."

"It isn't enough to rely on support of the international community. Jews should get together and show that they are not afraid to express their opinion," agreed Tankred Golenpolsky, the founder of *Evreyskaya Gazeta*, the leading Jewish newspaper in Moscow. Golenpolsky advocates the idea of staging a mass Jewish rally in Moscow against fascism and anti-Semitism in Russia.

Yosef Kobzon, a popular singer and Jewish lawmaker who walked out of a parliamentary session saying he would not return until Makashov was suitably chastised, supports the idea of a rally — as does Moscow Mayor Yuri Luzhkov.

But most of the leaders of the congress rejected the proposal, saying it would jeopardize the safety of Russian Jews.

Jewish leaders also decided to press Prime Minister Yevgeny Primakov and Russian Prosecutor General Yuri Skuratov to take

a clear stand against anti-Semitism and take legal measures against Makashov and others.

Primakov has kept silent on the issue so far.

Skuratov announced last month that his agency had found evidence proving that Makashov's statements at several rallies earlier this fall incited ethnic strife — a crime punishable under Russia's criminal code. But the case has apparently stalled in the prosecutor's office.

On Thursday, Skuratov's deputy, Alexander Rozanov, announced that his agency has appointed an expert commission, consisting of psychologists, linguists and anthropologists, to decide whether Makashov's statements would fall under the code.

Meanwhile, Jewish leaders rejected a request from Communist Party leader Gennady Zyuganov to meet with the Russian Jewish Congress leadership.

The board "decided not to meet with him until he takes an unambiguous position on Makashov," Goldschmidt said.

Zyuganov reportedly gave Makashov a mild dressing-down in private, but did not throw him out of the party, as was originally promised.

In an attempt to improve his party's image, Zyuganov has met with Israel's ambassador to Russia and told him that Makashov's views are not those of his party.

Most participants at the Jewish congress meeting said the situation for Jews in Russia is cause for concern but is not grave.

"In most places — especially in Moscow — anti-Semitism is not a problem for somebody walking in the street," said Lazar.

Reports coming from some provincial centers suggest, however, that the economic crisis which hit Russia in August and the public debate over Makashov's remarks have contributed to an increase of anti-Semitism in various parts of the country.

Some residents of the Russian city of Novosibirsk recently found their mailboxes stuffed with anti-Semitic leaflets blaming Jews for Russia's economic hardships. In addition, anti-Semitic sentiments were recently spray-painted in different parts of the Siberian city, which has 9,000 Jews among its 1.5 million residents.

"Jews are scared by this anti-Semitic wave, and few are willing to talk about it openly," a source in the Novosibirsk Jewish community, who insisted on anonymity, said in a phone interview.

The incidents took place after hundreds of stickers saying "Jews Are Rubbish" and showing a man throwing a Star of David into a garbage bin appeared in the northwestern Russian town of Borovichi, according to a community leader there.

With the current situation in mind, Russian Jewish leaders decided to ask authorities to provide special security measures for synagogues and Jewish schools.

The Lubavitch movement, which traditionally stages a massive menorah-lighting ceremony in a downtown Moscow square, has also decided to keep it more quiet this year than in previous years.

"Last year, we had over 1,000 at the ceremony," Lazar said. "Today, people might look at such a crowd as a picket or protest" against anti-Semitism.

"This year, we don't feel it's appropriate to set Jews out on the street," he said. "We don't want a religious ceremony to be falsely understood as a political statement."

The Russian Jewish Congress will hold a Chanukah celebration next Tuesday in one of Moscow's largest concert halls. The event has been advertised on Russian television. □