



Daily News Bulletin

Vol. 77, No. 144

Tuesday, August 3, 1999

82nd Year

TOP NEWS IN BRIEF

Israelis, Palestinians trade barbs

Israeli and Palestinian negotiators are publicly criticizing one another after talks ended in disagreement Sunday with no new date set to reconvene.

Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak criticized the Palestinians' "rigid" rejection of his proposal to delay a troop withdrawal Israel promised under the Wye accord and link it to a final Israeli-Palestinian settlement.

Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat said Monday that Barak is attempting "to avoid the accurate and honest implementation of what has been agreed upon." [Page 4]

Yeltsin condemns anti-Semitism

Russian President Boris Yeltsin condemned Russian anti-Semitism during a meeting Monday at the Kremlin with Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak.

Individuals who commit "disgusting acts of anti-Semitism" will be punished, Yeltsin was quoted as saying. He also vowed to increase Russia's role in Middle East peacemaking, which he described as "going too slowly."

During a meeting with Russian Prime Minister Sergei Stepashin, Barak voiced concern about Russian arms sales to Iran.

In a related development, vandals desecrated six Jewish graves at a cemetery in Siberia.

A local prosecutor said the attack in the city of Tomsk, the latest in a series of incidents in Russia involving Jewish targets, was discovered Sunday, shortly before Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak began his visit to Moscow. [Page 4]

Ballplayer wants Bar Mitzvah

A Jewish baseball player for the Toronto Blue Jays wants to have a belated Bar Mitzvah.

Shawn Green, a 26-year-old outfielder who recently played in baseball's All-Star Game, told The New York Times, "Since I've been in the big leagues, I've learned a lot more about my religion, my heritage."

Green added that his heritage helps him when he plays on the road.

"I might not get booed as bad as somebody who isn't Jewish in certain cities because there are always some Jewish fans at the games that are cheering a little bit."

AIPAC accuses ZOA president of endangering U.S., Israeli interests

By Matthew Dorf

WASHINGTON (JTA) — The American Israel Public Affairs Committee is accusing a hard-line Jewish group of endangering American and Israeli interests by lobbying Congress to put conditions on U.S. aid to Jordan.

AIPAC, the pro-Israel lobby, has urged the Zionist Organization of America to end its campaign against aid to Jordan, according to a letter obtained by JTA.

ZOA has urged lawmakers to condition aid to Jordan — which is expected to total more than \$300 million this year — on the arrest and extradition of Abu Daoud, a Palestinian who admitted in a recent book that he planned the 1972 Munich Olympics massacre, which killed 11 Israeli athletes.

ZOA President Morton Klein says he will not back down and is accusing AIPAC of being soft on terrorism. "Linking aid is a very good way" to convince countries to fight terrorism, Klein said.

The exchange is the latest in a string of conflicts between Klein and AIPAC, which has been entrusted by the organized Jewish community to be its voice on Capitol Hill on Israeli matters.

Abu Daoud had lived in the West Bank for three years until June, when Israel barred his return from Jordan. The move came after his book was published and Germany filed an international arrest warrant for him.

Despite reports that Abu Daoud has left Jordan for an unspecified destination, Klein said that when he started his campaign, he had information that Abu Daoud was still there. In any case, he said he still holds Jordan responsible for not arresting Abu Daoud while he was living there.

Klein's successful campaign convinced 42 members of Congress to send a letter to President Clinton threatening U.S. aid to Jordan.

"We call upon you, Mr. President, to demand that King Abdullah of Jordan honor the Interpol arrest warrant and immediately turn over Daoud to Germany for prosecution," the lawmakers wrote in a June 30 letter to Clinton.

"Failure to do so could adversely affect future aid to Jordan," the lawmakers wrote.

It was the success of the ZOA campaign that led AIPAC to urge Klein to call off his lobbying efforts.

"The gratuitous attack on Jordan's eligibility for U.S. assistance intimated in your campaign is damaging not only to Jordan itself, but also to important American and Israeli interests," AIPAC President Lionel Kaplan and Executive Director Howard Kohr wrote in their July 28 letter to Klein.

"Jordan is a valued U.S. ally and a vital strategic partner of Israel; it works closely with Israel's security forces to combat terrorism," the AIPAC letter said.

U.S. aid is critical for Jordan's "integrity and stability," said AIPAC, noting that both Labor and Likud governments have strongly supported this assistance.

AIPAC believes that Abu Daoud "needs to be brought to justice and punished for his heinous crime, but harmful pressure on Jordan is not the way to achieve this goal," the letter said.

This is not the first time that ZOA has tangled with AIPAC.

In 1994, the pro-Israel lobby accused ZOA of putting U.S. aid to Israel in jeopardy by lobbying in an inappropriate manner during a congressional committee vote on foreign aid.

Klein maintained at the time that he had done nothing inappropriate. Concerned

MIDEAST FOCUS

IDF chief discusses security

Missile attacks from Syria and Iran pose the greatest security threat to Israel, the Israel Defense Force's chief of staff said Sunday.

Lt. Gen. Shaul Mofaz added that such attacks could target Israel's airport, major intersections and infrastructures, hampering the initial response of reserve units, which make up the bulk of the army's fighting force. Mofaz said the IDF should therefore maintain a strong standing army equipped to hold out until reserve units arrive.

Barak returns legislator's permit

Prime Minister Ehud Barak canceled an order barring a Palestinian legislative council member's entry into Jerusalem.

Ziad Abu Ziad's VIP status was revoked by the previous Israeli government after he attended a meeting with foreign consular officials at Orient House, the Palestinian Authority's de facto headquarters in eastern Jerusalem.

Russian envoy dies at 59

Russian President Boris Yeltsin's special envoy to the Middle East died Sunday at 59 after a prolonged illness. Viktor Posuvalyuk, who served as deputy foreign minister, was among Moscow's most experienced diplomats.

After serving at various Middle East embassies during the Soviet era, he played a key role in negotiations with Iraq during more recent years.

Netanyahu takes consulting job

Former Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has agreed to work as a consultant for an Israeli high-tech company. Netanyahu will serve as a strategic marketing consultant for BATM, the firm's president told Israel Television on Monday.

The firm develops, manufactures and markets communications equipment.

about such unilateral efforts, the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organization, an umbrella organization, directed ZOA and other member organizations to coordinate all future lobbying efforts with AIPAC.

Since that time, AIPAC has opposed several ZOA-led efforts on Capitol Hill, including a campaign against aid to the Palestinian Authority, one to press for Palestinian compliance with peace accords with Israel and recently, an effort to force the Palestinian Authority to extradite suspected terrorists to the United States.

AIPAC officials refused to comment on their letter to Klein, but congressional aides said it would likely be heard loud and clear on Capitol Hill. One longtime congressional aide said the letter to ZOA shows that AIPAC is trying to reclaim turf lost on Capitol Hill, where it has faced increasing competition in recent years.

AIPAC joined the fray over aid to Jordan after Jordan's ambassador to the United States failed in his own effort to address congressional concerns expressed in the letter to Clinton.

"I also would like to express deep regret and dismay over attempts by groups such as the Zionist Organization of America to tarnish Jordan's record and even to question its commitment to peace," Marwan Muasher wrote in a letter last month to Speaker of the House Dennis Hastert (R-Ill.).

"In fact, it is we who call into question ZOA's motives behind such actions, particularly when considering the fact that the overwhelming majority of Americans and members of the American Jewish community recognize the Kingdom's record in fighting terrorist and in spearheading efforts to bring about peace in the region."

Muasher reiterated in the letter a promise to arrest Abu Daoud if he tries to re-enter Jordan.

In a three-page letter responding to AIPAC's charges, Klein said the Jordanian pledge "demonstrates that the ZOA's methods are effective."

He also appeared in his letter this week to be on a new collision course with AIPAC, raising new concerns about the presence of Hamas in Jordan.

Klein asked whether the continued presence of Hamas offices there is not a matter "of legitimate concern for an American Jewish organization to raise."

AIPAC responded to the question, saying that Israeli governments have supported U.S. aid to Jordan with "full knowledge" of the Hamas office. □

U.S. teen-ager stows away on jet because he wants to join Mossad

By Douglas Davis

LONDON (JTA) — A teen-ager stowed away — business class — on a recent British Airways flight from Boston to London to prove that he has the mettle to join the Mossad.

A deeply embarrassed British Airways admitted that its security was breached when 17-year-old Abraham Derman managed to smuggle himself aboard a Boeing 747 on July 12.

An airline spokesman said the company is now cooperating with the Federal Aviation Administration, which is investigating the incident.

Derman reportedly climbed the razor wire surrounding Boston's Logan Airport and walked through two miles of restricted area before entering the airliner through a door that should have been locked.

Once aboard the plane, he took a seat in economy class but moved into the business class area when another passenger claimed his seat. He then enjoyed a \$6,000 trip for the duration of the journey, with a choice of 12 films.

The adventure ended when the plane landed at Heathrow Airport in London, and Derman was apprehended by British airport officials. He was sent back to Boston aboard another British Airways flight.

According to The Boston Globe, Derman told investigators that he had stowed away to impress the Mossad.

Sources told the newspaper he is unlikely to face criminal charges because he is under 18, but a spokesman for the airline said the incident is being taken seriously. □



Daily News Bulletin

Caryn Rosen Adelman, *President*
Mark J. Jaffe, *Executive Editor and Publisher*
Lisa Hostein, *Editor*
Howard Levy, *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.
© JTA Reproduction only by previous arrangement.

JEWISH WORLD

Firebomb explodes in Athens

A firebomb exploded Monday outside the office of the Greek-Israeli Friendship Union in Athens.

No one was in the organization's office at the time of the blast, and the explosion caused no injuries, police said.

The device, consisting of two propane gas canisters, caused minor damage to the entrance of the first-floor office.

Jewish leader blasts Germans

The leader of Germany's Jewish community lashed out at his fellow Germans for refusing to allow the Holocaust to remain in public consciousness.

"Every person in Germany feels responsible for Schiller, for Goethe and for Beethoven, but none for Himmler," Ignatz Bubis told the newsweekly magazine Stern.

According to Bubis, a large part of the German public wants to "only look forward," but the Jewish leader warned that to face the future, they must also look to the past.

Clintons, Gore attend service

President Clinton, first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton and Vice President Al Gore attended a memorial service Monday at Washington's Temple Sinai for lobbyist and fund raiser Dan Dutko.

Co-chairman of the Democratic National Committee's top fund-raising body, Dutko died July 25 in a mountain bike accident.

Quoting from the Talmud, Gore remembered Dutko, 54, as a man whose "Yes meant yes. His no meant no."

Jews for Jesus ad removed

The Lycos Web browser site recently removed an advertisement placed by Jews for Jesus that appeared on the search engine page dealing with Jewish matters.

B'nai Brith Canada welcomed the decision, saying Jews for Jesus had "abused the credentials of a reputable company such as Lycos in order to give legitimacy to propaganda and indoctrination."

'Farmbelt Fuhrer' denied permit

Nebraska police had the right to deny a handgun permit to an American neo-Nazi, a judge ruled.

Gary Lauck lied when he said on the permit application that he had not been convicted in any court of a crime punishable by more than a year in prison, the judge said last Friday.

Known as the "farmbelt fuhrer," Lauck was deported by Germany to the United States earlier this year after spending some four years in a German prison for inciting racial hatred.

New appointee to terror panel gets thumbs up from Jews, Arabs

By Daniel Kurtzman

WASHINGTON (JTA) — Just weeks after American Jewish groups erupted in anger over the appointment — and Arab groups opposed the subsequent withdrawal — of a controversial Muslim leader to a counterterrorism commission, leaders of both communities have welcomed a new appointee as an appropriate replacement.

House Minority leader Richard Gephardt (D-Mo.) last Friday named Juliette Kayyem to serve on the 10-member National Commission on Terrorism, which is charged with reviewing national policy on preventing and punishing terrorism.

Kayyem, an Arab American of Lebanese Christian descent, has worked in the civil rights division of the U.S. Justice Department on a variety of policy issues associated with U.S. anti-terrorism laws. She is married to a Jewish lawyer who recently became a professor at Harvard Law School.

Last month, Gephardt withdrew the appointment of Salam Al-Marayati, who heads the Los Angeles-based Muslim Public Affairs Council, after Jewish groups accused him of condoning acts of terrorism and making statements highly critical of Israel.

Gephardt, explaining his decision to revoke the appointment, said only that the process of getting Al-Marayati a security clearance would take longer than the six-month life of the commission itself.

Kayyem, 29, who has served as counsel to the assistant attorney general for civil rights and in other positions in the Justice Department's civil rights division, already has a security clearance.

The withdrawal infuriated Arab and Muslim leaders, who blamed Jewish groups for misrepresenting Al-Marayati as part of what they called a "witch hunt" to exclude Arabs and Muslims from government policy-making positions.

Jewish leaders emphasized that their opposition to Al-Marayati had nothing to do with his ethnic or religious background and solely came down to his statements on terrorism.

Although Al-Marayati has said he condemns terrorism, he came under fire for a series of statements he and his associates have made that placed the blame on Israel for inciting Palestinian terrorist activity and condoned attacks against Israeli soldiers in southern Lebanon.

In commending Kayyem's appointment, David Harris, executive director of the American Jewish Committee, said that unlike Al-Marayati, Kayyem "appears to have a strong background in national security issues and a clear and unambiguous understanding of the terrorist threat to the United States, as do the other appointees to the commission."

The Anti-Defamation League's Washington director, Jess Hordes, whose office has worked with Kayyem in the past, said, "She's someone who certainly will be sensitive to the civil liberties and civil rights issues that relate to terrorism and enforcement."

Although Arab American groups have argued that Al-Marayati never should have been removed to begin with, most said Kayyem is well qualified to serve on the commission. "She's a very competent and sensitive civil rights attorney who brings that perspective to her work," said James Zogby, president of the Arab American Institute.

At the same time, he said her appointment does not erase the fact that the whole episode was "badly handled" and that the Jewish community "behaved very badly."

The Council on American-Islamic Relations, for its part, congratulated Kayyem on her appointment, but said in a statement that another Muslim should have been named to replace Al-Marayati.

Phil Baum, executive director of the American Jewish Congress, supported the appointment, but agreed it may have been better if Gephardt had appointed a Muslim because it would have "demonstrated with some finality and decisiveness that no one objects to a Muslim occupying such positions."

Kayyem was not available for comment, but said in a statement that she was "confident that my experience working on civil rights issues associated with U.S. anti-terrorism policies will allow me to contribute to the commission's work." □

Israelis, Palestinians put talks on hold and launch war of words

By Naomi Segal

JERUSALEM (JTA) — Israeli and Palestinian leaders are publicly criticizing one another after peace talks ended in disagreement with no new date set for them to reconvene.

Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak on Monday criticized the Palestinians' "rigid" rejection of his proposal to delay a troop withdrawal Israel promised under the Wye accord and link it to a final Israeli-Palestinian settlement.

Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat said Barak's proposal is "an attempt to avoid the accurate and honest implementation of what has been agreed upon."

Barak has repeatedly stressed that Israel would not change the U.S.-brokered land-for-security deal without Arafat's approval. He indicated Sunday he would be willing to carry out the second of three Israeli withdrawals from the West Bank by October.

But Palestinian officials rejected that offer, saying they want the withdrawal to take place within three weeks.

The first Israeli withdrawal agreed to under last October's Wye accord was carried out in November. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu then suspended the agreement, charging that the Palestinian Authority was not living up to its part of the deal.

It is the third withdrawal that is the major problem for Barak, who has said it could leave Jewish settlements isolated within areas under Palestinian control. He prefers moving directly into the final-status talks, when such issues as the settlements and the borders of the Palestinian entity would be resolved.

Arafat, fearing that he will have little leverage in the final-status talks, prefers to have the Wye withdrawals take place first.

Sunday's talks, headed by Israeli lawyer Gilad Sher and chief Palestinian negotiator Saeb Erekat, ended with the two sides unable to overcome disputes not only on Wye, but also about the basic approach to the negotiations.

Palestinian officials — in a sharp departure from the praise that greeted Barak's election in May — are now talking about a crisis in peacemaking efforts.

Their comments brought a sharp rebuke from Israeli Foreign Minister David Levy, who said Monday he was "shocked" by the picture being painted by the Palestinians.

Both sides should return to the attitude held a month ago, when they "spoke of trust-building and good faith," Levy told Israel Radio. □

NEWS ANALYSIS

Barak gets a warm welcome in Moscow, despite differences

By Lev Krichевsky

MOSCOW (JTA) — Top Russian officials extended Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak's honeymoon during his 24-hour trip here.

Along with Russian President Boris Yeltsin's first public condemnation of the recent wave of anti-Semitic attacks, Russia's desire to play a more prominent role in the Middle East and the transfer of Russian missile technology to Iran also dominated

Barak's visit Monday. Barak's meetings, which included talks with Prime Minister Sergei Stepashin and Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov in addition to Yeltsin, also touched on Russia's interest in Israeli technology and goods.

But just as important as the subjects discussed was the tone of the Russian reception, which was more positive than it had been under the reign of Barak's predecessor, Benjamin Netanyahu.

Russian media have noted that the Kremlin views Barak more warmly than Netanyahu, and on Monday, Russian leaders told Barak that his victory opened the door to a compromise in the Middle East peace process.

Along with the United States, Russia is a co-sponsor of the peace process started in Madrid in 1991, but internal economic problems and tensions with Israel have diminished its role.

But this year Russia has increased its political profile in the region. Barak's visit, which also included a dinner with Russian Jewish leaders sponsored by the Russian Jewish Congress, was the fourth trip to Moscow by a high-ranking Israeli delegation this year. Russia also hosted Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat in April and Syrian President Hafez Assad in July.

Russian media reports stressed the importance of Barak's visit, and Yeltsin officially received Barak, an honor never bestowed on Netanyahu. But despite the good feelings, differences remain between the two countries.

These differences include Russia's arms transfers to Iran as well as Russian cooperation with Tehran and Baghdad in the areas of ballistic and nuclear weapons.

Russia has repeatedly denied it violated any international non-proliferation treaties, but Stepashin vowed to cooperate with Israel on the nuclear weapons issue.

"It is not in Russia's interests to let any country, including Iran, to gain possession of nuclear arms," Stepashin said.

He promised to investigate all possible technology leaks to Iran.

In his meetings, Barak also appealed to the Russian leadership to combat the recent rise in anti-Semitic violence.

After this part of the talks, which were closed to the media, Yeltsin's aide on foreign affairs, Sergei Prikhodko, told reporters that Yeltsin condemned the recent attacks and vowed that "those responsible in all sorts of actions would be found and punished in accordance with Russian legislation."

Barak also touched on an issue that had previously escaped media attention — the fate of several Israelis kidnapped recently in Russia's troubled northern Caucasus region.

On the eve of the visit, Russian media reported one such case. Laura Likhtman, an 18-year-old Israeli citizen, was kidnapped in the city of Nalchik, according to the Israeli Embassy in Moscow.

The Northern Caucasus has seen a wave of kidnappings since the 21-month war between Russian authorities and the breakaway republic of Chechnya ended in 1996.

During his visit Barak also met with the parents of Nikolai Rappaport, a Russian immigrant soldier killed last year in Israel's security zone in Lebanon. Rappaport could not be buried in a Jewish cemetery in Israel because while his father is Jewish, his mother is not. The family later returned to the Russian city of Krasnodar, where Rappaport was buried.

In a message apparently aimed at Israel's Russian community, which largely supported Barak in the May elections, Barak promised that such a situation would never be repeated. □