



# Daily News Bulletin

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82<sup>nd</sup> Year

## TOP NEWS IN BRIEF

### Arsonist strikes N.Y. synagogue

Police in New York are calling a synagogue arson Sunday in Long Island a hate crime.

No one was injured, but some damage to the building was reported in the Sunday morning attack on Temple Beth Chai in Hauppauge, N.Y. There are no suspects.

Meanwhile, police in Canada are looking for two young males who assaulted two Jewish men outside a Toronto synagogue last Friday.

The men, aged 79 and 56, were knocked down and hit in the face. The victims were treated for bruises.

As a result of the attack, extra security precautions went into effect at some synagogues in Toronto.

### Albright sets Mideast itinerary

U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright will travel to the Middle East on Sept. 1 for a four-day visit that includes stops in Morocco, Egypt, Israel, the Palestinian self-rule areas, Syria and Jordan, the State Department announced Monday.

Albright had postponed the trip, which was originally scheduled for earlier this month, after Israel requested more time for negotiations with the Palestinians.

### Clinton calls for more foreign aid

President Clinton called on Congress to increase foreign aid to Russia, Bosnia and the Middle East.

In a speech to the annual Veterans of Foreign Wars convention Clinton said Congress should provide the nearly \$2 billion in U.S. aid promised during last October's Wye peace talks.

Clinton said Monday about the situation in the Middle East, "If it becomes again a place of war, it will cost us far more than investing in a common, shared peaceful future."

### Palestinians arrest 10 militants

Palestinian police arrested 10 Muslim militants suspected of making a bomb that accidentally exploded Sunday in Hebron. Police said the bomb-makers were planning a car bomb attack.

Two of the men arrested were released from Israeli jails a few months ago after serving five-year terms for belonging to Hamas, according to Palestinian officials.

## More anti-Semitic incidents reported even as community rallies against hate

By Tom Tugend

LOS ANGELES (JTA) — Even as more than 1,000 people of all faiths and colors rallied here against hate crimes this week, a Hollywood synagogue was defaced with a swastika and threatening calls were placed to a Jewish center in Palo Alto, Calif.

Attorney General Janet Reno and California Gov. Gray Davis were key speakers at Sunday's Community Unity Rally, which honored the victims and rescue workers of last week's shooting spree at the North Valley Jewish Community Center.

"We will not rest until justice is done," Reno pledged, referring to the Aug. 10 attacks in which five were wounded and a U.S. postal worker was killed.

Buford O'Neal Furrow Jr., a white supremacist with neo-Nazi ties, has been charged in both crimes.

In an earlier interview Sunday on CNN's "Late Edition," Reno said she wants gun buyers to take written and manual tests demonstrating that they know how to use guns safely and lawfully.

Davis pledged at the rally to extend technical and financial aid to improve security at child care centers and houses of worship.

The California governor signed laws last month restricting gun purchases and tightening a ban on assault weapons, and he has promised to support further "responsible" gun control measures.

His talk was repeatedly interrupted by heckling from Irv Rubin, head of the Jewish Defense League. He and another man handed out leaflets, reading, "Don't leave yourself unarmed against those who want to murder you. Gun control laws are only observed by decent people, and haters aren't decent."

The family of Joseph Iletto, the Filipino American postal worker whom Furrow is accused of killing, attended the rally, during which doctors, nurses, police and firemen who aided the victims of the Granada Hills shooting were honored.

The North Valley JCC, which was sprayed with 70 bullets in the attack, reopened its camp and preschool on Monday.

The youngest and most seriously wounded victim of the rampage, 5-year old Benjamin Kadish, remains hospitalized in serious but stable condition. On Sunday, he was removed from a respirator and began breathing on his own for the first time since the shooting.

The Los Angeles Jewish community found new cause for concern when worshipers arriving Saturday morning at Temple Knesset Israel in East Hollywood discovered that an outside wall had been spray-painted with a swastika and the words "Jews die."

In the temple's mailbox, police found a confusing but apparently anti-British letter, saying that the British were going to start interning people.

Temple President Harvey Shield is British and said that despite his earlier reluctance, he will hire a private security guard for the High Holidays.

Members of the congregation, many of whom are Holocaust survivors or people who had relatives killed by the Nazis, reacted with horror and fear to the incident.

Frances Miller, 61, said she broke into tears when she saw the swastika.

"This could be a warning," she said.

In Palo Alto, south of San Francisco, police arrested Kevin Riley O'Keefe, a security guard. He is being investigated in connection with three threatening phone calls on Friday to the Palo Alto Jewish Community Center, in which the caller praised the Granada Hills shooting. □

## MIDEAST FOCUS

### Mideast talks yield no agreement

Israeli and Palestinian negotiators failed to resolve differences over the timetable for the next two Israeli withdrawals from the West Bank, despite six hours of talks Sunday.

Palestinians want the withdrawals to be completed by November, while Israel is asking for a delay in the final withdrawal.

The two sides are scheduled to meet again on Tuesday.

### Bombers may have been fleeing

Two bombs that exploded in the Israeli city of Netanya may have been dropped by terrorists fleeing after being approached by police, according to police officials.

There were no injuries in the explosions, which occurred around 6:30 A.M. on Sunday.

### Meeting called on Shabbat issue

Fervently Orthodox legislators in Israel called for a special meeting of the Israeli Knesset on Wednesday to discuss the ongoing controversy over last Shabbat's transfer of 250 tons of equipment for an electrical generator.

After two parties, Shas and United Torah Judaism, threatened to pull out of the governing coalition over the incident, Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak said he would work to forge a compromise for similar transfers in the future.

### Paper: Reject Sharon's appeal

The Israeli newspaper Ha'aretz asked the country's Supreme Court to reject an appeal by former Cabinet minister Ariel Sharon to overturn a verdict in a libel case against the newspaper. In 1997, an Israeli court ruled that the paper had sufficient evidence to conclude that Sharon misled then-Prime Minister Menachem Begin about his objectives during the 1982 Lebanon War.

## Jewish sites in U.S. trail Europe's in security against terrorist attacks

By Ruth E. Gruber

ROME (JTA) — Armed police stand guard 24 hours a day outside the main synagogues in Rome and Vienna.

Worshippers in Rome and Milan must have their bags searched before entering synagogue for High Holiday services.

Visitors to Budapest's main synagogue and Jewish museum — and also to Jewish community offices in the Hungarian capital — have to pass through metal detectors and have their bags searched. Visitors to Jewish communal offices must exchange their passports or other ID for a visitor's pass.

Last week's attack by a white supremacist on a Jewish Community Center in Los Angeles has raised concern among American Jews about security at synagogues and other Jewish institutions in the United States.

In many places in Europe and the rest of the world, however, such security considerations have been well-entrenched elements of Jewish institutional infrastructure for decades.

"How could Americans not think of such things?" asked Annie Sacerdoti, editor of *Il Bollettino*, the magazine of the Jewish community of Milan, Italy.

Terrorist attacks by right-wing groups and individuals as well as by Arab and far-left factions dating back to the 1970s have forced many European Jewish communities to take expensive and sometimes elaborate security measures, which by now are routine. Communities frequently install in-house measures and hire private security companies to supplement protection by local police.

In Rome and Milan, for example, cars are not allowed to park outside synagogues. Police mount an extra guard on the High Holidays and sometimes block off the street. Worshippers have their bags searched, and private security guards stand by with walkie-talkies. Jewish communal institutions feature double security doors and, sometimes, bulletproof glass.

"I have to say that I feel uneasy sometimes at synagogues in the United States," said an American Jew in Rome. "No one checks who enters, and cars are allowed to park on the street right outside."

Rome's main synagogue was the object of a Palestinian terrorist attack in October 1982 that left a toddler dead and many injured.

That attack, which followed the Israeli invasion of Lebanon in June 1982, was part of major waves of anti-Jewish terrorism in Europe in the 1970s and early 1980s.

Most attacks were carried out by Arab or pro-Arab terrorists targeting Jewish institutions as proxies for Israel, but right-wing extremists were responsible for some of the attacks.

In France, synagogues, schools, businesses, memorials and restaurants were hit by bombs in 1976. A bomb in a Paris synagogue on Simchat Torah in 1980 killed four people. Likewise, a bomb in a Jewish-owned restaurant in Berlin in 1980 killed a young child and injured 24.

In 1981, a grenade and machine gun attack on the main synagogue in Vienna and a car bomb attack on a synagogue in Antwerp left five dead and more than 100 injured.

In August 1982, a machine gun attack on a popular Jewish restaurant in Paris killed six people, and a Palestinian attack on the main synagogue in Istanbul in 1986 killed 24 worshippers.

Attacks on Jewish sites and institutions around the world have continued through the 1990s, and the perpetrators frequently have remained anonymous.

Two attacks in Buenos Aires earlier this decade left more than a hundred dead and hundreds others wounded.

The synagogue in Warsaw was firebombed last year, although no one was hurt. Earlier this year, a number of Jews were killed in the bombing of a synagogue in Iraq.

This summer a bomb was defused before it went off in a Moscow synagogue. The Jewish community there has called on the Russian government to provide greater security for Jewish institutions. □



## Daily News Bulletin

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## JEWISH WORLD

### Report: Australia recruited Nazis

Australian Jewish leaders are calling on the government to respond to reports that the country recruited 127 scientists from Nazi Germany after World War II.

An investigation by the Melbourne Age and Sydney Morning Herald newspapers revealed Monday that some of the scientists recruited were involved in the Third Reich's war effort, including some SS members.

Jewish leaders also demanded that a government committee investigating suspected Nazi war criminals living in Australia be reopened immediately.

According to the Jerusalem office of the Simon Wiesenthal Center, at least seven of the scientists are still wanted for war crimes.

### 'Jewish Jordan' drops out

A Jewish high school basketball star known as the "Jewish Jordan" is transferring out of his yeshiva for his senior year.

Tamir Goodman's decision to leave the Talmudical Academy in Baltimore for a Seventh-Day Adventist school in suburban Washington was prompted, in part, by his desire to find a higher level of basketball play.

Seventh-Day Adventists also observe the Sabbath from Friday evening to Saturday night.

The University of Maryland, which has verbally committed to give Goodman a basketball scholarship beginning in the fall of 2000, has said it would attempt to alter its schedule to accommodate his religious observance.

### Congress to probe Nazi dealings

The U.S. House of Representatives is planning to hold hearings in mid-September to investigate how European companies are responding to charges they profited from dealing with the Nazis.

The hearings, which will cover artworks, unpaid insurance policies, slave and forced labor, and the plundering of Jewish assets, are slated for Sept. 14 and Sept. 15, just before a Sept. 16 hearing in New York on the same issues.

### Israeli inks Bubis' grave

An Israeli man apparently squirted black paint into the grave of a German Jewish leader buried in Tel Aviv on Sunday.

Meir Mendelsohn said he squirted the paint as the body of Ignatz Bubis was being lowered into the ground because he believed Bubis took advantage of sympathy for his Jewishness to participate in shady real estate deals.

Bubis died last Friday at the age of 72 after a brief illness.

## Clinton promises Jewish leaders he'll speak out against anti-Semitism

By Daniel Kurtzman

WASHINGTON (JTA) — President Clinton is promising American Jewish leaders that he'll use his bully pulpit to denounce anti-Semitism, but said he doubts Congress will follow his lead on gun control.

With the specter of the shooting spree at a Los Angeles-area Jewish community center hanging overhead, Clinton and roughly 30 Jewish leaders last week held a 90-minute free-for-all discussion originally set up to discuss the future of the Mideast peace process.

The Aug. 12 session at the White House instead focused largely on the recent spate of anti-Semitic attacks and possible legislative responses.

At the urging of the leaders, Clinton pledged to use his office to speak out forcefully against anti-Semitism and racism and to push Congress to enact stricter laws to combat hate crimes and control guns.

He did not sound upbeat, however, about the prospects for passing new gun control measures. One Jewish leader who attended the meeting said Clinton was "outraged by the unwillingness of the House to do anything about guns," citing its failure in June to pass the juvenile justice bill.

Clinton was also quoted as lamenting that the National Rifle Association "runs the House and nearly runs the Senate on this issue," adding, "It has to do with special interest money and lobbying and not with what the people want."

He made his own appeal to Jewish leaders, urging them to come together with other minority groups in a united front against anti-Semitism, racism and bigotry.

Following the meeting, many of the leaders said they came away believing Clinton was firmly and passionately committed to stamping out hate violence.

"He was empathizing with us," said Rabbi Eric Yoffie, president of the Reform movement's Union of American Hebrew Congregations. "He was feeling our pain."

"We really look to him to rally the nation, to arouse its moral conscience," Yoffie added. "That's the task of the president, so this doesn't get lost in the headlines in a day or two."

On the Middle East front, Clinton said he was optimistic that Israel and the Palestinians will resolve differences in the coming weeks on implementing the Wye accord.

He also said he was hopeful that Congress will approve the \$1.2 billion in special aid for Israel and \$400 million for the Palestinians that Clinton promised in return for implementation of the Wye agreement. The money has not yet been included in foreign aid legislation.

Malcolm Hoenlein, executive vice chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, said that while Clinton expressed optimism about potential progress, he also "expressed great concern that Palestinian rejectionists who will settle for nothing less than driving Israel to the sea will try to sabotage" progress in the peace process and undermine Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat and "the confidence of the people of Israel."

During the meeting, Clinton made what Jewish leaders said were encouraging remarks on the status of Jerusalem. Clinton told them he continues to believe in the need for a united Jerusalem as Israel's capital, but said the Oslo accords mandate that it remain an issue to be decided in final-status negotiations.

He added that the goal of the peace process is for Israel to define its own destiny — and that it should not be defined by others.

According to the officials, he also made clear that Arafat ultimately will have to "settle for less than what he has been speaking about for 30 years," but Clinton did not elaborate further.

A full range of other international issues, including concerns about anti-Semitism in Russia and the change of leadership there, the transfer of weapons of mass destruction from Russia to Iran and the fate of 13 Jews arrested in Iran, were also discussed. □

## NEWS ANALYSIS

**Arab states nervous Palestinians may be in their countries to stay***By Douglas Davis*

LONDON (JTA) — Prospects for peace between Israel and the Palestinians are bringing harsh facts of life into sharp focus for Arab leaders.

Not only will they be losing the Palestinian issue as a cornerstone of Arab unity and pan-Arab ideology, but they will be gaining a demographic problem that is, to a very considerable extent, of their own making.

When some 600,000 Palestinians left areas that came under Israeli control in the 1948 and 1967 wars, they were settled in refugee camps, primarily in Jordan, Lebanon and Syria, but also in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

While Israel set a high priority on absorbing and integrating the 600,000-odd Jewish refugees who poured into the new Jewish state from surrounding Arab countries, the Arab hosts of the Palestinian refugees steadfastly refused to integrate or absorb their new arrivals.

Moreover, they consistently rejected entreaties — including offers of cash — from international refugee agencies and foreign governments to improve the living standards of the Palestinians.

The rationale was that refugees, impoverished in camps, would remain a blot on the world's conscience and a constant reminder that the conflict with Israel would not be resolved until all were permitted to return to their homes in Jaffa, Lod and Haifa.

But the crucial, unspoken subtext was that the refugees and their descendants would never feel sufficiently secure or comfortable in their transplanted homes to put down roots and decide to stay.

While conditions in the camps would remain grim enough to score the necessary propaganda points on the international stage, they would also keep the dreams of the refugees focused on returning to long-abandoned, real or imagined, olive groves and orchards.

Israeli leaders of all political hues have consistently rejected the notion of the Palestinian "right to return," and the issue was widely perceived as being one of the most intractable problems to be faced in final-status negotiations with the Palestinian Authority.

Now, however, Jordan, Syria and Lebanon are apparently being persuaded to think again, and there are signs they are taking the first tentative steps toward accepting the new reality: the permanent absorption of their substantial refugee populations in the context of an Israeli-Palestinian deal.

But recognition that the Palestinians will, after all, be settled where they are sends shivers down the collective spine of Arab host governments, according to the respected Arabic weekly *al-Wasat*, published in Paris last Friday.

Writing from Beirut, Lebanese commentator Sarkis Naoum noted that nowhere is this unease more acutely felt than in Lebanon, still recovering from a devastating civil war, where fragile ethnic and sectarian balances will be threatened by the settlement of up to a quarter-million Palestinians.

"Whether as Lebanese citizens or as permanent residents with full rights, Palestinians are not wanted in Lebanon," Naoum said. "Many Lebanese, particularly Christians, gave vent to this fear by

taking up arms against the Palestinians in 1975."

In a state where the top political posts are awarded on the basis of religious and ethnic numbers, the Lebanese have always had a phobia about converting the Palestinian refugee presence into a permanent fact of life.

The permanent incorporation of a large number of Palestinians not only challenges the Lebanese political system — which is constructed on a precarious balance between Muslims and Christians — but also the very character of the country.

Moreover, Naoum pointed out, the predominantly Sunni Palestinians also threaten to upset the balance between Lebanon's two major Muslim sects — the Shi'ites are the other — "upsetting the equilibrium between them and rendering Lebanon more unstable."

The number of refugees who will be permanently resettled in Lebanon is expected to be restricted to some 267,000 who were displaced in 1948, of whom about 225,000 still live in refugee camps. Some international organizations have calculated that the overall number will fall to around 175,000 when the number of Palestinians who now hold citizenship from another country is taken into account.

Meanwhile, Western diplomats are pointing to tangible signs that arrangements are already under way to facilitate the resettlement process.

In Jordan, Palestinians were once granted Jordanian passports valid for five years, but after the establishment of the Palestinian Authority the validity of the Jordanian passports was reduced to two years. The authorities in Amman have recently reverted to issuing five-year passports.

Both the Syrians and the Lebanese are now more receptive to proposals for improving living conditions in the refugee camps.

A large project to improve living conditions in one of Lebanon's major camps is nearing completion — although the official Lebanese line is that the project was undertaken for environmental reasons. In addition, Syria and Lebanon have recently relaxed restrictions on Palestinians traveling between the two countries, while Beirut has eased restrictions on Palestinians who seek to travel abroad.

Naoum recalls that after Jordan's late King Hussein expelled the Palestine Liberation Organization in 1970, they moved to Lebanon, where they transformed the many Palestinian refugee camps into fortified strongholds.

"But the fear of rising Palestinian influence in Lebanon was not a strictly Christian affliction. When they saw that the Palestinians were intent on creating a state within a state in Lebanon, another faction — the Shi'ites — also took up arms against them."

In 1982, Sunni leaders played an important part in persuading the Palestinian leadership to leave Beirut as Israel had demanded.

Fears of permanently resettling the Palestinian refugees in Lebanon have increased since the October 1991 Madrid peace conference.

This concern reached fever pitch in recent weeks, with the advent of Ehud Barak's more conciliatory government and the possibility of again achieving momentum in the peace process.

"Since the Barak administration adamantly rejects the repatriation of Palestinian refugees to the land they fled in 1948 and 1967," noted Naoum, "and since the U.S. is sympathetic to the Israeli position, the Arab and international (particularly European) positions appear very shaky indeed." □