



# Daily News Bulletin

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82<sup>nd</sup> Year

## TOP NEWS IN BRIEF

### Parts of Wye to be implemented

Israel and the Palestinians agreed to open a safe-passage route between the Gaza Strip and the West Bank — and that construction of a seaport in Gaza should begin Oct. 1.

The agreements to implement part of the Wye accord came as negotiators failed to agree on the Israeli release of Palestinian prisoners and as two senior Palestinian envoys arrived in Washington for talks with U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright ahead of her visit to the Middle East.

### 3-year-old rescued in Turkey

Israeli and Turkish teams rescued a 3-year-old boy amid the rubble of a collapsed building in the town of Cinarik.

Tuesday's dramatic rescue of the toddler, who was trapped for six days in the wreckage, came as the Israeli team prepared to leave, in accordance with a Turkish government decision to phase out the rescue operations due to concern over a large-scale outbreak of disease.

Meanwhile, Turkey asked the Israeli Army hospital to continue operating for at least a month.

### Anti-hate rallies held in California

Hundreds of people demonstrated in two different rallies against hate in California on Sunday.

In Los Angeles, some 500 people rallied in the mile-long March Against Hate, while some 600 people held a similar rally in the Jewish community center in Palo Alto, Calif.

### Arafat, hard-line leader make up

Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat and the leader of a breakaway Palestinian group agreed to work for a Palestinian state according to Israel's June 1967 borders.

The statement issued Monday by Arafat and George Hawatmeh, the leader of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, also calls for a Palestinian capital in eastern Jerusalem and for the return of Palestinian refugees.

In making the statement, the two agreed to set aside their differences over the Oslo accords. The reconciliation is being viewed as an attempt to build Palestinian unity before the start of final-status talks between Israel and the Palestinians.

## BEHIND THE HEADLINES

### Holocaust museum works on reforms after report criticizes its management

By Daniel Kurtzman

WASHINGTON (JTA) — Officials at the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum are promising reforms following a caustic independent report that identified key problems in the museum's governance and management.

The report, ordered by Congress and conducted by an outside panel of administrative experts, concluded that the six-year-old institution has been stifled by "excessive involvement" of the museum's governing council in day-to-day operations.

It also said power was concentrated in the hands of a small group of council members and criticized the institution for what it called its "weak committee system, inadequate discipline, and a lack of professionalism."

The study recommended that the legislation governing the museum, which is a federal institution, should be changed to strengthen its administration, scale back the role of the council and give the director of the museum more powers of a chief executive officer.

The report painted a picture of a struggling institution — an image that stands in stark contrast to all outward appearances.

As one of the most visited sites in Washington, the museum has proved a success beyond the expectations of its founders, who had worried that its halls would be empty once Jews had come to see it once.

More than 12 million people have walked through its doors since it opened in 1993, and the museum has also created a national presence in recent years through a series of traveling exhibits.

While the report acknowledged the museum's undisputed success, it further tarnished the institution's reputation following several well-publicized controversies during the last 18 months.

In January of last year, the museum came under fire for its on-again, off-again invitation to Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat to visit the museum. The subsequent ouster of the museum's director, Walter Reich — who some charged was made a scapegoat for the Arafat debacle — proved to be another public relations disaster.

Also last year, the museum was stung by a barrage of criticism over its decision to hire Holocaust scholar John Roth to head the museum's Center for Advanced Holocaust Studies. Roth was assailed for controversial writings about Israel and ultimately resigned the post.

And most recently, the museum has come under fire for promoting a book, "Crimes of War: What the Public Should Know," that some critics say contains anti-Israel propaganda and falsely accuses Israel of engaging in "ethnic cleansing" of Palestinians.

Museum officials say they have already identified many of the problems described in the report and taken steps to address them.

Miles Lerman, chairman of the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Council and a driving force behind the creation of the museum, said he appointed a commission earlier this year to prepare its own recommendations for changes in management and governance. Its report is due later this year or early next year, and Lerman said the museum will combine the two reports to develop a course of action.

Sara Bloomfield, a long-time veteran of the institution who took over as the museum's director in March, said most of the findings in the new report "are just typical

## MIDEAST FOCUS

### Israel sending messages to Syria

Two European diplomats will carry messages to Syria indicating that Israel wants to resume peace negotiations with Damascus, according to diplomatic sources.

The messages will apparently reiterate Israel's position that it wants the talks, which broke off in 1996, to resume without preconditions.

### Israel unprepared for quakes

A failure to enforce building regulations and an uncertainty over who is responsible in case of an earthquake is harming Israel's preparedness for a quake. Israeli experts made these statements at a meeting of two Knesset committees in the wake of last week's devastating earthquake in Turkey.

### Jordan, Israel get new bridge

A new border crossing between Israel and Jordan, funded by Japan, was inaugurated Monday. Israeli Foreign Minister David Levy said the Hussein Bridge would strengthen ties between the two countries, while his Jordanian counterpart stressed the need for Israel and the Palestinians to move forward in their negotiations.

### Iran sending millions to Hamas

Iranian intelligence transferred some \$5 million to Hamas to fund terrorist attacks on Israeli targets, according to a recent article in the Sunday Telegraph newspaper in England.

The money, reportedly paid into the accounts of Hamas officials in Jordan in late July, was the first in a series of monthly payments being made in return for terrorist activities against Israel.

Iran's decision to increase its support for Hamas was said to have contributed to a recent decision by Israeli authorities to temporarily impose a closure on a number of Palestinian towns and villages in the West Bank that are considered to be Hamas strongholds.

growing pains of a very young, dynamic place."

The report acknowledged as much, but it criticized the institution for failing to shift from the improvisational style of leadership and management that got it off the ground in favor of a more systematic, forward-looking approach.

Most of the problems stem from council members encroaching on the roles of the museum director and senior management in areas such as the hiring and firing of staff and the museum's organizational structure, according to the report.

"They're overwhelming their administrative side," said Sheldon Cohen, a Washington attorney and former Internal Revenue Service commissioner who chaired the panel that studied the museum. "They're running the place like a Jewish organization." He said that while the style of governance exercised by Lerman and other council members may have worked in the past, "You're running a big institution and you're going to make mistakes if you do things quick and dirty."

Complicating the decision-making process, Cohen added, is the fact that "you've got a lot of headstrong, rich people who want things done their way."

The report specifically criticized what it called Lerman's tendency to "act unilaterally" and suggested that he and others let go of the reins and allow the director to assume greater responsibilities.

Museum officials and council members said a small, dedicated group that comprises the executive council has worked hard over the years to carry out their vision and emphasize that they have only done what they thought was right for the institution.

"At the time when we were building the museum, if we were to have applied the formula we're talking about, the museum never would have been built," Lerman said. "It was a period when there was a need for decisiveness, short cuts and making decisions on the spot." But he acknowledged a need to adapt to the changing needs of the institution, saying, "It is time that we take a deep breath, look back, evaluate the situation and begin implementing a modus of operation that will bring this institution in a healthy stage into the 21st century."

Hyman Bookbinder, a longtime Jewish activist in Washington and a founding member of museum's council, said it should be recognized that Lerman has made a "colossal contribution" to the institution, "and if he got over-involved as this report indicates, it's because the staff wasn't there and there was not the capability for totally efficient management."

The report was ordered by Rep. Ralph Regula (R-Ohio), who chairs a subcommittee that approves federal money for the museum, and issued by the National Academy of Public Administration, a nonprofit organization chartered by Congress to make federal, state and local governments more effective.

It contained various other observations and recommendations. Among them:

- New legislation is needed to formally establish the museum's director as the individual with primary responsibility for museum operations, while establishing the council as the board of directors. The director of the museum would be made the chief executive officer.
- Rather than concern themselves with day-to-day operations, the council should consider issues such as the extent to which the museum should address non-Jewish victims of the Holocaust and how to address contemporary genocide.
- The director and senior management, with input from staff, should develop a strategic plan that sets out broad priorities, goals and strategies.
- "There is an inadequate representation of non-Jews in general and of African-Americans and Latinos in particular" on the museum's council.
- Each council member should be limited to one five-year term, rather than an unlimited number of terms.

Council members agreed with many of the recommendations set out in the report, but most took issue with the notion of a need for greater minority representation on the council, shorter terms and broadening the institution's focus beyond Holocaust memory.

Indeed, some Jewish leaders were highly critical of the overall report.

"I think it's skewed," said Abraham Foxman, the national director of the Anti-Defamation League and a member of the museum's council.

"Every institution needs fixing," he said. "But I see this as coming down with a heavy load of criticism, as if this institution was really suffering." □



## Daily News Bulletin

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## JEWISH WORLD

### Hate crimes grow in Brooklyn

An incident in which swastikas were etched on seven German-made cars in Brooklyn on Saturday night is being seen as a retaliatory hate crime for recent anti-Semitic attacks.

Police have no suspects in the vandalism.

### Egyptian paper applauds attack

A Jewish group called on the Egyptian and U.S. governments to condemn an article in an Egyptian newspaper that applauded the recent attack at a Los Angeles Jewish center in which five Jews were injured.

The Simon Wiesenthal Center made the call last Friday in reaction to the article in the *Ahbar El-yum* newspaper that asked for God's help in supporting Buford O'Neal Furrow's goal to "annihilate the Jewish race in the U.S."

### 2.3 million Nazi slaves alive

Some 2.3 million people forced to work as slave laborers by the Nazis are still alive, according to a report to be released this week.

The number represents one-fifth of the 12 million individuals who worked as slave laborers during the Nazi era.

More than one-half of these 12 million were women, according to the report, which was conducted by a Virginia-based economic consulting firm.

Meanwhile, the German insurance firm Muenchener Rueckversicherungs said it would join ongoing talks to create a German compensation fund for slave laborers.

### Blacks asked to 'turn their backs'

The American Jewish Congress called on the African American community to "turn its back" on a call by an anti-Semitic black leader for another "Million Youth March" in September.

In light of the recent attack at a Jewish community center in Los Angeles, "we are confident" Khalid Muhammad's vow "to include Jews in his diatribes at the rally will only serve to produce revulsion in all people of good will, particularly in the African American community," the AJCongress said in a statement.

### Expert: Hitler's artworks boring

Hitler's art collection is "boring," according to the curator of a German exhibit that includes the Nazi dictator's collection.

"Hitler's is by far the worst collection of paintings I have ever put on show," said Achim Preiss, the curator of the exhibit being shown in the German town of Weimar.

Hitler's collection includes many works featuring wooded German landscapes and other rural scenes featuring peasants.

## FOCUS ON ISSUES

### Jewish institutions balance security with openness before High Holidays

By Julie Wiener

NEW YORK (JTA) — Armed security guards, doors locked during business hours, mandatory parking decals, name tags for visitors, staff trained in responding to bomb threats and regular security audits by the police.

Such measures have long been routine at large Jewish organizations, particularly ones related to Israel, but smaller institutions are now stepping up their security following a rash of anti-Semitic attacks around the United States.

With the High Holidays and the start of the school year approaching, synagogues and day schools are being pressured to act quickly.

Many say they are taking highly visible measures after hearing that Buford O'Neal Furrow Jr., the gunman who opened fire in the North Valley Jewish Community Center in Los Angeles earlier this month, had targeted the center after being deterred by heavy security at the Simon Wiesenthal Center and University of Judaism.

Riccardo di Capua, president of the Conservative Temple Sinai of Hollywood, Fla., said he not only feared, but was certain, that there would be more attacks on Jews before the High Holidays are over.

"The bar has been raised, so if you have terrorist one that has done some act, terrorist two will try to outdo the first one," he said.

Although he would not disclose the security measures his congregation was taking, di Capua said, "We cannot be complacent about this. We must be alert and aware that something might happen and treat it as an imminent danger."

However, others say they are reluctant to turn their buildings into "fortresses."

Jeff Herzog, executive director of Reform Temple Rodef Shalom in Pittsburgh, noted that while security measures are in place, "if someone really wants to do something to you, they can."

"I know some of my colleagues have a guard letting people in," he said. "We will not permit that to happen. For those who want to pray, we want to create a warm, caring environment, and a guard is not that."

The Katherine and Jacob Greenfield Hebrew Academy of Atlanta already kept doors locked at all times and required visitors to be buzzed in.

But three days after the Los Angeles shooting, the school's board voted to keep two uniformed, armed security personnel on campus throughout the school day and require visiting parents and staff to place an identifying card in the windshields of their cars.

"I think clearly what motivated us to have specific visible security was this pronouncement of Furrow that this is a wake-up call to America to start killing Jews," said Richard Wagner, the school's principal.

Two of the school's students are the children of Allen Tenenbaum, one of the victims in the late July mass shooting at a suburban Atlanta day-trading firm.

"This summer has been like a one-two punch. We got up from shiva and then we had Granada Hills," he said, referring to the Jewish period of mourning.

"Measures will vary a great deal," said Rabbi Robert Abramson, director of education for the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism.

"The question isn't whether there'll be changes, the question is how subtle to the eye they will be," he said. "On the one hand, one wants to make clear that there's security, but on the other hand no one wants to scare kids."

Reform temple presidents are also discussing security concerns in their e-mail discussion group, but "it has not been a major topic," said Emily Grotta, director of communications for the Reform movement's Union of American Hebrew Congregations.

"We're also trying to make certain that our congregations don't over-react and give the wrong message of an armed fortress," Grotta said. "It's kind of a balancing act."

"We don't see a panic," said Dr. Mandell Ganchrow, president of the Orthodox Union. "I'm not sure if it's complacency or people feel they already have good relationships with their local police." □

**FOCUS ON ISSUES****U.S. deal may leave Israel running behind in pantyhose***By Matthew Dorf*

WASHINGTON (JTA) — Since Israel became a modern state, it has taken its share of blame for troubles in the Middle East and the world.

But is the Jewish state also responsible for those annoying runs in women's pantyhose?

Not only is Israel a trailblazer in high-tech industries, the nation is also one of the largest exporters to the United States of nylon yarn used to make pantyhose.

But all that could change if Congress expands free-trade benefits to the United States' southern neighbors.

When Congress returns next month, both the House and Senate are slated to debate a controversial move to open U.S. markets to countries that include Venezuela, the Dominican Republic and Haiti in a measure known as the Caribbean Basin Initiative.

So what does this have to do with Israel?

A lot, officials say, because in 1985, Israel and the United States negotiated a free-trade agreement of their own. The current measure on Capitol Hill would undermine this deal, Israel's supporters say. In addition, new free-trade zones between Jordan and Israel designed to highlight the economic benefits of peace could fall victim to the agreement if they are not protected.

"The bottom line is that what the U.S.-Israel free-trade agreement gives with one hand, the CBI, to a large extent, takes away with the other," said Harold Luks, a Washington attorney who represents Israel and Nilit, a nylon yarn producer.

American companies import more than \$40 million worth of nylon yarn each year from Israel and then ship it south, where low-paid workers weave it into pantyhose.

Because of the free-trade agreement, an American company that imports Israeli yarn pays no tariffs and counts the final product as American under trade laws. Even though the pantyhose are made outside of the United States, the finished product returns to America without facing tariffs or quotas. But that would change if the current version of the CBI become law.

Under the proposed bill, once Israeli textile goods leave the United States for assembly somewhere else, they once again become Israeli and lose their free-trade privileges.

This sets a condition "better not use Israel. And that, we think, is wrong," Luks said.

While Nilit's \$40 million in imports is a mere fraction of Israel's total exports to the United States, it's half the company's business, officials said. But still, the fight for Israel's free-trade status is not only about one company.

"This is not why we have a free-trade agreement with the United States," said Rachel Hirschler, assistant economics minister at the Israeli Embassy in Washington.

"We are worried especially about Nilit, but it's the whole idea which is really the problem," said Hirschler, who worries that a precedent will be set for future trade agreements.

Because of the agreement, "Israel is seeking a straightforward amendment to the CBI. If the content is Israeli, it should be recognized as if it was originating in the U.S.," Luks said.

This is not the first time that Israeli companies have faced the erosion of its free-trade agreement with the United States.

Some Israeli companies already were harmed when the United States, Canada and Mexico extended free-trade benefits to each other in the North American Free Trade Agreement. In the complex world of free-trade agreements, each product has different rules. But for the most part, NAFTA did not respect Israel's free-trade agreement with the United States.

"Israel took a big hit on NAFTA" because the U.S.-Israel free-trade agreement was not acknowledged when NAFTA was concluded, Luks said. "NAFTA had the effect of taking away something from the Israel-U.S. free-trade agreement."

Already some members of Congress are beginning to consider the issue. The Clinton administration has yet to take a position, according to Capitol Hill sources.

The pro-Israel lobby is gearing up to support Israel's free-trade agreement.

"As a general principle, we oppose any effort to unilaterally change the terms and spirit of the U.S.-Israel free-trade agreement," an American Israel Public Affairs Committee official said.

"We should be finding ways to expand trade with Israel."

For Israel the questions are stark.

"What does free-trade agreement with Israel stand for? What does it mean when members of Congress say there is a special relationship with us and Israel? This is where, for members of Congress, it should mean something," Luks said. □

**Reconstructionist Jews receive new prayer book for High Holidays***By Julie Wiener*

NEW YORK (JTA) — As they gather for the High Holidays this year, Reconstructionist Jews will be following a new prayer book.

According to spokespersons for the Jewish Reconstructionist Federation, the 1,275-page Machzor's "user-friendly and inclusive" liturgy balances "deep respect for 3,000 years of Jewish tradition and the honest struggles which contemporary Jews have with that tradition."

In addition to traditional Hebrew texts, the book contains new gender-neutral English translations by poet Joel Rosenberg and a variety of contemporary commentary.

The Machzor, or High Holidays prayer book, also features readings by both Jewish and non-Jewish authors, including Martin Buber, Elie Wiesel, Annie Dillard, Danny Siegel, Maya Angelou and Marge Piercy. The book offers service leaders the option of three types of services: a more traditional service, a shorter, more innovative service or one that emphasizes English readings.

The last Reconstructionist Machzor was published in 1948, and in recent years many of the movement's 98 congregations had been compiling their own prayer books or using ones published by other movements. The new Machzor completes a series of six Reconstructionist prayer books created over the past decade by rabbinic and lay leaders.

So far, congregations have purchased some 25,000 volumes of the Machzor, and the federation expects to sell another 10,000 in the coming month. Approximately 50,000 American Jews identify as Reconstructionist. □