



Daily News Bulletin

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82nd Year

TOP NEWS IN BRIEF

Israeli couple found murdered

Israeli police are investigating whether Islamic militants are responsible for the murder of an Israeli couple at a popular nature reserve near the West Bank.

The bodies of Yehiel Fuenfter, 26, and Sharon Steinmetz, 21, were found Monday in northern Israel one day after they had been murdered.

Prime Minister Ehud Barak expressed shock at the "despicable murders," but other Israeli officials said it was unclear whether the incident would have any effect on Israeli-Palestinian negotiations.

Brooklyn Jews protest shooting

Orthodox Jews in the Borough Park neighborhood of Brooklyn protested after a member of their community was shot to death by police.

Officers fired at least 12 shots Monday at Gideon Busch after he struck a police sergeant with a hammer, police officials said. Several hundred members of the community later gathered in the streets, some chanting, "Jewish blood is not cheap."

Police were initially summoned after a 911 report said Busch, who is described as having been emotionally disturbed, was threatening Jewish children while loudly singing a Jewish song.

Arafat, Mubarak confer in Egypt

Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat met with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak for more than two hours Tuesday to discuss the state of Israeli-Palestinian negotiations.

Mubarak is hoping to host a ceremony signifying an advance in the peace process when U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright arrives in Egypt on Thursday.

Hillary urged to help Pollard

A Jewish legislator is calling on Hillary Rodham Clinton to take a stand on whether to free Jonathan Pollard.

The case of Pollard, who is serving a life sentence after admitting he was an Israeli spy, is "certain to become a serious issue in the New York senate contest," New York Assemblyman Dov Hikind (D-Brooklyn) said at a rally Sunday. Hikind added that Clinton, who is contemplating a run for the Senate seat, should try to persuade her husband to free Pollard.

Taking first major steps, UJC cabinet approves changes to the central system

By Julia Goldman

NEW YORK (JTA) — Start spreading the news: North America's umbrella fund-raising and social service organization is about to make a brand new start of it by concentrating two of its important offices outside of New York, New York.

Organizational shifts approved this week by the United Jewish Communities would make Jerusalem and Washington the centers for overseas concerns and for domestic services and policy, respectively.

Another significant change gives representatives of the synagogue movements one-third of the seats on the UJC committee for Jewish "renaissance and renewal."

It was up to a 21-member interim cabinet to approve proposals meant to re-energize and to streamline American Jewry's most broad-based means of raising communal funds and delivering social services.

Before being implemented, the proposals need final approval from decision-making bodies — including an executive committee — that have yet to be created.

The cabinet meeting on Sunday marked the latest stage in the merger of the Council of Jewish Federations, the United Jewish Appeal and the United Israel Appeal. That union was forged in April, but still awaits the appointment of permanent governing bodies and a chief professional officer, as well as the legal approval of New York state.

The new system is designed as a national table where federations come together to set an agenda that will define the UJC's position on a range of communal concerns.

The national entity, in turn, will help federations execute the agenda on a local level by providing funding, expertise and information about successful projects and innovative programs. The latest proposals — which were approved at a meeting Sunday in Los Angeles — lay the groundwork for the "pillar committees" that in the coming months will define the policies and work of the UJC in each of four content areas: Israel and overseas; human services and social policy; campaign and fund-raising development; and Jewish continuity, referred to by the UJC as renaissance and renewal.

The changes also reconfigure the framework that for more than 60 years governed how the community federations in North America determined and responded to Jewish needs nationally, and in Israel and other countries.

Perhaps the most startling recommendations approved this week come from the task force charged with designing the UJC's global approach.

Decisions about how funds raised in the federation system — \$790 million this year — will be allocated for overseas needs are the responsibility of the recently inaugurated Overseas Needs Assessment and Distribution Committee, known as ONAD. ONAD will determine which are "core" needs, to be covered by federations collectively, and which are "elective"; that is, open to federation funding on a case-by-case basis.

In the past, the Israel and Overseas task force report says, the UJA, UIA and CJF served in part "to 'sell' Israel and overseas needs" as the collective responsibility of federated communities; "any alternative to collective action," the report states, "was viewed as a threat to the entire system."

Under the new system, the Israel and Overseas Committee, in addition to advocating for overseas needs, would, under the proposals adopted this week, take on a new role: fostering direct relationships between North American Jewish communities and their counterparts throughout the world.

In addition to recommending that the Israel and Overseas department of UJC be headquartered in Jerusalem, the interim cabinet adopted the following proposals:

- Jerusalem-based "community consultants" would serve as liaisons in assisting

MIDEAST FOCUS

Israel welcomes crackdown

Israel welcomed a decision by Jordanian officials to crack down on Hamas operations in the Hashemite kingdom.

"Hamas is not a threat just to Israel. It is a threat to the Palestinian Authority, to the Jordanians," Cabinet member Haim Ramon said Tuesday. His comment came one day after Jordanian security forces shut Hamas offices in Amman, detained several of the group's activists and issued arrest warrants for four of its leaders.

President Weizman hospitalized

Israeli President Ezer Weizman, 75, was hospitalized Tuesday with a severe inflammation of the gall bladder. Weizman has a fever but is in stable condition, his doctor said.

Israel to compensate athletes

Israel agreed Tuesday to help compensate Australian athletes who were injured in a bridge collapse two years ago at the start of the Maccabi Games in Ramat Gan. The Finance Ministry, which did not indicate the size of the payments, added that the move "does not mean the state admits responsibility for the disaster." Four Australian athletes died and 70 others were injured in the July 1997 tragedy.

Philharmonic plays near camp

The Israeli Philharmonic played for the first time with a German orchestra on German soil in a concert near the site of the former Buchenwald death camp.

Sunday's concert, in which Zubin Mehta conducted the philharmonic and the Bavarian State Orchestra, occurred just hours after the 170 musicians toured Buchenwald.

The orchestras played Gustav Mahler's Symphony No. 2, the "Resurrection." Mehta, the longtime conductor of the Israeli Philharmonic, now serves as music director of the Bavarian orchestra.

North American Jewish communities to develop community-to-community relationships; these connections could include helping a local donor fund a project in Israel or identifying "sister" communities in the former Soviet Union.

- The office overseeing missions to Israel would move from New York to Jerusalem, "where missions are actually planned and implemented," and missions subsidies should be examined for greater cost-effectiveness, as it is no longer clear that subsidies are required by "veteran Missions travelers" or that they produce "greater campaign results, as was once the case."

- The Israel and Overseas department will represent the federation movement to the Israeli government on issues of national concern, such as the controversial "Who Is a Jew" question, and on community-based and national projects, such as Birthright Israel, which plans to provide all-expenses-paid first-time trips for Jewish youth.

- The North American Jewish community's traditional overseas partners — the Jewish Agency for Israel and the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee — will coordinate a single approach for soliciting funds and communal cooperation on projects that the UJC determines to be "elective" needs.

- The UJC will replace the UIA — founded in 1925 as the United Palestine Appeal and which until now served as a conduit for communal funds to the Jewish Agency — in appointing representatives to the agency's Board of Governors. The UIA will, in a more limited way, continue its mostly administrative role.

The task force recommends that representatives of the UIA board, including representatives from Zionist movements, should sit on the Israel and Overseas committee together with federation leaders who are influential in their communities and are committed to Israel and overseas needs. Other major changes proposed by the individual task forces and approved by the interim committee include:

- Expanding the role of the UJC's Washington Action Office to coordinate domestic policy issues and further its national advocacy on issues of communal importance, such as immigrant resettlement and services for the elderly, families and children.

- Establishing a United Jewish Foundation, a national center where private funders can join forces to collaborate and address issues of communal concern such as summer camping or recruiting day school principals. The foundation would also provide a place for cultivating endowment funds and other financial services that will "enhance the annual campaign."

- Creating a Renaissance and Renewal division that will infuse all of the other pillars of the UJC with Jewish values and develop partnerships with successful and promising programs in the field of Jewish continuity and education.

The committee overseeing the division will represent in equal measure the federations, the four religious streams of Judaism, and academics and education experts.

Rabbis from the Conservative and Orthodox movements who participated in the planning process said the one-third share is satisfactory. One of them, Rabbi Jerome Epstein, executive vice president of the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism, called the decision "a very important first step" and said that the religious movements had lobbied heavily for "this type of significant representation."

Announcing the proposed system-wide changes on Monday, Joel Tauber, the UJC's executive committee chairman, told reporters, "What occurred reflects what we've been hearing from federations, who are the new owners of the UJC." According to Tauber, however, representatives of federations — having approved the CJF-UJA-UIA merger — also told the national leadership that they were not sure what they had agreed to do.

Tauber and Stephen Solender, the acting president of the UJC, together with other national lay and professional leaders, spoke to what they estimated to be 2,000 people this summer at various meetings.

That trip around the country showed, Tauber said, that "there was not a clear understanding" of what ownership entailed in terms of rights and obligations.

Tauber said the UJC was planning to hire a consultant, who over the next few months would canvas federations for their "suggested definition of ownership."

Federation representatives should get a taste of ownership soon: Federations are now submitting names for UJC standing committees, and Tauber said the governing bodies — including the full board of trustees and executive committee — could be appointed by October, in advance of the UJC's General Assembly in Atlanta, scheduled to begin Nov. 17. □



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JEWISH WORLD

Pope plans to meet Saddam

The World Jewish Congress finds it "deeply troubling" that the pope plans to meet Iraqi President Saddam Hussein in early December.

Pope John Paul II will visit Iraq for three days starting Dec. 2, in a trip that will include a helicopter visit to the town of Ur, the traditional birthplace of Abraham.

The pope has emphasized that the trip to Iraq is part of a millennial pilgrimage to biblical sites and that it will have no political significance beyond a message of peace. But observers believe the visit is bound to represent a significant diplomatic boost for Saddam, who has been treated as an international pariah for the past nine years.

Austrian banks notify claimants

U.S. lawyers acting on behalf of Austrian Holocaust survivors launched a campaign Tuesday in Israel to notify claimants of a \$40 million settlement involving two Austrian banks.

The campaign notifies potential claimants of their right to file for compensation by Oct. 18.

The settlement, which was reached in March with Austria's largest bank, Bank Austria, and its subsidiary Creditanstalt, was swiftly condemned at the time by the World Jewish Congress as not being large enough.

Court to hear Papon appeal

The French Supreme Court is scheduled to hear an Oct. 21 appeal from a former Vichy official convicted last year of crimes against humanity for his role in deporting 1,560 Jews, 223 of them children, to Nazi death camps.

Maurice Papon, who also served in several postwar French governments, has not served any of his 10-year jail sentence because of ill health.

'Mein Kampf' ban rejected

A Croatian publisher recently said calls by the Simon Wiesenthal Center to ban its edition of Hitler's "Mein Kampf" could "cause more anti-Semitic sentiment than a book published 70 years ago."

Franjo Letic, who owns the Croatiaprojekt publishing company, made his comments after the center asked the German state of Bavaria, which owns the copyright for the book, to have the Croatian translation of Hitler's autobiography withdrawn from sale.

Romanian editor accuses boss

A former editor of a Romanian weekly said his former boss ordered the staff to write anti-Semitic articles.

Mihai Antonescu's ex-boss, Dumitru Dragomir, a Romanian soccer executive, has been accused of fomenting anti-Semitism in his newspaper.

Two more incidents add to series of anti-Semitic crimes in California

By Tom Tugend

LOS ANGELES (JTA) — California is again the scene of high-profile hate crimes. Police in San Jose arrested three suspects for hurling a Molotov cocktail Monday morning at the home of a judge they mistakenly thought to be Jewish.

Police arrested two 17-year-old boys and a 19-year-old man on suspicion of committing a hate crime, terrorism and arson. The target was the home of Jack Komar, a Santa Clara County superior court judge, whose home was also defaced with swastikas last year.

Komar is Catholic, but Deputy Police Chief Donald Anders said, "It is very clear that the hateful motive involved in the firebombing was because the suspects believed that the residents living in that particular house were Jewish. That was the primary motive."

Racist literature, paintball pistols and pellet guns were confiscated at the suspects' homes.

Police Chief William Lansdowne told the Associated Press that while there are no large organized gangs of racists in San Jose, there are a number of young skinheads who commit hate crimes.

In a separate incident Monday, swastikas and anti-Semitic graffiti were found on the wall of the Jewish Family Children's Services building in San Francisco.

Reuters quoted a police spokesman as saying the graffiti read, "Adolf Hitler was here."

Jonathan Bernstein, director of the Anti-Defamation League's Central Pacific region, told the Associated Press that there are about 50 anti-Semitic incidents in the San Francisco Bay Area each year.

Also on Monday, a judge entered an innocent plea for Buford O'Neal Furrow Jr. at the white supremacist's arraignment in federal court on Monday.

Furrow has allegedly confessed to killing U.S. postal worker Joseph Iletto and to a shooting spree at the North Valley Jewish Community Center, in which five people, including three children, were wounded.

While federal charges against Furrow relate only to the murder case, the government could also add hate crime allegations encompassing the attack on the Jewish center in Granada Hills.

If convicted, Furrow could face the death penalty on the federal charges, as well as on separate state charges. □

First Israeli astronaut will take Jewish artifacts along for the ride

By Tom Tugend

LOS ANGELES (JTA) — When Israel's first astronaut boards a U.S. space shuttle in about a year, he will carry with him artifacts that "emphasize the unity of the people of Israel and the Jewish communities abroad."

Col. Ilan Ramon isn't yet ready to reveal precisely what "things" he will take along, but he sees his two-and-a-half-week mission in space as a "good stage to proclaim that we [in Israel] need you, and you [in the Diaspora] need us."

The boyish-looking 45-year-old fighter pilot and squadron commander made his announcement at a reunion Sunday of Machal West, which consists of American and other overseas volunteers who fought in Israel's War of Independence.

Identifying himself as the son of a refugee father from Germany and a mother who survived Auschwitz, Ramon said that serving as his country's first astronaut was part of a "miracle" that stretched back 50 years when the men and women in his audience left safe homes to fight for the nascent Jewish state.

"I'm proud of you," he said. "What you've done for Israel is much greater than what I have done." □

BEHIND THE HEADLINES**Israel, Jewish groups help Turkey's victims as winter nears***By Gil Sedan*

ADAPAZARI, Turkey (JTA) — A middle-aged man climbed up to the cabin of a crane and drew the operator's attention to a small suitcase on top of a pile of rubble left by last month's earthquake.

"Can you get it for me?" he pleaded, "Please, it's very important."

The huge arm of the crane pulled it out of the ruins with perfect precision.

The man, Aydin Yilmaz, in his early 50s, opened the suitcase, pulled out a photo album, pointed at the pictures and said, "That's my family. They are all there, underneath."

He pointed quietly at the huge pile of rubble that had buried his wife and two children.

Stories like Yilmaz's are commonplace in Adapazari, a town east of Istanbul and one of the six areas hardest hit by the earthquake that killed an estimated 14,000 people. Now, with winter approaching, the focus of the aid effort is on making sure that international support, including aid from Israel and Jewish communities worldwide, reaches the estimated 600,000 people left homeless.

The Israel Defense Force has deployed a field hospital at the entrance to Adapazari.

A number of tents supply the local population with advanced medical equipment, including X-ray facilities, laboratories, children's and orthopedic wards. Israeli surgeons conducted emergency operations — and one baby delivery — in the rooms of an adjacent government office.

In addition, Israel has sent Turkey some 1,000 tons of agricultural products, frozen vegetables, water, milk, and new and used clothing.

The Israeli relief delegation numbered some 500 rescuers, medical staff and other experts, including the IDF's elite rescue unit, which had gained experience in rescue operations in Lebanon and places of natural disaster in many parts of the world.

For the thousands of people living in makeshift tents with no running water, electricity or sewage facilities, it is now a race against the coming winter.

Much depends on the readiness of other countries to help — and on Turkey's ability to make optimal usage of that help. But if a recent incident is any indication, that ability is questionable.

A load of humanitarian aid reached Adapazari from Israel through the voluntary organization called Latet.

The supply was stored in the warehouse of the Red Crescent. Volunteers went with the first truck to a nearby village, which, according to Red Crescent activists, needed the supply badly.

The truck, loaded with Israeli donations, reached the village of Karpurcek Yokselko — only to find out that the village had escaped the earthquake unharmed.

But the local villagers, needy and poor regardless of the quake, surrounded the truck and insisted on getting their share of the supply.

"Someone misdirected us," said volunteer leader Ziva Ohayon. "But we will go back to the warehouse and make sure that this time

we go to the people who really need it."

There were plenty of them. In fact, some were found right next to the warehouse, in the heart of Adapazari.

The incident indicates the complexity of the task at hand. It is not enough to give.

Someone needs to be on site to make sure that the donations reach the right people.

Indeed, Dr. Rick Hodes, an emergency doctor with the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, recently left his mission in Albania to visit the IDF hospital last weekend and assess where the JDC should contribute medical aid.

The JDC has organized 40 Jewish American groups to raise funds for the earthquake victims.

"We shall do our work in cooperation with the Jewish community in Turkey," Ami Bergman, JDC's representative in Turkey, told JTA.

The idea is to take advantage of the natural links between the Jewish community and the Turkish authorities, and at the same time use relief efforts in the United States to foster those relations even more.

The JDC intends to focus on long-term relief works in Turkey, particularly in the spheres of housing, medical treatment and education.

Turkish officials acknowledged the efforts of both the worldwide Jewish community and, in particular, the state of Israel.

"We deeply appreciate the contribution of the people of Israel," Prime Minister Bulent Ecevit told JTA. "The Israeli contribution was remarkable compared to donations by other countries."

Turkey, it is believed, will need at least \$10 billion to get back on track. □

Scholar dismisses attack on him as work of 'Zionist'*By Douglas Davis*

LONDON (JTA) — A prominent Palestinian intellectual is attacking allegations that he fabricated portions of his personal history so he could claim he was a refugee.

The allegations against Edward Said, professor of English and comparative literature at Columbia University, were made in September's Commentary magazine by Israeli academic Justus Weiner, who spent three years researching Said's early childhood.

Weiner found that Said, an articulate proponent of the Palestinian cause, did not, as he had claimed, grow up in Jerusalem, attend St. George's School and then flee with his family in 1947 in response to threats by the prestate Haganah Jewish underground.

Rather, says Weiner, Said was raised in privileged conditions in Cairo, from where his family fled to the United States as a result of attacks on his father's business interests.

In interviews this week, Said said he had never claimed to be a refugee and dismissed Weiner as a worker for "right-wing Zionists."

"I never said I became a refugee, but that my extended family — my uncles and cousins and aunts on both sides and my grandfathers — became refugees," Said wrote in the London-based Arabic daily al-Hayat. □