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83rd Year

TOP NEWS IN BRIEF

House panel OKs Israel aid

A U.S. House subcommittee voted to give Israel its full \$3 billion annual aid package as a lump sum when the U.S. fiscal year starts in October.

Rep. Sonny Callahan (R-Ala.), the chairman of the U.S. House Appropriations subcommittee on foreign operations, had threatened to cut \$250 million from the package because of Israel's planned sale of military technology to China and argued against early disbursement of the funds.

During what one observer described as an "ugly" debate preceding Tuesday's vote, Callahan accused the American Israel Public Affairs Committee, the pro-Israel lobby, of "twisting arms" to ensure Israel gets the aid.

The bill now goes on to the House Appropriations Committee.

Senate passes hate amendment

Jewish groups hailed the U.S. Senate passage of an amendment Tuesday that could lead to hate crimes legislation covering victims targeted for their sexual orientation, gender or disability.

The passage of the Kennedy Amendment, which also makes federal prosecutions of hate crimes easier, does not assure new hate crimes legislation.

But the 57-42 vote was seen as a boost for legislation that has been a top priority for the Clinton administration and Jewish groups.

Shas submits resignations

In a move that could destroy Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak's legislative majority and force new elections, four ministers from the fervently Orthodox Shas Party submitted their resignations.

The resignations do not take effect for 48 hours, giving Shas more time to try to press its demands that Barak release more state funds for Shas' financially troubled school system. [Page 3]

Rabbi could face death penalty

A rabbi accused of having contracted to murder his wife could face the death penalty after a grand jury indictment.

The new charges against New Jersey Rabbi Fred Neulander, whose wife, Carol, died in November 1994 would come after two men pleaded guilty in the alleged murder-for-hire case earlier this month.

FOCUS ON ISSUES

Business world lures young Jews away from work at Jewish camps

By Julie Wiener

NEW YORK (JTA) — Jonathan Cohen, director of the Henry S. Jacobs Camp in Mississippi, is desperate to find enough counselors.

So he sent letters to everyone who had ever attended the Reform movement sleep-away camp, called people "over and over again" and offered \$75 signing bonuses.

Jerry Kaye, director of the Olin-Sang-Ruby Union Institute in Wisconsin, another Reform camp, is offering his counselors career planning sessions with a corporate recruiter and awarding \$1,000 scholarships to those who return for a third year of work.

Steve Mintz, of Herzl Camp, an independent Jewish camp in Wisconsin, offered signing bonuses and "made a lot of plaintive phone calls."

As American Jewish camps prepare to open for the summer, they face soaring enrollment rates and are earning growing recognition for their effectiveness in fostering Jewish commitment.

But they are having trouble filling their bunks with Jewish counselors.

"This has been the hardest year ever" for finding staff, said Rabbi Ramie Arian, executive director of the Foundation for Jewish Camping.

"There are openings at many camps still," he said in early June, although he noted that he knew of no camp so understaffed that it could not open its doors.

The foundation, founded in 1998, has awarded \$200,000 to Jewish camps to help alleviate the problem.

The counselor shortage is not unique to Jewish camps, and the executive director of the 2,500-member American Camping Association reports that "everyone's having a hard time."

But finding Jewish counselors — which most Jewish camps want, in order to create a Jewish climate with Jewish role models — can be particularly difficult, especially at a time when the entire field of Jewish communal work is struggling to find staff.

For the most part, camp directors blame the strong economy in which other traditional employers of college students, like Disney World and fast food chains, are also struggling. But the highly competitive, career-minded ethos of today's American Jewish college students is also hurting camps.

"It seems like the counselors who used to come back for a second and third year and then became senior counselors, they're taking internships and feeling pressured to move on with their lives," Mintz said.

Hilary Buff, executive director of Camp Solomon Schechter, a Conservative-affiliated camp in the state of Washington, agreed.

"The priority for a lot of kids in college is a reputation-based job, a job that will get them connections," she said, noting that with fewer counselors returning for third and fourth years, she has had to make do with a younger staff.

Take Les Skolnik, who just finished his sophomore year at the University of Maryland. Skolnik has worked at camp before and is chairman of his campus Hillel's student leadership council: In short, he's the counselor every Jewish camp wants.

But this summer he'll be making \$9 to \$12 an hour interning for an online investment firm in New York.

Skolnik thought about going back to camp this summer, but his parents were pressuring him to make more money and he wanted to "start having different experiences to help make my decision for post-college plans," he explained in an e-mail

MIDEAST FOCUS

Hezbollah: Attacks may continue

U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan met Tuesday with the leader of Hezbollah. During the meeting, Sheik Hassan Nasrallah warned that his group's attacks on Israel would continue if the Jewish state does not withdraw from all territory that Lebanon is claiming.

Meanwhile, E.U. officials backed the United Nations in its dispute with Lebanon over whether Israel has fully withdrawn from southern Lebanon. At the end of a two-day meeting in Portugal, the officials issued a statement welcoming the Israeli withdrawal and calling on all parties to cooperate with the United Nations.

Lebanon is refusing to accept a U.N. ruling that Israel has complied with a 1978 Security Council resolution and is threatening to block U.N. plans to deploy additional peacekeepers along the border with Israel.

Violent incidents rock Israel

A series of unrelated incidents claimed three lives in Israel during the past several days. A man was beaten to death in an incident of road rage, another man was stabbed to death with a broken bottle during a fight over beach chairs and a toddler was beaten to death by the boyfriend of the child's mother for disturbing him while he was trying to watch a soccer match.

In a television address, Prime Minister Ehud Barak called on the nation to stop violence "with all our means."

One-third of Israel's elementary and middle school students, and one-quarter of high school students, consider violence a big or very big problem in their schools, according to a report by Hebrew University. The study also found that 10 percent of middle and high school students had brought weapons, including guns and knives, to school in the month before the survey was taken.



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interview. "Jewish camps should make salaries more competitive," he said, adding that "enormous financial strain" prevents many from even considering camp jobs.

Camps pay from several hundred dollars to \$3,000 for the summer, depending on experience, and the work at sleep-away camps is round-the-clock. Many college students also have financial aid packages that require them to earn more over the summer than camps pay.

Those who work at camps say that pay is not a deciding factor.

"It is well-known that we are not working at these places for the money, only because we love what we do," said Helayne Hashmall, who just completed her freshman year at the University of Maryland and is returning as a counselor to the Reform movement's Kutz Camp in New York.

Hashmall sees the camp experience as helping her professional aspirations of becoming a rabbi.

"We'll have to increase salaries across the board," predicted Cohen. "Although money's not the only issue, there have been numerous conversations where people say, 'I could go to camp and make this kind of money or go to a Web design company and earn thousands of dollars.'"

But because most Jewish camps are nonprofits on tight budgets and struggling to keep costs down, raising salaries can be daunting.

"To make a real difference, you would have to raise salaries by at least \$1,000 per counselor," said Arian, adding that such across-the-board changes would dramatically affect a camp's budget.

"In the long run, there's no choice, but where the money will come from, I don't know," he said.

Not all camps are struggling to recruit. Brian Greene, director of the Conservative Camp Ramah in California, said he had most of his positions filled by April. He attributes his success to an extensive training program and a loyal cadre of former campers.

"The best camps are able to produce their own counselors from within," he said.

For now, camp directors in search of counselors are relying mainly on bonuses, career counseling and increased recruitment. In addition, they are starting to agree to one condition that was once taboo: allowing counselors to work for only part of the summer.

They are also hiring more non-Jewish counselors — from the United States and abroad — particularly for specialist positions like art teachers and athletic directors.

However, said Arian, "the sacrifice you make when you don't find a Jewish baseball coach is you lose the opportunity for the baseball field to be a place where Jewish lessons happen. If you don't have someone with a Jewish background to make that real, you've surrendered that piece of camp's power."

Many camps are turning to Israelis to solve the problem. Even though Israeli counselors earn less than their American counterparts, camp dollars go further in Israel than in the United States. Also, post-army Israelis are often eager to jump at a free trip to the United States.

The Jewish Agency for Israel's Summer Shlichut program has doubled its placements in three years. The program, which recruits and trains young Israelis to work as counselors and specialists in Jewish camps, placed 480 people in 1997 and is placing almost 900 this summer, according to Melanie Rosencranz, the program's U.S. coordinator.

"Camp directors used to say Israeli counselors are so expensive to bring over," said Rosencranz, but she said those complaints have stopped.

In addition to looking overseas, there is a lot of talk about marketing the camp job as a career-enhancing experience. A few camps are offering on-site classes for which counselors can get college credit, and some are looking into connecting staff with camp alumni in careers the counselors are interested in pursuing.

"Interning at Goldman Sachs looks better on your resume," said Arian, but "whereas your job at Goldman Sachs is probably a glorified file clerk," counselors have a lot of responsibilities and learn management and organizational skills useful in the corporate world.

"We have to sell it to parents and prospective future employers," he said. □

JEWISH WORLD

NEWS ANALYSIS

Barak making last-ditch effort to save his governing coalition

By David Landau

JERUSALEM (JTA) — Prime Minister Ehud Barak was fighting for his political life this week.

His largest coalition partner, the fervently Orthodox Shas Party, resigned from the government Tuesday, a move that could force new elections.

But Barak, using the two-day cooling-off period prescribed by law before the resignations take effect, was urging Shas to return.

At the same time, Barak and the ministers from his One Israel bloc were pressuring their other major partner, the secular Meretz Party, to give ground in its ongoing battle with Shas and thereby pull the government back from the abyss.

Meretz, which controls the Education Ministry, has for months locked horns with Shas over funding for Shas' financially troubled school network.

"Whatever happens, there will be a government committed to our policies of peace, security and closing the economic gaps," Barak said at a news conference Tuesday.

But other voices from within his party admitted that if Shas goes, Barak's prospects for holding onto power would be bleak.

"We have no other real option if Shas leaves," Environment Minister Dalia Itzik of One Israel said Tuesday night.

While on paper he could perhaps cobble together a narrow government — without any Orthodox component and relying on the votes of the 10 legislators from Israeli Arab parties — this would render him permanently at the mercy of numerous small partners and ultimately doomed to fall prey to their contrary pressures and demands. Another alternative, of course, is early elections.

If elections are held, One Israel hopes the recent withdrawal of troops from southern Lebanon and the beginnings of an upturn in the economy will buoy Barak's political fortunes. But predicting the outcome of elections is dangerous. And, barely a year after Barak took office, few if any politicians are eager to risk their future at the ballot box again.

Indeed, Shas is likewise reluctant to go to elections now — the party is suffering from internal rifts and former leader Aryeh Deri still awaits a verdict in his appeal on a conviction for taking bribes — and this is seen within One Israel as Barak's strongest remaining card.

Barak told reporters this week that "90 percent" of the disputed issues surrounding Shas' educational network had been resolved in "long days and nights of negotiation."

He said another Shas demand — the creation of a separate broadcast authority for Orthodox television and radio stations had also been resolved. Shas was being offered effective autonomy for its stations, now broadcasting illegally, within the existing second broadcast authority.

But for Shas, this was not enough as long as Meretz's leader, Education Minister Yossi Sarid, still wields direct control over Shas' education system.

Shas ministers demanded that their school network be removed from the Education Ministry entirely, or, failing that, be put under the direct aegis of the deputy minister of education, Shas' own Meshulam Nahari.

Sarid adamantly opposes either of these options.

The Meretz leader offered to withdraw his party from the government, remaining in the coalition without controlling any ministries. But Barak was reluctant to take up this offer, fearing it would be seen as a surrender to Shas pressure.

Instead, as the 48 hours relentlessly ticked away, Barak summoned his party ministers Tuesday night to present yet another possible compromise: He himself will head a special ministerial committee that will oversee the Shas school system during the coming three months. Anything smacking of discrimination against the Shas schools would immediately be taken up by this committee.

In this way, Barak suggested, Sarid would not be stripped of the formal power over the Shas schools, but in practice the prime minister would hold the last word. □

Bronfmans sell Seagram

A French conglomerate's acquisition of the Seagram Co. brings to an end the Bronfman family's 72-year control over the liquor and entertainment giant. As a result of Vivendi's purchase of Seagram for about \$34 billion in stock, Edgar Bronfman Jr., Seagram's current chief executive officer, became vice chairman of the newly formed company, to be called Vivendi Universal. The Bronfman family fortune funds many Jewish philanthropic causes.

WJC invites Goussinsky

The World Jewish Congress invited Russian media mogul Vladimir Goussinsky to New York to discuss his imprisonment last week and what it might mean for Russia's Jewish community. However, the Russian Jewish Congress leader was released from jail on condition he not leave Moscow.

On Tuesday, a Moscow court refused to consider Goussinsky's complaint that his recent arrest and detention in a city jail were illegal.

Kiev shul seeks help online

A synagogue in Kiev, Ukraine, destroyed by fire earlier this month created a Web site to raise donations for its repair. The site — www.aish.kiev.ua — contains information in both English and Russian on the Aish HaTorah synagogue, which lost two Torah scrolls and its 1,000-book library in the blaze.

Group honors German priest

The Polish Council of Christians and Jews presented its Figure of Reconciliation Award to a German priest. The Rev. Manfred Deselaers, who has lived near Auschwitz for the past decade, fosters programs to create dialogue among Jews, Poles and Germans. Deselaers lived for more than a year in Israel and is the author of a book on God, evil and Auschwitz.

French firm buys Saatchi ad firm

French advertising firm Publicis is taking over Britain's Saatchi & Saatchi in a \$1.89 billion deal that creates the world's fifth largest advertising company. Saatchi & Saatchi was founded by Charles and Maurice Saatchi, the sons of an Iraqi Jew who fled from Baghdad to Britain in 1946 to avoid religious persecution.

Site names names in Frank case

The alleged vigilantes who kidnapped and lynched a Jew in 1915 in Georgia are being identified on an Internet site, The Washington Post reports.

Many who were then local leaders are accused on the site of taking part in the lynching of factory manager Leo Frank, who was convicted of murdering 13-year-old Mary Phagan. The names can be found at www.leofranklynchers.com.

BEHIND THE HEADLINES**Once-shadowy Russian figure is new symbol for human rights***By Lev Gorodetsky*

MOSCOW (JTA) — When Vladimir Goussinsky walked out of jail here last Friday night, he was not just another released prisoner waiting to be formally arraigned.

As the television screens showed, Goussinsky's three days in prison left the media tycoon and leader of the Russian Jewish Congress looking like a tired and nervous middle-aged Jewish clerk with a host of unsolvable problems. But the ongoing government campaign against Goussinsky, which landed him for three days last week in the Butyrskaya prison and has him charged with embezzling \$10 million, has turned the shy, controversial mogul into something of an international cause celebre.

The campaign is also just the latest episode in a life that has turned from that of an ordinary Soviet citizen into a reported billionaire who is the controversial focus of government attention.

Goussinsky, 47, grew up in a Jewish family that, like millions of other Soviet families, suffered under Stalinist oppression.

His grandfather was executed in 1937 during the Great Purges, and his grandmother spent nine years in a Soviet prison camp.

Like most Soviet Jews, Goussinsky knew little about Judaism when he was growing up. But the outside world didn't let him forget about his background.

"I had to fight often when someone called me a Jew-face," Goussinsky recalled in a 1998 JTA interview.

People who know him closely say these childhood fights gave him a strong desire to fight for other Jews and help them respect themselves. During his student years, he was one of thousands of Jewish youths who flocked to Moscow's Choral Synagogue on Jewish holidays, especially on Simchat Torah, to demonstrate their pride in their Judaism — ignoring the KGB agents who were taking pictures of the crowd.

But that was the extent of his Jewish involvement.

In 1986-87, the early years of Mikhail Gorbachev's opening to the West and restructuring of the Soviet economy, Goussinsky began making money in a tiny metal-works cooperative.

He quickly and mysteriously managed to become wealthy — and by 1989, when he founded the Most bank, he had entered not only banking but real estate.

Analysts say Goussinsky capitalized on his close ties to the Moscow government and especially to then-Deputy Mayor Yuri Luzhkov, who would later assume the city's top post.

In 1993, he entered the media business, launching a newspaper and establishing a television channel.

NTV became known in 1999 for its opposition to Russia's war in Chechnya. This stance did not endear Goussinsky to Russian President Vladimir Putin, who was brought in by Yeltsin to run the government in part to accelerate that war.

The first attack on Goussinsky came in December 1994, when presidential security service agents raided his offices and harassed his security guards and other personnel.

The then-head of the presidential security service later said that Goussinsky's nemesis, fellow oligarch Boris Berezovsky, had asked him to arrange Goussinsky's murder. Fearing a possible arrest on charges similar to those that recently landed him in jail,

Goussinsky left the country and spent seven months abroad.

Sources say that those months in London changed his life.

"During his stay abroad, Vladimir had a lot of free time to think about his Jewishness," says Yevgeny Satanovsky, one of the leaders of the Russian Jewish Congress.

When Goussinsky returned to Moscow, he decided to become involved in the Jewish community.

Satanovsky denies the widespread accusation that Goussinsky began bankrolling the Jewish community to "buy" international Jewish support to fight off future embezzlement charges.

"Goose," he says, using Goussinsky's nickname, "could have bought his security much cheaper" than the millions of dollars a year that he donates to the RJC. "He is crazy over Jewish things, Israeli patriotism and all that."

American Jewish groups are also behind Goussinsky.

"If he's using his Jewish identity as a shield, why not?" asks Mark Levin, executive director of NCSJ: Advocates on Behalf of Jews in Russia, Ukraine, the Baltic States & Eurasia.

"This is someone who has not hidden his Jewish identity, this is someone who has made an important contribution to Russian Jewish identity."

In addition, adds Levin, the government used Goussinsky's Jewishness against him in an advertisement that mentioned his connection to Israel. He has an Israeli passport and owns 25 percent of the Israeli newspaper Ma'ariv.

Fifty-two members of the U.S. Congress have also rallied behind him, sending a letter to President Clinton to press Russia to "formally justify" Goussinsky's arrest.

Others, like Leonid Katsis, a Jewish political analyst in Russia, point to Goussinsky's links to the Soviet-era KGB.

More than 50 former KGB employees work for his security service.

Goussinsky has a simple reaction to this criticism: "We'd be ready to hire the devil himself if he could give us security."

But even Goussinsky's critics agree that he made valuable contributions to the revival of Russian Jewish life by turning Jewish philanthropy into a respectable activity and demonstrating that the Jewish community in Russia can be self-supporting and financially independent.

The fortunes of Goussinsky, who supported Luzhkov in his failed bid for the Russian presidency last year, began to take a nose dive last August, after Yeltsin appointed Putin as prime minister. Putin quickly established an informal alliance with Berezovsky, and with the Lubavitch-dominated Federation of Jewish Communities, the Russian Jewish Congress' rival.

This rivalry escalated last week, when a group of Lubavitch rabbis elected one of their own, Rabbi Berel Lazar, to be the chief rabbi of Russia. Adolph Shayeveich, backed by Goussinsky, has long served in that role.

Even if the current case is dropped, a statement made June 15 by Russian President Vladimir Putin indicates that Goussinsky's prospects appear to be bleak.

But Goussinsky appears ready to go down fighting if need be. He showed that moxie a few weeks ago, when in the midst of the campaign against him, he announced that would spend \$40 million to purchase 45 percent of Bezek, Israel's telephone company.

Inna Itkina, a friend of Goussinsky in the 1970s who now lives in San Francisco, says he "was very active, and he always came up with new ideas. He is a very adventurous person." □