



Daily News Bulletin

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83rd Year

TOP NEWS IN BRIEF

ADL warns Lieberman on religion

The Anti-Defamation League sent a letter to Sen. Joseph Lieberman calling on the U.S. Democratic vice presidential candidate to keep religion out of the presidential campaign.

"Appealing along religious lines, or belief in God, is contrary to the American ideal," said the ADL letter.

The letter came a day after Lieberman, an Orthodox Jew, told an audience at an African American church in Detroit that Americans need to renew the "dedication of our nation and ourselves and to God and God's purpose."

The ADL sent a similar letter last year to the eight Republican and Democratic candidates for president after several candidates made statements emphasizing their religious beliefs.

Israel arrests four Palestinians

Israel arrested four Palestinians suspected of helping a Hamas fugitive who was the target of a botched Israeli raid Saturday night.

Mahmoud Abu Hanoud, who was lightly injured, fled to the self-rule area where he was apprehended by Palestinian security forces.

Palestinian sources said his trial was likely to begin Tuesday.

Three Israeli soldiers were killed and another wounded, apparently by "friendly fire," during Saturday's mission. [Page 1]

Nestle contributes to Swiss fund

Nestle will contribute \$14.6 million to the \$1.25 billion Swiss banks settlement for Holocaust-era claims.

The court-appointed lawyer in the settlement is scheduled to devise a plan to distribute the money by Sept. 11.

Police detonate roadside bomb

Israeli police detonated a homemade bomb near one of Jerusalem's intersections Sunday night.

Jerusalem Police Chief Yair Yitzhaki said it is likely that terrorists had intended to use the device in a crowded area in the next day or two.

Israeli security forces have been on a general alert for possible terrorist actions by Muslim militants opposed to the peace process.

NEWS ANALYSIS

Deadly raid on West Bank shows limits of cooperation

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM (JTA) — It was one of those contradictions so typical of Israel's conflict with the Palestinians.

Just as Israelis were mourning the death of three of their soldiers — apparently mistakenly shot by other Israeli soldiers while they were chasing a Hamas terrorist — Israeli security sources made a point of praising the Palestinian Authority for its determined action against Hamas.

Mahmoud Abu Hanoud managed to escape the siege on his home north of Nablus, then received medical treatment at a West Bank hospital before he was turned in to Palestinian police.

Some Israeli policy-makers, like Cabinet minister Amnon Lipkin-Shahak, said Israel should demand Abu Hanoud's extradition unless the Palestinian Authority puts him on trial.

However, despite Israeli praise for the Palestinians' performance against terrorists, Israel refrained from asking for his extradition. Moreover, the Palestinian Authority is highly unlikely to turn him over.

Reports say Abu Hanoud is to be tried by a special military tribunal in the next few days.

One reason why the Israelis did not want to push the extradition with the Palestinians is the sensitive stage of peace negotiations. Another is that cooperation between the two sides' security services has never been better.

Last week, both services uncovered a terrorist ring of 23 Islamic activists, reportedly linked to arch-terrorist Osama bin Laden.

Last month, another operation resulted in the seizure of an alleged Hamas armory in Nablus, the largest stores of weapons and bomb-making equipment seized in years.

But now the Palestinians have their red line: They will not turn their people over to the Israelis.

They have rarely done so in the past, despite a specific clause in the Oslo peace accords that terrorists on the wanted list should be extradited after an initial period of detention.

For the time being, the Israelis and the Palestinians have a common goal: keep the area calm until negotiations play out during the next few weeks. At the same time, Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat has no interest in antagonizing Hamas just before a possible breakthrough in the negotiations.

Arafat and Hamas have a love-hate relationship. Arafat would like to be rid of the Muslim fundamentalist opposition led by Sheik Ahmed Yassin. Yet Arafat cannot afford to confront Hamas.

On the other hand, he can use the implicit threat of fundamentalist terrorist attacks as a tool against Israel in negotiations.

Yassin, too, needs Arafat's consent for the continued political activities of Hamas in the territories, although he told The New York Times this week that Arafat's intelligence apparatus had quashed 175 attacks against Israeli targets in recent years.

In the years 1994 to 1996, Hamas was responsible for a number of terrorist attacks inside Israel that killed dozens of Israelis. Arafat was unable — or unwilling — to stop Hamas.

Only after former Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu came to power in

MIDEAST FOCUS

Rabbis want chief rabbi out

Several prominent Ashkenazi Orthodox rabbis in Israel are calling for the dismissal of Chief Sephardi Rabbi Eliyahu Bakshi-Doron over a dispute over the biblically mandated sabbatical year in which Jews are to refrain from agriculture.

Bakshi-Doron was quoted this week as advocating a more liberal approach that would allow Jews in Jerusalem to buy produce from Jewish farmers outside the city, a stand opposed by the rabbis.

Barak goes to Turkey

Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak traveled to Turkey on Monday for talks with Turkish leaders.

The discussions were to address the regional peace process, as well as bilateral defense deals and plans by Israel to import water from Turkey.

Lebanon plans to sue Israel

Lebanon's prime minister is heading a committee to pursue the country's plans to sue Israel for damages inflicted during the Jewish state's involvement in southern Lebanon.

The lawsuit would be filed in an international court.

Lebanon estimates that Israel caused \$7 billion worth of damages.

Wireless drug to be tested

An Israeli company received clearance from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration to begin clinical trials of a pill that may help diagnose the human small intestine as the pill travels through the body.

The system developed by the Given Imaging company consists of a pill that uses wireless capsule technology to transmit information to a recorder strapped to the waist of the patient and a computer work station to process the information.

The company said the system will be tested on 20 patients in New York and London.



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1996 — partially as a result of voter reaction to those attacks — did Palestinian security services take action against Hamas.

Under Arafat's orders, Yassin spent 10 weeks under house arrest in the Gaza Strip in 1998.

Hamas has repeatedly threatened to renew terrorist attacks. But the security services of the Palestinian Authority have indeed taken measures against Hamas, and Israelis have learned how to cope better with the terrorist threat. In fact, last weekend's operation was part of those efforts.

Arafat refrained from clashing head-on with Hamas not only because of politics, but also because of popular feelings.

Shortly after the battle was over, dozens of women gathered for a spontaneous support rally for Hamas.

The situation could not have been more satisfying to the Palestinians: The Israelis suffered three losses and their target, Abu Hanoud, managed to escape.

Prior to the battle, Abu Hanoud was a village hero. Now, he's a national Palestinian hero.

"This is a victory for Hamas and the Palestinian people," said Ismayil Haniya, one of Hamas' leaders in Gaza.

Hamas was quick to turn the Israeli mishap into a Hamas victory, mostly because in the past few years, the group has seen a number of failures.

In the past two years, Israel hit, one by one, all the commanders of the military wing of Hamas.

Abu Hanoud was not considered a star fighter.

Only the fact that senior commanders had already been taken out of action elevated him on the most-wanted list.

Abu Hanoud was reportedly responsible, among other operations, for planning the 1998 suicide bombing of Jerusalem's Mahane Yehuda market and Ben Yehuda pedestrian mall, and other attacks in which 20 Israelis were killed.

He was also in charge of recruiting four Israeli Arabs in September 1999 to bomb two buses in the Israeli towns of Haifa and Tiberias.

In the past, Yassin had hinted that his organization would consider a "truce" with Israel if it returned to the 1967 borders and released all Palestinian prisoners. However, in the recent interview with the Times, he said the offer was now void because Israel had rejected it.

Another reason for Hamas' enhanced terrorist activity is mounting pressure on the organization to kidnap Israeli soldiers as a bargaining chip for its own imprisoned militants.

One Islamist activist was quoted on the Hamas Web site saying that, "the Islamic movement will have to do something to give our prisoners hope."

Arafat, he wrote, "doesn't represent us, and he doesn't give a damn if our brothers remained in Zionist jails for 30 years to come." He concluded, "We have to do something."

Recent Hamas setbacks, and the restraint forced upon Hamas by the Palestinian Authority, may not last long. If negotiations collapse, Arafat may give Hamas the green light to operate.

A roadside bomb, discovered by chance and detonated near a populated neighborhood in Jerusalem on Sunday night, was an indication that the fight against Islamic fundamentalist terror is far from over.

The threat exists.

Consequently, operations like last weekend's terrorist chase will continue, despite the potentially heavy price. □

Jewish cyclists finish trip

NEW YORK (JTA) — Jewish environmental activists who cycled across the United States to raise awareness on such issues as energy efficiency and alternative transportation concluded their 11-week journey in Washington this weekend.

The 10 participants in the Cross USA Jewish Environmental Bike Ride spoke at local synagogues over Shabbat and met with White House officials Monday. □

JEWISH WORLD

Austria sanctions may be lifted

A team of European Union experts will recommend that the political and economic body lift diplomatic sanctions it imposed on Austria after Jorg Haider's far-right Freedom Party entered Austria's government in February, according to German media reports.

The E.U. appointed three leading political figures from Spain, Finland and Germany to compile a report on Austria's human rights conditions and on the nature of the Freedom Party.

German newspapers said the team, dubbed the "three wise men," will release its report within the next three weeks.

Bush: I'll preserve 'special' ties

George W. Bush promised members of a Jewish organization a continued "special relationship" between the United States and Israel.

But the U.S. Republican presidential candidate told B'nai B'rith International's convention via satellite Monday that America should not pressure the Jewish state or interfere with Israel's democratic process.

Bush also sounded familiar themes for Jewish groups, including support for the peace process, tolerance of all faiths and moving the U.S. Embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem.

Meanwhile, B'nai B'rith International's sitting president, Richard Heideman, was re-elected Monday by a vote of 236-111 at the convention, which was held in Washington.

It was the first time in the organization's history that an incumbent president faced a serious challenger, a fact many insiders attribute to grass-roots dissatisfaction with the budget cuts and restructuring by the Washington office.

Rabbis join peace summit

The chief rabbis of Israel, Great Britain and Russia joined religious leaders from around the world in an international summit aimed at building world peace.

The Dalai Lama is being excluded from the conference sponsored by the United Nations because of China's objections that he is a political leader who is seeking Tibetan independence.

Group ups ante on Liechtenstein

The forerunner to the CIA suspected a Liechtenstein-based businessman of having laundered assets from Nazi leaders, according to documents obtained by JTA. The revelations about Marvin Hilti come as international Jewish groups are increasing pressure on the European principality to form an independent commission to investigate its companies' dealings with the Nazis.

Polish church asks for forgiveness for anti-Semitism as part of 'Holy Year'

By Ruth E. Gruber

ROME (JTA) — In a letter read aloud throughout Poland during Sunday Mass, leaders of the Polish Roman Catholic church have asked for forgiveness for the church's tolerating anti-Semitism and for other religious discrimination by Polish Catholics.

The soul-searching, five-part letter was issued last Friday by Polish bishops as part of the Church's Millennium Holy Year agenda of self-examination, apology and penitence for past sins.

Because it acknowledges that during the Shoah some Poles were guilty of indifference and of enmity toward Jews, the letter is being seen as going further than a 1991 apology issued by the Polish church.

The letter, which calls anti-Semitism as well as "anti-Christian attitudes" a sin and criticizes the behavior of some Poles during the Holocaust, also admits that Catholic anti-Semitism still exists.

"We want to express the value of the presence of Judaism in Polish history and of the coexistence between Christians and Jews," Bishop Jozef Zyczynski of Lublin said in an interview with the Rome newspaper *La Repubblica*.

In admitting sins committed by Polish Catholics during the Holocaust, he said, "We wanted to recall that there was indifference regarding the fate of people who were suffering deeply. And we suffer because of that now. We don't want simply to identify historical motives, but to open the way and the possibility for new relations between Jews and Christians."

He said the church in Lublin was organizing follow-up events, including one in which Lublin's Catholic University will grant an honorary doctorate to Rome's chief rabbi, Elio Toaff.

The bishops' letter asks for "forgiveness for the attitude of those among us who have disdained persons of other denominations or have tolerated anti-Semitism."

It notes that the Holocaust, while carried out by the Germans, was mainly implemented on German-occupied Polish soil.

In the spirit of Holy Year penitence, it says, "we must realize that along with noble efforts by Poles to rescue many Jewish lives, there are also our sins from that period: indifference or enmity towards Jews."

"Everything must be done to rebuild and deepen Christian solidarity with the people of Israel so that never and nowhere can a similar tragedy happen again," it says.

It says that it is necessary to overcome all expressions of "anti-Jewishness, anti-Judaism (animosity stemming from wrong interpretations of Church teachings), and anti-Semitism (hatred based on nationalistic or racial motives) that existed and still exist among Christians."

But, it notes, "We expect that" anti-Polish sentiment "will be fought with equal determination."

"This is an important new step by the Polish Church in the slow process of beginning to approach the reality of anti-Semitism," said Stanislaw Krajewski.

Krajewski is a Polish Jewish leader who has long been active in Catholic-Jewish dialogue.

"This will make easier the attempts to face shameful events, like postwar pogroms and the killings of Jews by Poles during World War II," said Krajewski, who is the Warsaw consultant for the American Jewish Committee.

Nonetheless, Krajewski said that while the condemnation of anti-Semitism as a sin was "very clear," he believes it is a "pity" that anti-Christian attitudes are labeled in the same way "because the consequences of the two have been incomparable."

Krajewski applauded the church's recognition of the need to acknowledge sufferings caused by past behavior, and suggested that the Jewish world might follow suit.

"This is an important task for the Church as well as for Jews," he said. "In the forthcoming month of Elul it is especially meaningful. We, Jews, also need to confront the existence among us of hatred, fanaticism and participation in the oppression of others." □

Green Party has a Jew, too, in the vice presidential slot

By Daniel Treiman

Jewish Student Press Service

NEW YORK (JTA) — Amid all the hubbub over Democratic vice presidential nominee Joseph Lieberman, few noticed that Green Party presidential candidate Ralph Nader beat Al Gore to the punch in picking a Jewish running mate.

For the second time in as many election cycles, the famed consumer advocate is joined on the Green Party line by environmentalist and American Indian activist Winona LaDuke, the daughter of a Jewish mother and an Anishinabekwe father.

One of the Reform Party vice-presidential candidates, Nat Goldhaber, is also Jewish.

Unlike 1996, when Nader and LaDuke didn't bother to mount a serious campaign, this time around they are garnering more national media attention with their relentless critique of corporate influence on the government, economy, society, environment — and not least of all — on the two major political parties.

The 41-year-old LaDuke, who lives on the White Earth Reservation in Minnesota with her three children, has a long record of activism on behalf of American Indians as well as the environment.

She is the founder of the White Earth Land Recovery Project, which buys back historic tribal lands, and has served on the board of Greenpeace USA.

In 1994, Time magazine named her one of America's 50 most promising leaders under 40.

That LaDuke's Jewish heritage has gone largely unnoticed is not entirely inexplicable.

She's certainly not as Jewishly observant as Lieberman.

While she does celebrate Chanukah and Passover, she mainly practices American Indian spiritual traditions.

Asked if she considers herself Jewish, she equivocates: "I consider that I come from a family that has Jewish ancestry."

She adds, however, that she is "really proud" of her Jewish heritage.

LaDuke says her activism was nurtured by her Jewish mother and her grandmother, who was a member of the International Ladies Garment Workers' Union.

"I come from a family of very progressive Jews," LaDuke says, adding that her mother and grandmother taught her, "You shouldn't be afraid to say what is right, and you should think when you buy things if it was made in a sweatshop or if they were unionized when they built this, and you should ask questions about equity and justice."

The Nader/LaDuke candidacy has sparked considerable debate on the left where many find Gore's centrism off-putting.

But many progressives fear that Nader will siphon off just enough votes from Gore to toss the election to Republican candidate Texas Gov. George W. Bush.

LaDuke admits that under a hypothetical system of preference voting, whereby voters could indicate a second and third preference for each office — something the Greens have championed — Gore would be her second choice.

But LaDuke makes no apologies for the possibility that her candidacy could give the Republicans a victory in November by

attracting voters away from the Gore-Lieberman ticket.

She cites the importance of engaging a broader spectrum of American voters, building the Green Party and qualifying the party for federal matching funds.

LaDuke acknowledges that on issues like the environment, Bush is "much worse" than Gore, contrasting the low level of environmental spending in Texas under Bush with Gore's authorship of a book on the environment, "Earth in the Balance."

Gore, she says, "knows what's right."

But LaDuke is dissatisfied with Gore's record on the environment in the Clinton administration.

She cites Gore's championing of the North American Free Trade Agreement and what she calls an "absence of leadership" on alternative energy and global warming. She sees at least one similarity between Bush and Gore on the environment.

"They both have their public policy largely influenced by corporate interests. And those corporate interests are not environmentally based."

She says her ticket has a chance of getting elected if those who do not ordinarily vote get out and cast their ballots this time.

Nonvoters, LaDuke says, are "the largest voting party in America." The nonvoting party is the party she belonged to until recently, never having voted in a presidential election until she first ran with Nader in 1996.

"I was one of those disenfranchised voters. Nothing resonated with me as far as what was being said or the candidates," LaDuke says.

And what would the U.S.-Israel relationship look like in a Nader-LaDuke administration?

LaDuke says the two countries should maintain good relations and that she's pleased with the way the Clinton administration has handled relations with Israel, with one caveat.

Citing the use of American-made weapons in conflicts throughout the world and U.S. military aid to Colombia, she says she is very concerned with the "militarization of foreign policy," adding that the U.S.-Israel relationship falls into that category.

"We need to diminish the amount of military aid given to Israel as well as other countries significantly," she says.

Asked whether Israel needs U.S. military aid for self-defense, LaDuke replies, "I think we need to be waging peace, not waging war." □

(LaDuke was interviewed on July 26 for New Voices, the national Jewish student magazine, by Daniel Treiman, New Voices' co-editor and the director of the Jewish Student Press Service.)

Bush I'll preserve 'special' ties

WASHINGTON (JTA) — George W. Bush promised members of a Jewish organization a continued "special relationship" between the United States and Israel.

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