



# Daily News Bulletin

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83rd Year

## TOP NEWS IN BRIEF

### Three Israeli soldiers killed

Three Israeli soldiers were killed during fighting between Israelis and Palestinians on Wednesday.

Israeli helicopters fired rockets at a Palestinian Authority building in the West Bank town of Jericho after gunmen killed the Israeli soldier.

Two other Israeli soldiers and at least two Palestinians were killed during heavy fighting at a village near the West Bank town of Bethlehem.

Palestinian witnesses said Israeli combat helicopters fired rockets during the clash in the village of El-Khadr, but Israeli officials said the helicopters were used to evacuate the Israeli casualties.

In the Gaza Strip, three Palestinians were killed during a second day of clashes at the Karni Crossing.

In other fighting, Palestinian gunmen opened fire on the Jerusalem neighborhood of Gilo, and Israeli troops returned the fire.

No injuries were reported. Wednesday's attack on Gilo from the nearby town of Beit Jalla was the first since last Friday.

### Peres, Arafat meet in Gaza

Israeli Cabinet member Shimon Peres and Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat met in the Gaza Strip.

In televised remarks to the nation before the meeting, Prime Minister Ehud Barak said Peres, an architect of the Oslo accords, was not going to negotiate with Arafat, but to give him a "clear message" that the "violence cannot go on."

### Pipe bomb explodes in Jerusalem

One person was lightly injured when a pipe bomb exploded near a parked jeep in Jerusalem on Wednesday, Israeli police said. A police spokesman said the device had been placed next to the jeep on a street near the city's main municipal theater.

### Poll: 3 of 4 Jews back Gore

Three out of four American Jews favor Democratic candidate Al Gore for president, according to a survey released this week by the American Jewish Committee.

The survey, which was conducted in late September, also found that 11 percent favor Republican George W. Bush and 3 percent support Green Party candidate Ralph Nader. [Page 2]

## ELECTIONS 2000

### Lieberman's candidacy spurred pride, optimism — and letdowns

By Michael J. Jordan

NEW YORK (JTA) — And down the track they come, neck and neck, with no clear sign of a "Lieberman Factor" influencing the race one way or the other.

Not until Nov. 8, the day after the elections, will America find itself with its first Jewish vice president — or a footnote in the annals of history.

Perhaps the public will never know if the Democratic nomination of Joseph Lieberman for vice president played a decisive role — especially in a campaign now dominated by the personalities of the two presidential candidates.

After all, would anyone admit to not voting for Al Gore exclusively because he had a Jewish running mate? Or would a Jewish Republican confess to swinging the other way for the thrill of seeing a Jew next in line for the White House?

And how many religious conservatives are so enthralled with Lieberman's espousal of religious values that they would desert the GOP?

Nevertheless, for the Jewish community, the ground-breaking choice of one of their own clearly enlivened the last three months of the campaign.

His selection stirred pride, fear and optimism — in addition to an apparent surge in fund raising for the Democratic coffers. The pride came as many proclaimed that America, and American Jews, have "come of age." Jewish grandmothers in Florida kvelled over the choice while younger Jews suddenly found "it's cool to be a Jew." And Gore-Lieberman kippahs were an ephemeral craze.

Meanwhile, standing by Lieberman's side was a wife with the very Jewish name Hadassah, who also happened to be the daughter of Holocaust survivors.

His nomination also sparked fear, as some worried that the prospect of a Jew "a heartbeat away from the presidency" would flush anti-Semites out of the closet. Indeed there were a few outbursts, but they were quickly denounced. And his selection spurred optimism, that this senator known as a beacon of morality and Orthodox Jew who lives his life in worldly, practical terms would tear down anti-Jewish stereotypes — and educate America about Orthodox Judaism.

Lieberman became a hot topic for rabbinical sermons, and educators hoped that the new Jewish role model would boost interest in Judaism itself. But the novelty wore off for some Jews, some of whom felt let down over several issues.

The first grumblings came when Lieberman, in his acceptance speech at the Democratic convention, made several references to God.

While some religious Jews applauded the remarks, they made many secular Jews uncomfortable. It even raised the specter of a new stereotype, that non-Jews would wonder why all Jews weren't like Lieberman. Some Jews half-jokingly began to dread the possibility that Gentiles might quiz them on various aspects of the religion.

In late August, Lieberman went further, declaring at an African American church in Detroit the need for Americans to renew the "dedication of our nation and ourselves to God and God's purpose."

The next day, the Anti-Defamation League rebuked the candidate.

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

The debate has continued as ADL has incurred the wrath of some Jews for criticizing Lieberman. In September, he raised the ire of many rabbis when he ventured on a radio talk-show into public explanations of Jewish law, saying

## MIDEAST FOCUS

### Israel blamed for excessive force

Amnesty International said Israeli forces are using excessive force in battles with Palestinians.

The London-based human rights group also said Wednesday that Israeli actions during the past five weeks could constitute war crimes. The group also criticized the Palestinians for not doing enough to keep young children away from the bloody clashes.

### Israel: Gunmen using aid station

Israel's army accused Palestinian gunmen of using a Red Crescent ambulance and first aid station to fire at the Jewish settlement of Psagot in the West Bank.

The army, which did not return the fire, called the incidents a "dangerous escalation by the Palestinian Authority."

### Ben-Ami, Albright meet

Israel's acting foreign minister met with U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright to discuss the ongoing violence in the Middle East. Shlomo Ben-Ami was slated to meet with National Security Advisor Sandy Berger in Washington later Wednesday. The Palestinian Authority's top negotiator, Saeb Erekat, also plans to meet with Albright this week, according to the U.S. State Department.

After meeting with British Prime Minister Tony Blair the day before, Ben-Ami said the European Union is more sympathetic to Israel than it has ever been before.

### Knesset OKs more allowances

Israel's Knesset approved legislation to increase the child allowances paid to families with five or more children.

Fervently Orthodox legislators, whose constituents stand to benefit the most from the legislation, presented the bill. The Israeli Arab community was also expected to benefit from the increased payments.



## Daily News Bulletin

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intermarriage was permitted in Judaism. At that point, some Jewish religious leaders advised him to stick to politics.

Lieberman has responded that public pronouncement of faith is not irreconcilable with church-state separation. Last week he called for a national "conversation" on reintroducing religious values to "the public square."

On other fronts, some Jews and fellow Democrats criticized Lieberman as too conservative. He soon moderated some stances, particularly on affirmative action and school vouchers, to align them with the Democratic platform.

His outreach to the black community riled some Jews in late September when he praised Louis Farrakhan for his voter registration efforts and expressed a willingness to meet with the notoriously anti-Semitic leader of the Nation of Islam.

For his part, Farrakhan, who once called Judaism a "gutter religion," said Hitler was a great man, and described Jewish businessmen as "bloodsuckers," publicly asked whether Lieberman as vice president wouldn't be more loyal to Israel than to the United States. Some have questioned Lieberman's relative silence since the violence in the Middle East broke out a month ago. Some Jews privately worried that a Jew in the White House might have the opposite effect of what Farrakhan charged.

Out of sensitivity to the "dual loyalty" charge, would a Vice President Lieberman overcompensate with a neutral stance vis-a-vis Israel?

Others, however, believe that Lieberman would assert his commitment to Israel if he was past the campaign and in a new administration.

Regardless of the criticisms — some say foibles expected of any candidate — the candidate remains popular within his Jewish base.

He scored high marks with Jews and non-Jews alike at his Oct. 5 debate with the Republican nominee for vice president, Dick Cheney.

Indeed, to at least one Jewish woman in New York, these two came across as so likeable and serious that she said she wished she could vote a "Lieberman-Cheney" ticket for the White House.

She wouldn't disclose which was her preference to head the ticket. □

## ELECTIONS 2000

### AJ Committee survey finds 3 out of 4 Jews back Gore

By Matthew E. Berger

WASHINGTON (JTA) — Three out of four Jews favor Democrat Al Gore over Texas Gov. George W. Bush for president, according to a survey released this week by the American Jewish Committee.

The survey, which was conducted in late September, found that 75 percent of Jewish voters would choose the Democrat for president, with 11 percent selecting Bush and 3 percent for consumer advocate Ralph Nader.

The poll of 1,010 Jews did not differentiate between likely voters and nonvoters, like many political tracking polls, and has a 3 percent margin of error. According to the poll, 90 percent of Jews approved of the selection of Joseph Lieberman, the Jewish senator from Connecticut, as Gore's running mate. Five percent said they disapproved of the selection and another 5 percent were unsure.

In the survey, Jewish voters also voiced their position on a number of the key issues in this year's presidential elections.

About 35 percent said they supported the idea of school vouchers to send children to private schools with public money, with 61 percent opposed and 4 percent undecided.

Twenty-eight percent of those surveyed said they were in favor of government aid to parochial or religious schools.

About two-thirds of those surveyed said they opposed the policy.

On the issue of the death penalty, 67 percent said they supported it for people convicted of murder, while 26 percent opposed it and 8 percent were undecided.

About 62 percent said they think abortion should be legal under any circumstances, with 31 percent saying it should be legal only under certain circumstances and 5 percent saying it should be illegal in all circumstances. □

## JEWISH WORLD

### Panel backs survivor payments

Austria should compensate Jewish survivors of the Holocaust for being thrown out of their homes, a panel of historians said.

Austria never passed legislation enabling Jews to return to their homes after the war because legislators knew that doing this would have angered former Nazis, who made up a far larger bloc of voters, the panel said Tuesday.

### Candidates alarm Czech Jews

Czech Jewish leaders expressed alarm at the number of extreme right-wing candidates running in the country's regional assembly elections later this month.

Candidates include members of the National Alliance, whose leader was prosecuted this year for inciting racial hatred by publicly denying the Holocaust and the existence of Nazi gas chambers.

### Interfaith group gives to Israel

In a show of solidarity with Israel, the Chicago-based International Fellowship of Christians and Jews presented the United Israel Appeal with a gift of \$3 million.

The group pledged to present an additional \$12 million over the coming year for immigration, absorption and welfare projects.

### Study: Jewish mothers learn

North American synagogues and Jewish community centers should offer a broader range of courses, according to a new study of adult Jewish education.

The study, sponsored by the Jewish Community Centers Association of North America and the Conservative movement's Jewish Theological Seminary, found that Jewish mothers participate in the largest number of adult Jewish courses.

### Age of gay consent lowered

The age of consent for homosexual relations in Israel was lowered from 18 to 16, the same as the legal age for heterosexual relations.

The amendment to the law was approved in July, but was not widely reported. The Israeli daily Ha'aretz said the Association for Gays and Lesbians in Israel is seeking to increase public awareness of the change.

### Ex-Czech envoy to Israel dies

Czech Jewish leaders attended the funeral in Prague of the former Czech ambassador to Israel, Eduard Goldstucker, who died last week at the age of 87.

Goldstucker was a leading literary historian who specialized in the work of Prague-born Jewish writer Franz Kafka.

## BEHIND THE HEADLINES

### Israelis leaders court Moscow with an eye on domestic politics

By Lev Gorodetsky

MOSCOW (JTA) — Israeli politicians appear to have found a new venue to lobby for an end to the Palestinian uprising: Moscow.

"Russia has the possibility and the strength to help regulate the situation in our region," Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak last week told a popular Moscow radio outlet owned by Russian Jewish leader Vladimir Goussinsky.

The visits appear to indicate that Israel believes Russia, a financial supporter of Arab and Palestinian causes during the Cold War, might be able to influence Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat in the current crisis.

Several of Barak's allies, including Cabinet minister Shimon Peres and Roman Bronfman, an Israeli Knesset minister who is a Russian emigre, also visited Russia last week.

Both met with top Russian officials, including Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov, and gave news conferences on the possibility of enhancing Russia's role in the Middle East peace process.

Peres also talked to Ivanov about the possibility of Russia pressing the Lebanon-based Hezbollah to release Israeli soldiers captured last month.

Israeli politics are also at play here — especially because many people now hold dual Russian-Israeli citizenship.

When Barak called Russian President Vladimir Putin on Oct. 24 and asked him to put pressure on Arafat to end violence, he knew that former Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu — who appears to be planning a political comeback — landed in Moscow that very night with a similar message.

In interviews with all of Russia's major television channels, Netanyahu stressed the common struggle Russia and Israel share in combating Islamic terrorism — Israel in the Middle East and Russia in Chechnya, where it is fighting an ongoing war with Islamic separatists.

"We have the same Chechnya, except that Israeli Chechnya is located not 2,000 miles away as in Russia, but only 200 meters away from our houses," said Netanyahu, who also met with Ivanov during his three-day visit.

Not to be outdone, several Palestinian envoys have also been busy wooing Russian officials.

Using their old contacts from the Soviet era, the envoys are attempting to counteract the Israeli comparison of the situation in the Middle East with the conflict in Chechnya.

The analogy is false since Chechnya is "an internal business of Russia, whereas Palestine is a territory, occupied by the Israeli army and has to be freed according to U.N. resolutions," the Palestinian ambassador to Russia, Khayri al-Oridi, said at a recent news conference.

In addition, Palestinian students and local Muslims have demonstrated outside the Israeli Embassy in Moscow, carrying posters calling for the destruction of the Jewish state.

The Russian president, who several times since taking office last year compared Russian military efforts in Chechnya to those of Israel, the United States and Europe in fighting Islamic terrorism, appears to be taking his time in formulating an official stance.

Sources in the Foreign Ministry say Moscow is trying to develop a "balanced" position.

One Moscow university student with a both Russian and Israeli citizenship is pessimistic that Israel will find support in the Kremlin.

"I can't understand what Israeli politicians are seeking here.

"Russians will follow the European countries in supporting the Arabs simply because of their oil and money, as they have always done," explained Zhenya Krukovskaya. □

## U.S. Jews accept intermarriage in growing numbers, survey finds

By Julie Wiener

NEW YORK (JTA) — In September, vice presidential candidate Joseph Lieberman came under fire from many Jewish organizations for telling a radio talk show host that there is no Jewish prohibition against intermarriage.

But according to a survey released this week, Lieberman's comments reflect the beliefs of the majority of American Jews.

In short, according to the survey, "the Jewish taboo on mixed marriage has clearly collapsed."

More than half of American Jews disagree with the statement, "It would pain me if my child married a gentile," and 50 percent agree that "it is racist to oppose Jewish-gentile marriages," according to the American Jewish Committee's 2000 Survey of American Jewish Opinion.

It was the first time the annual phone survey of 1,010 Jews — which tracks Jewish attitudes about Israel, anti-Semitism and political issues — asked for attitudes about intermarriage.

Findings on Israel and political matters were consistent with recent years — showing strong attachments to Israel, concern about anti-Semitism and generally liberal political views, with 75 percent reporting they planned to vote for Al Gore, the Democratic candidate for president.

On intermarriage, 78 percent of respondents said they favor rabbinic officiation at Jewish-gentile marriages "in some form and under some circumstances," while only 15 percent are opposed to this.

But the majority of American rabbis do not officiate at intermarriages: Conservative and Orthodox rabbis are forbidden to do so.

An estimated half of Reform rabbis refuse to officiate.

Only the Orthodox, among the various groupings of American Jews in the survey, maintain strong opposition to mixed marriage — and they do so by a large majority.

Eighty-four percent of the Orthodox surveyed said they would be pained if their child intermarried, compared to 57 percent of Conservative Jews, 27 percent of Reform Jews and 19 percent of those who said they are "just Jewish."

The denominations are self-identified and do not mean the respondents are actually affiliated with synagogues belonging to that movement.

In 1990, shock waves rippled through the American Jewish world when the National Jewish Population Survey reported that 52 percent of Jews who had married between 1985 and 1990 had wed non-Jews.

That number was disputed as too high by some sociologists.

But most agreed that intermarriage rates among U.S. Jews are still significant.

David Singer, who as the AJCommittee's director of research oversees the annual survey, called the new findings "very, very dramatic."

"This is the 'amcha' speaking, and what we hear is rather eye-opening," he said, using the Hebrew expression for the grass roots. "This constitutes a tremendous challenge to people and groups that want to maintain the opposition to mixed marriage."

The AJCommittee has issued statements opposing intermar-

riage. Rabbi Alan Silverstein, who has written several books for the Conservative movement on how to respond to intermarriage, said he is disturbed — but not surprised — by the survey's findings.

But he noted that statistics on intermarriage can be misleading because there are such sharply divergent attitudes in the Jewish community. Unaffiliated and intermarried Jews, of which there are a growing number, are far less likely to oppose intermarriage, he said.

That obscures, he said, the fact that the majority of synagogue-affiliated Jews — particularly Conservative and Orthodox ones — remain opposed to intermarriage, even if they would not disown their children for marrying gentiles.

"On something in which there's such a split between demographic sectors of the population, one overall number is not helpful," said Silverstein.

But on the basis of the survey findings, he predicted his Reform rabbi colleagues will face increasing pressure to officiate at intermarriages of their congregants.

Already, a number of Reform rabbis say it is difficult to find a pulpit job if one is unwilling to perform a wedding for a Jew and non-Jew.

Rabbi Eric Yoffie, president of the Reform movement's Union of American Hebrew Congregations, said the survey illustrates the need for the Jewish community to welcome intermarried families, something his movement does.

"We can't pretend it's a reality different from what it is," said Yoffie, adding: "In the unique climate of this wonderful, diverse, democratic, open culture of ours, there's going to be intermarriage."

But he said the survey should not be read as a sign that the American Jewish community is just assimilating.

While there may be widespread acceptance of intermarriage, there is "also a revival of religious life at every level," Yoffie pointed out.

Kenneth Hain, president of the Rabbinical Council of America, an organization of Orthodox rabbis, said he is "saddened," but not surprised, by the survey.

"From an Orthodox perspective, it really does affirm our resolve to try to do more to make Jewish tradition meaningful to people," he said.

The finding reaffirms the need for more Jewish education, said Hain.

"To appeal to Jews on ethnic grounds, or simply sentimental grounds, or even family attachment grounds" not to marry gentiles is "generally to no avail."

Ed Case, the publisher of InterfaithFamily.com, an Internet magazine, or webzine, serving approximately 12,000 readers, said he is pleased to learn of the widespread acceptance among Jews for the intermarried.

"Rather than bemoaning intermarriage, which is just going to be increasingly common, the smart and productive thing for the Jewish community to do is to reach out," said Case, who is himself intermarried.

"One of the things our readers say that puts them off is that they have had hostile, unwelcoming reactions from individual Jews or Jewish organizations," said Case.

He said he hopes the survey encourages Jewish organizations to be more inclusive of intermarried Jews. □