



# Daily News Bulletin

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84th Year

## TOP NEWS IN BRIEF

### Israeli killed in West Bank

Palestinian gunmen shot and killed an Israeli on a West Bank road outside Jerusalem. Israeli ambulance workers who tended the man also came under Palestinian fire.

### Likud, Labor discuss unity gov't

Israel's Likud and Labor parties launched a new round of coalition talks Sunday. Meanwhile, the Cabinet approved outgoing Prime Minister Ehud Barak's statement that the next Israeli government will not be bound by proposals put forward during earlier rounds of negotiations with the Palestinian Authority.

Last week, the Bush administration formally abandoned the peace proposals that President Clinton put forward, saying they are no longer on the table.

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### Lawsuit links IBM to Nazis

IBM is the target of a lawsuit charging that it provided data-processing technology to Nazi Germany that the firm knew would be used to "facilitate persecution and genocide." IBM responded that the Nazis' use of tabulating machines made by IBM's German subsidiary has been known for years.

### ADL slams Arab anti-Semitism

The Anti-Defamation League appealed for a tougher Jewish stance against anti-Semitism in the Arab and Muslim world and admitted that the Jewish community has been too tolerant of these trends in recent years.

Speaking Sunday in Jerusalem, Abraham Foxman, national director of the ADL, warned that a leading Holocaust denial group is planning a conference in Beirut on March 31. The conference, sponsored by the California-based Institute of Historical Review, would be the first time a major Holocaust-denial forum convenes on Arab soil, he said.

### Powell meets with Ronald Lauder

U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell conferred with the chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations after Israeli Prime Minister-elect Ariel Sharon's victory. Ronald Lauder, who said he considers himself part of the "small group" around Sharon, and Powell exchanged favorable views of the new Israeli leader.

## NEWS ANALYSIS

### Bush State Dept. appointments could signal renewed Mideast focus

By Matthew E. Berger

WASHINGTON (JTA) — The appointment of two officials with Middle East expertise to key roles in the State Department may be a signal that the Bush administration will focus more on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict than had been expected.

The White House last week named Richard Haass as director of policy planning and Marc Grossman as undersecretary of political affairs.

Haass will serve as a direct adviser to Secretary of State Colin Powell on policy issues, while Grossman will oversee the regional bureaus in the State Department and serve in the department's No. 3 position.

In addition, Robert Satloff, director of the Washington Institute for Near East Policy, a prominent Middle East think tank, is under consideration for the post of Middle East adviser to the National Security Council, sources said.

Of the State Department appointees, Haass was senior director for Near Eastern and South Asian affairs at the National Security Council in the administration of the elder President Bush.

An adviser during the 1991 Persian Gulf War, Haass recently served as vice president and director of foreign policy studies at the Brookings Institution, a Washington think tank.

At Brookings, Haass authored several books on sanctions, the use of military force and other international issues.

In an article published after the Israeli-Palestinian summit last fall in Sharm el-Sheik, Egypt, Haass advocated "concerted unilateralism," calling for an agreement between the two sides without a formal pact signing.

In the article, Haass laid out terms for a settlement, including the declaration of a Palestinian state and the annexation to Israel of most Jewish settlements in the West Bank.

Under this plan, the two sides would put off the more complex issues, such as control of Jerusalem.

"The result would not be peace or an end to the conflict or a signing ceremony on the South Lawn of the White House," Haass wrote in December 2000.

"Rather, it would be a de facto separation of the two sides reflecting a tacit arrangement to stabilize the situation.

"It would still require cooperation between Israeli and Palestinian officials, but it would not require either side's leadership to explain to its citizens why it forfeited certain powerful symbols or jettisoned deeply held goals."

Grossman currently serves as director general of the Foreign Service and is a former U.S. ambassador to Turkey.

Grossman also held several positions in the Near East bureau and was an adviser to President Carter.

Grossman spoke last year to both the Middle East Forum, a think tank in Philadelphia, and a House of Representatives subcommittee on the relationship between Turkey and Israel.

"Turkey's relations with Israel are flourishing," Grossman told the Middle East Forum last March.

"We support the closest possible ties between our two allies. This is a relationship aimed at no one, with the potential to benefit everyone."

While both officials have Middle East backgrounds, political analysts note that

## MIDEAST FOCUS

### Israel won't help U.N. mission

Israel said it would not cooperate with a U.N. human rights mission that arrived Saturday for a fact-finding tour of Palestinian areas. The mission was appointed last October by the Geneva-based U.N. Human Rights Commission, which adopted a resolution accusing Israel of "war crimes" and "widespread, systematic and gross violations of human rights."

### Arafat congratulates Sharon

Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat phoned Israeli Prime Minister-elect Ariel Sharon last Friday to congratulate him on his election victory and told him he would like to resume peace talks.

Sharon, who insists that he will not negotiate until the violence stops, said he wants Palestinian cooperation in fighting terrorism.

### Israeli families sue Arafat

The Israeli families of victims of a November school bus bombing in the Gaza Strip are suing Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat and the head of Palestinian security in Gaza for some \$25 million. Two people were killed and nine wounded, including three siblings, in the attack.

### Israel arrests British citizen

Israel said it arrested a British citizen last month suspected of being sent by Hezbollah to carry out a terror attack in Israel. Hezbollah may have recruited Jihad Shoman in Lebanon.

### Arab League presses Sharon

The Arab League on Sunday called on Israeli Prime Minister-elect Ariel Sharon to abide by ideas spelled out at the 1991 Madrid peace conference and in U.N. resolutions delineating the principle of land-for-peace. The group's foreign ministers met for two days in the Jordanian capital of Amman to discuss the outcome of the Israeli elections.



## Daily News Bulletin

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Grossman, Haass and other officials whose appointments are imminent also have expertise in Europe.

Before the Clinton administration, the State Department had long been perceived as Arabist in its political thought, but the latest series of appointments ease some concerns in the Jewish community.

However, other ethnic groups are expressing similar concerns that their viewpoints are being left out.

Arab and Muslim groups announced their opposition to Satloff, whom they consider biased, as an adviser to the National Security Council.

One Arab leader wrote that if Satloff was appointed, "we will never see an American policy that could be 'balanced' and could allow for a durable peace."

"I urge you to seek a better candidate for that position," wrote Elaine Hagopian, a sociology professor at Simmons College in Boston.

Satloff was unavailable for comment.

A former deputy director of the institute for Near East policy, John Hannah, already has been named as a Middle East adviser to Vice President Dick Cheney.

Hannah's appointment may signal an increased role by the White House and vice president's office in shaping Middle East policy.

Traditionally, the vice president's foreign affairs office has been thin and has had little responsibility, but it was significantly strengthened during the Clinton/Gore administration, a former NSC official said.

The hiring of specialized regional advisers appears to signal that the trend will continue.

Given Cheney's impressive foreign affairs credentials, it is not surprising that he would have a large role in international issues.

But the vice president's office will have to compete with the NSC, State Department and Pentagon for a place at the table, creating the potential for conflict between different offices and philosophies.

"It's going to be a fight for his mind," the NSC official said, referring to President Bush.

"It's going to be an internal struggle for influence over the president's thinking," the official said.

While Hannah — and, if he is appointed, Satloff — can provide Israel expertise to the White House, Grossman and Haass will be able to inject themselves into Middle East issues at the State Department.

Daniel Pipes, the director of the Middle East Forum, said it is logical that prominent international experts would have Middle East backgrounds, since the region is very important politically.

"The Middle East offers an opportunity, in a way that no other regions have, to springboard people to national prominence," Pipes said.

The new appointments make it more likely that the State Department will have a larger role in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, Pipes said.

This is especially true since the White House — which virtually oversaw U.S. involvement during the Clinton administration — is expected to be somewhat less involved under Bush, Pipes said.

But Israeli activists critical of recent U.S. policy said they are concerned that the two State Department appointments — particularly that of Haass, who has been more vocal with his recommendations for the Israeli-Palestinian conflict — signal a return to active American involvement in the peace process.

"If you are bringing in people for broader positions that have specialties in Israel, I'm concerned that Bush may not be fulfilling his promise of not pressing Israel to take positions it doesn't want to take," said Morton Klein, national president of the Zionist Organization of America.

Responding to the election of Ariel Sharon as Israeli prime minister, Bush said last week that he would reach out slowly to the parties in the region.

"We're going to play the hand we've been dealt," Bush said.

"And we're going to play it well, with one thing in mind: that we promote peace in the Middle East."

The president said at the time that he had phoned Middle East leaders with his message and added that the newly elected Israeli leader should be given a chance to form a unity government. □

## JEWISH WORLD

### Powell adds Syria to trip

U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell said Sunday he added a brief stop in Damascus to his upcoming trip to the Middle East.

Appearing on CBS's "Face the Nation," Powell said he added the stop to meet with Syrian President Bashar Assad.

Powell's trip, which will take place at the end of the month, already includes stops in Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Israel, the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, Jordan and Kuwait. Powell will meet with both Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak and Prime Minister-elect Ariel Sharon, as well as Palestinian leaders.

### Reports blast Russia on Jews

The Russian government does not adequately protect Russian Jews from anti-Semitism, according to reports from two U.S.-based organizations that monitor anti-Semitic incidents and human rights violations in Russia.

But one of Russia's chief rabbis, Berel Lazar, disagrees with the assessments made by the Anti-Defamation League and the Union of Councils for Soviet Jews. President Vladimir Putin is committed to combating anti-Semitism, Lazar said.

### Clinton praises Sharon

President Clinton praised Israeli Prime Minister-elect Ariel Sharon for offering Prime Minister Ehud Barak and Cabinet minister Shimon Peres places in his government.

In a speech at a South Florida synagogue Saturday evening, Clinton also said that peace in the Middle East cannot be fully attained "in an atmosphere of violence," and he pushed for Palestinians and Israelis to compromise to help stop the fighting.

Clinton's speech at the Aventura Turnberry Jewish Center was the first open to the media since he left office last month.

### Moscow rabbi has visa trouble

A Swiss citizen who serves as Moscow's chief rabbi recently was granted only a two-week visa instead of the one-year visa he has received in the past, according to the NCSJ, a group that monitors anti-Semitism in the region.

In addition to the incident involving Pinchas Goldschmidt, Russian officials again searched through documents at the offices of Moscow's Choral Synagogue.

### Mayor Beame dies at 94

Abraham Beame, the first Jewish mayor of New York, died Saturday at 94. The son of Polish Jewish immigrants who grew up on the Lower East Side, Beame was mayor between 1974 and 1977.

## Likud, Labor move forward with talks for unity government

By Naomi Segal

JERUSALEM (JTA) — Days after his landslide victory, Israeli Prime Minister-elect Ariel Sharon is pressing ahead with efforts to form a national unity government that could advance peace efforts.

The Likud and Labor parties launched a second round of coalition talks Sunday, but it remained unclear if the two parties would be able to overcome ideological differences and form a unity government.

Representatives from each side signaled cautious optimism as they met at a Jerusalem hotel to discuss the unity proposal.

Cabinet minister Shimon Peres, who is not part of the Labor negotiating team, applauded Sharon's offer that Labor choose two out of the three senior portfolios — defense, foreign affairs and finance.

"The Likud proposal that we take two of the three most central portfolios is very serious," said Peres, who favors a national unity government.

Asked by Israel Radio what portfolio he would consider for himself, Peres responded, "only foreign affairs."

The presence of Nobel Peace Prize laureate Peres in his Cabinet would provide Sharon with much-needed credibility for his political agenda when it comes to dealing with cautious western governments and hostile Arab regimes.

Sharon offered the defense portfolio to outgoing Prime Minister Ehud Barak when they met last Friday, but sources close to Barak said he will probably decline.

Labor negotiators have several points they want met before joining a unity government:

- a commitment from Sharon not to build new settlements;
- agreement to the establishment of a demilitarized Palestinian state; and,
- transfer of isolated Jewish settlements into larger settlement blocs.

Sharon has yet to provide a detailed outline of his vision for Middle East peace efforts. But in an interview with the Israeli daily Yediot Achronot last Friday, he said he preferred to pursue an extended non-belligerency agreement with the Palestinians instead of a final peace accord. Sharon also reiterated that he does not intend to negotiate with the Palestinians as long as violence continues.

On Sunday evening, Palestinians fired at the Jerusalem neighborhood of Gilo for the first time in nearly a month. Soldiers guarding Rachel's Tomb in the Bethlehem area also came under fire from Palestinian gunmen in a nearby refugee camp.

Meanwhile, the Israeli Cabinet approved Barak's statement that the next Israeli government is not bound by proposals put forward during earlier negotiations with the Palestinian Authority.

Just before Sunday's unanimous vote, Barak presented the ministers with copies of letters to this effect that he sent to President Bush and Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat.

Arab governments demand that Sharon resume negotiations from where they left off under Barak.

Last week, the Bush administration formally abandoned the peace proposals that President Clinton put forward, saying they no longer are on the table.

At Sunday's meeting, the head of Israel's Shin Bet domestic security service told the Cabinet there are urgent warnings that Hamas, Islamic Jihad and Palestinian militias plan to carry out terrorist attacks against Israel.

Avi Dichter also said that only Arafat is capable of controlling the groups.

At the meeting, Barak expressed concern over the firing of a mortar shell into the Jewish settlement of Netzarim in the Gaza Strip, the second such attack in recent weeks.

No one was hurt in the incident Saturday night, but Israeli security forces called it an escalation of the ongoing violence.

On Sunday morning, a roadside bomb exploded as an Israeli convoy drove along a road near the Kfar Darom settlement in Gaza, but there were no reports of casualties.

Also on Sunday, a Palestinian military court in Hebron sentenced a member of the Palestinian security forces to death for allegedly providing Israel with information on the deployment of Palestinian security forces in the city. □

## BEHIND THE HEADLINES

**After earthquake, Jewish groups help locals in El Salvador dig out**

By Peter Ephross

LA PAPALOTA, El Salvador (JTA) — David Rodriguez stands near the remains of his family's house in the impoverished Salvadoran countryside.

The simple adobe structure has been reduced to rubble, one of tens of thousands of homes destroyed by the Jan. 13 earthquake that claimed more than 700 lives.

Now Rodriguez's wife and five children sleep in a tent provided by a local development organization, and he sleeps in a plastic shelter. The only bright spot in the story is that the quake happened at 11:30 in the morning, when the family was not inside the house. "If it were at night," says Rodriguez, 35, "we would have died."

Several weeks after the earthquake ravaged this beleaguered Central American country — devastated by civil war in the 1980s and hard hit by other natural disasters, including 1998's Hurricane Mitch — residents once again are attempting to rebuild their lives.

El Salvador's tiny Jewish community was unaffected by the earthquake, but U.S. Jewish organizations and one Israeli group, active in long-term economic development projects around the globe, have responded to the tragedy. Jewish groups involved in the relief effort here — and also in India, where a Jan. 26 earthquake killed at least 15,000 people — say their efforts stem from a desire to become "global citizens."

"It doesn't matter the politics or the religion or if Israel has relations" with a country, says Yaron Lief, director of operations for Latet, a private Israeli humanitarian organization. "We will get there quickly. There are citizens of the world who need help."

Those involved say the projects stem from what they see as the Jewish obligation to help the less fortunate, and from the fact that Jews are increasingly prosperous.

Latet — from the Hebrew word "to give" — provides immediate relief to disaster victims. Other Jewish organizations provide longer-term aid. Formed in 1994 in reaction to the civil war in Rwanda, the U.S.-based Jewish Coalition for Disaster Relief, which receives support from up to 45 groups, has responded to crises in places ranging from Kosovo to Ethiopia.

In addition to some immediate relief, the coalition provides support for "intermediate-phase projects," mainly channeling money to local organizations to help improve health care and vocational training and promote peace.

"We're not there pulling bodies out," says Laina Richter, the deputy director of the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee's International Development Program, which coordinates the coalition.

The American Jewish World Service, one of the most active partners in the coalition, works for even longer-term goals.

The 15-year-old group has spent nearly \$300,000 on aid projects in El Salvador — including \$100,000 pledged since the earthquake — over the past five years.

The AJWS also supports development efforts in Asia, Africa, the West Bank and Gaza Strip and the former Soviet Union.

The AJWS gears its outreach toward younger Jews, who may be receptive to the group's message of tikkun olam, or repairing the world. The group tries to answer a question, says Rabbi Josh Saltzman, the AJWS' director of communications, education and

outreach, that is a "first for 21st-century U.S. Jews: Now you're in a position of power, now you're in a position of privilege. What are you going to do with it?"

For those involved with the AJWS, the answer is clear.

Judaism teaches us that "we are commanded to help others escape their slavery, of whatever sort that is, most notably the slavery of poverty," says Don Abramson, chairman of the AJWS' board of directors.

The poverty is evident during a visit to El Salvadoran villages in the days after the earthquake. Dogs, small pigs and skinny cows wander the hot, dusty streets and yards. Animal-driven carts, pulling crops and people, are as common as cars.

While the loss of life from the Salvadoran quake is far less than that in India, the devastation is still evident. The parched earth is broken by cracks and even craters from the 7.6-magnitude quake.

Throughout the region of Usulután, a 90-minute drive from the capital of San Salvador, variations of David Rodriguez's story could be heard time and again. But words are hardly necessary. The proliferation of brightly colored tents and the piles of wood and tiles from ruined houses testify to the destruction.

Nearly two-thirds of this tiny nation suffered some damage, according to Rose Likins, the U.S. ambassador to El Salvador.

Nor are the threats over. With disruptions still possible to water and sewerage systems, the potential looms for health problems such as cholera. Doctors are few in El Salvador, and mental health practitioners even rarer.

Besides the AJWS, other relief agencies are working here, and the United Nations has pledged \$10 million in food aid.

The AJWS contributes most of its money through a local group called La Coordinadora, an umbrella group for 86 communities in Usulután. La Coordinadora, which works to promote self-sustaining economic development, is typical of the groups that the AJWS supports. La Coordinadora "is an organization that is very community-based, that doesn't work from the top down, that listens to the people who are involved," says Catherine Shimony, director of international programs for the AJWS.

Despite all these efforts, many residents doubt that the aid will reach them before the spring rainy season, in part because of the country's fractious politics.

During the 1980s, a right-wing government, supported by the United States as part of its Cold War struggle against communism, battled left-wing guerrillas. A 1992 peace accord ended the war, but the fighting was soon replaced by political maneuvering.

Many international organizations and countries concerned about corruption prefer to support non-governmental organizations than give their money to the Salvadoran government.

"We're not handing them \$5 million, \$6 million in cash," Ambassador Likins says. "We're saying, 'We spent this much money on your behalf.'" But, she added, "the government's efforts are not without merit."

For his part, El Salvadoran President Francisco Flores plans to visit the United States and Europe to request more aid.

The government has proposed that each resident be given \$190 to clean up the debris and begin building temporary housing.

But residents of Usulután are wary.

They accepted such an offer after Hurricane Mitch. Two years later, many say, they were still living in that "temporary" housing, which crumbled in last month's earthquake. □

(JTA staff writer Peter Ephross recently traveled to El Salvador on a trip sponsored by the American Jewish World Service.)