



# Daily News Bulletin

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## TOP NEWS IN BRIEF

### Mideast clashes intensify

Israeli troops and armed Palestinians clashed in several locations in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, continuing a heavy Palestinian assault launched the previous night in the Bethlehem area.

Two Palestinians were killed and three wounded in separate clashes with Israeli troops.

In one incident, Palestinians fired an anti-tank missile at a compound shared by Israeli and Palestinian officials in the Gaza Strip.

The missile hit a building used by Palestinian officials, but caused no injuries.

Israeli officials long had warned that the Palestinians possessed heavier weapons than they were using in their four-month-old uprising.

Monday's incident was the first time that the Palestinians have used an anti-tank missile since the violence began in late September, Israel's Army Radio reported.

### Wiesel denies lobbying for Rich

Nobel laureate Elie Wiesel denied he had asked the Clinton administration to pardon former fugitive financier Marc Rich.

Documents released last week by a congressional committee indicated that the team working to secure a pardon for Rich believed that Wiesel had weighed in with Clinton on Rich's behalf. But Wiesel was quoted by The New York Times as saying, "I didn't do anything" to help the commodities trader.

Rich has become involved in Jewish and Israeli philanthropy since he fled the United States to escape prosecution.

### Book probes IBM's WWII role

IBM sent a memo to its employees alerting them about a new book that accuses the company of providing data-processing technology that helped the Nazis carry out genocide.

"If this book points to new and verifiable information that advances understanding of this tragic era, IBM will examine it and ask that appropriate scholars and historians do the same," the company said.

The allegations in Edwin Black's "IBM and the Holocaust: The Strategic Alliance Between Nazi Germany and America's Most Powerful Corporation" are also the focus of a lawsuit filed over the weekend against IBM in New York. [Page 4]

## NEWS ANALYSIS

### As bulldozers roll, conflict simmers on the Temple Mount in Jerusalem

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM (JTA) — Israel's elections and the suspension of Israeli-Palestinian peace talks have created the impression that the controversy over control of Jerusalem's Temple Mount has been deferred.

On the ground, however, the controversy surrounding the site deepens every day.

Beyond the larger question of sovereignty over the site — which the two sides began to address during last July's Camp David summit — at issue is a long-simmering dispute over whether Israel should prevent construction work being carried out by the Wakf, or Islamic religious trust, whose Palestinian Authority-appointed officials have day-to-day control over the site.

Many Israelis fear that the work being carried out on the Mount, which the Wakf has prevented Israel from supervising, is causing irreparable damage to archaeological remains from the First and Second Temple periods.

If Israel attempts to interfere, however, the repercussions among an already-inflamed Palestinian populace could be explosive.

The site, the holiest in the Jewish religion, is one of the holiest sites in Islam as well.

Israeli archaeologists last month called for greater supervision of Wakf excavations. Their call followed reports that bulldozers had dug a deep ditch near the Dome of the Rock, causing damage to a floor dating from the Second Temple period.

The archaeologists charge that during extensive construction work over the past two years, thousands of tons of gravel — which could contain important relics — have been removed from the Mount. The Wakf has unceremoniously dumped much of the gravel in a trash heap.

Experts contend that those artifacts not utterly destroyed by their handling are rendered archaeologically useless when the earth on the site is scooped up by a bulldozer, mixing finds from diverse periods.

The archaeologists' charges have prompted several prominent Israelis, among them leftist writers like A.B. Yehoshua and Yizhar Smilansky, to urge the government to take steps to stop the Wakf-supervised work.

The public campaign is being orchestrated by the Committee for the Prevention of Damage to Antiquities on the Temple Mount, a coalition of archaeologists and public figures, as well as activists who question whether Muslims should have control of the Temple Mount.

For its part, the Wakf has done little to defuse the controversy.

Though it always has refused to recognize Israeli sovereignty over the site, for years the Wakf maintained an informal cooperation with Israeli inspectors when conducting work on the Temple Mount. But tensions mounted after the 1993 Oslo accord, as the Palestinian Authority wrested control of the Wakf from Jordan.

The Palestinian Authority abruptly cut off all cooperation with Israel after 1996 riots following Israel's opening of a new exit from an archaeological tunnel in Jerusalem's Old City.

Since then, the Wakf has refused to allow Israeli inspectors to monitor its work, and often disseminates misleading information about the work's scope. Neither archaeologists nor journalists have been allowed to inspect the site.

As a result, the Israeli critics have based their case on archaeological findings among the discarded rubble and from aerial photos. Extensive work on a site adjacent

## MIDEAST FOCUS

### Pollard seeks Sharon's help

Convicted spy Jonathan Pollard called on Israeli Prime Minister-elect Ariel Sharon to press President Bush to grant him a pardon.

"You have it in your power to rectify a great injustice in which Israel has been complicit for 16 years," Pollard said in a letter to Sharon. Pollard, a former U.S. Navy intelligence analyst, is serving a life sentence for spying for Israel.

### Two seek Labor leadership

Israeli Cabinet minister Benjamin Ben-Eliezer announced he will seek the Labor Party leadership. So far, only two candidates, Ben-Eliezer and Knesset Speaker Avraham Burg, have formally announced their intention to run.

### Israeli reporters threatened

The Palestinian Authority said it is not responsible for the death threat against Israeli reporters issued by Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat's Fatah faction.

The threat was issued following an Army Radio report about a Fatah flier criticizing corruption within the organization's leadership in the town.

### Britain: Israel abusing suspect

Britain is accusing Israel of physically abusing a British citizen arrested by Israeli officials last month on charges that he was recruited by Hezbollah to carry out a terror attack. A doctor confirmed Jihad Shoman's complaint, Britain's Foreign Ministry said.

### Police search for rapist

Israeli police are searching for a rapist suspected of committing at least three sexual assaults in the center of the country over the past two years.

The rapes come after another Israeli, Benny Sela, was sentenced to 35 years in prison for numerous incidents of rape and sexual assault.

to the Al-Aksa Mosque is one of the most controversial projects.

This project — carried out by Israeli Arab volunteers recruited by the fundamentalist Islamic Movement — focuses on renovating a site known as Solomon's Stables. Despite its name, the underground area dates to the Crusader era in the 11th century.

The site has been turned into a new mosque, large enough to host thousands of worshippers.

According to the Israeli archaeologists, the construction work created an underground opening that runs some 40 feet deep and stretches over 2,400 square yards.

The Israeli campaign to block construction dates back to November 1999, when Prime Minister Ehud Barak gave the Wakf a green light to open an "emergency exit" to Solomon's Stables.

Shortly after the authorization was given, three bulldozers began massive digging work — which, according to archaeologists, was much more extensive than required for an exit.

"The trucks evacuated the rubble as if it was worthless," said Eilat Mazar, a committee activist and a lecturer at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem.

"The earth is rich with archaeological findings from all eras, beginning with the First and Second Temples, through the Roman, Crusader and Muslim eras."

Referring to Barak's 1999 approval, Mazar said, "The permit was given by the premier as a gesture of good will. But there is no proportion between the small area that was approved for work and the actual pavement works conducted."

The Wakf had "no real need to carry out the work, except for the need to continue their takeover of the site," Mazar charged.

Gabi Barkai, a lecturer with Hebrew University's archaeology department and a winner of the Jerusalem Prize for archaeology, found clay in the rubble dating back to the Temple periods.

The construction has created "irreversible and serious damage to the most important archaeological site of the Jewish people," Barkai said. "This is an unprecedented destruction."

Writer Smilansky said, "Morally speaking, one cannot stand aside when one ruins antiquities."

He described the construction work at the site as "barbaric."

Yet the government, aware of the sensitivity of the issue, has held its fire.

Public Security Minister Shlomo Ben-Ami said last month that only approved work was being done at the site.

Jerusalem police officials have played down the significance of the Wakf's excavation work.

According to the officials, no work is currently being done at the site, and all previous works have received the necessary permits "from the political echelons."

Mazar, however, charges that the police are "trying to hide from the public" what's happening on the Temple Mount.

"There is no other explanation but that it is subject to pressure by the minister for internal security and the government, for political reasons," Mazar said.

The Wakf, meanwhile, maintains that it has no need for Israeli approval of its activities because it has sole control over the site.

"No one can justify the policies" of Israel "and ignore 1,400 years of continuous Arab Muslim-Christian rule," Mahdi Abdul Hadi, head of the Passia research institute in eastern Jerusalem, wrote recently.

Some Islamic and Palestinian leaders contend that Jews have no historic ties whatsoever to the Temple Mount.

"The Zionist movement has invented that this was the site of Solomon's Temple," said Sheik Raed Salah, one of the leaders of the Islamic Movement in Israel. "But this is all a lie." □

## Egypt lawmakers want Israel boycott

JERUSALEM (JTA) — An Egyptian legislative committee has called for re-imposing a boycott on Israeli goods.

The committee also called on Arab states to cut diplomatic ties with any country that recognizes Jerusalem as Israel's capital, according to the Jerusalem Post. □



### Daily News Bulletin

Shoshana S. Cardin, President

Mark J. Joffe, Executive Editor and Publisher

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## JEWISH WORLD

### Sharon vows close Diaspora ties

Israeli Prime Minister-elect Ariel Sharon vowed to maintain close ties with Diaspora Jewish communities. Sharon made the pledge during a one-hour meeting Monday in Jerusalem with Malcolm Hoenlein, executive vice chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations.

Hoenlein said he believes Sharon will give Israel-Diaspora relations "more priority" than his predecessors did.

Leaders of the Presidents Conference plan to meet Wednesday with German leaders to discuss issues of concern to Israel and the Jewish community.

Jewish leaders from 18 European countries are expected to be in Berlin for the meeting.

### Poll: Peace seen in U.S. interests

The number of Americans who think finding a peaceful solution to the Palestinian-Israeli conflict is a very important goal for the United States increased during the last year, according to a Gallup Poll released Monday.

Forty-three percent think finding a peaceful solution is very important, up from 32 percent a year ago, but 56 percent don't believe Israel and the Arabs will ever coexist peacefully.

According to the poll, 51 percent sympathize with Israel, and 16 percent with the Palestinians.

### German minister denies PLO link

Germany dismissed a report that Foreign Minister Joschka Fischer attended a 1969 PLO conference in Algeria where delegates backed Yasser Arafat's vow to fight for the destruction of Israel.

The report, aired on German public television, said the conference was aimed at winning the support of Westerners to carry out propaganda for the PLO's armed struggle against Israel. The German Foreign Ministry called the report "politically ridiculous."

### Moscow rabbi gets visa extension

A Swiss citizen who serves as Moscow's chief rabbi was granted permission to stay in Russia until July.

Earlier this month, Russian officials granted Pinchas Goldschmidt only a two-week extension on his visa.

### Catholic schools get Shoah book

The National Conference of Catholic Bishops issued a booklet providing guidance and resources for Holocaust education in U.S. Catholic schools.

The booklet is intended to help Catholic schools implement the recommendations the Vatican made in its 1998 statement, "We Remember: A Reflection on the Shoah," which assessed the Roman Catholic Church's behavior during World War II.

## Study: Russian schools open up, but don't teach much about Jews

By Lev Gorodetsky

MOSCOW (JTA) — Russian textbooks devote an increased amount of time to human rights but contain only sparse and splintered accounts about Jews, according to a just-released study conducted by the American Jewish Committee.

The books often "ignore the multicultural character of Russia past and present," the study notes, and "references to Jews and Judaism are usually fragmentary."

The report is the fifth in a series of studies on Jewish themes in schools in the former Soviet bloc.

Previous AJCommittee reports dealt with Jewish themes in schools in Poland, the Czech Republic, Slovakia and Hungary.

During the Soviet era, Jews rarely were mentioned in school textbooks, except in passages that dealt with ancient history.

Sections about World War II portrayed Slavs and Communists as the primary victims of the Nazis, while Israel was described as an aggressive enemy of the Soviet system.

That picture has changed since the raising of the Iron Curtain.

Many textbooks now refer to the Nazi genocide against the Jews, and many now portray Israel in a more balanced light.

One textbook for use in high schools refers to the "death camps" where the Nazis killed 11 million people, "Jews and Slavs above all."

Another makes reference to the 1942 Wannsee Conference, where the Nazis approved the "Final Solution," and calls the 1943 Warsaw Ghetto uprising "one of the first acts of European resistance."

The same book details Israel's victory in the 1967 Six-Day War and the Jewish state's economic success, and shows a photo of the 1993 handshake between Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat on the White House lawn.

But the books rarely use the words "Zionism," which many Russians still interpret negatively, and "Holocaust."

References to Jews and Judaism are not positive in a widely used textbook on world history, which accuses Jews of establishing a "moral double standard" because the "main idea of Jews is the idea of their status as the chosen people over all others."

Jewish themes — including anti-Jewish pogroms — receive little mention in many textbooks on 19th- and 20th-century Russian history. In several textbooks, Judaism is not listed as one of Russia's religions.

The contributions of Russian Muslims and other minorities also receive short shrift in the textbooks.

"Overall, the report is positive, especially if you compare it with the olden days," Lev Krichevsky, the author of the report, told JTA.

But if you compare the situation to what is needed in a more open, liberal society, "which Russia wants to be, there is still a long way to go," said Krichevsky, a former JTA Moscow correspondent who now is director of Russian affairs for the Anti-Defamation League.

Just how far Russia still needs to go is illustrated by the experience of Marina, who graduated from high school last year in Siberia without knowing much about Jewish life.

"I learned nothing about Jews in school, except that the Nazis during World War II put them in concentration camps and killed them. Our teachers were just absolutely unwilling to touch Jewish themes," Marina said.

Jewish themes are not mandatory, except in a fifth-grade course on ancient history.

As the report notes, there is a government plan to increase tolerance throughout Russia.

If implemented, the "Formation of Tolerant Attitudes and Prevention of Extremism in Russian Society" would provide new material on tolerance, the Holocaust and intergroup dialogue for Russian schools.

But the program, supported by the government and the umbrella Russian Jewish Congress, is still in the planning stage.

(JTA staff writer Peter Ephross in New York contributed to this report.)

## BEHIND THE HEADLINES

**Lawsuit, book contend that IBM machines aided in Nazi genocide***By Sharon Samber*

WASHINGTON (JTA) — A lawsuit filed against IBM for allegedly assisting the Nazis indicates a renewed focus on the potential culpability of American companies that helped Germany during World War II.

IBM provided technology that aided Hitler in the persecution and genocide of millions during the Holocaust, according to a class-action lawsuit filed in New York on Saturday. The company was intimately involved with the actions of its German subsidiary, profited from the work and covered up its actions, the lawsuit alleges.

"IBM USA understood that its equipment, information and services were being used in concentration camps, where information about Jews and others was recorded, tabulated and sorted for purposes of perpetuating slave labor and ultimately extermination," the lawsuit says.

The lawsuit represents the latest stage of Holocaust restitution efforts. Filed on behalf of five plaintiffs and others, the lawsuit seeks the forcible opening of IBM archives and a declaration from the company that human rights were violated.

The lawsuit is also demanding an undisclosed sum of money.

IBM's German subsidiary was not named in the lawsuit — the subsidiary contributed to the German restitution foundation, gaining legal immunity.

Just as the lawsuit begins wending its way through the court system, a new book that delves into IBM's technology and the role it played in the Holocaust has hit the shelves.

It has been known that IBM supplied technology to Germany in the 1930s, but Edwin Black's "IBM and the Holocaust: The Strategic Alliance Between Nazi Germany and America's Most Powerful Corporation" still is causing quite a stir.

Part of a machine marked with the letters "IBM" is on permanent display in the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington. Adjacent text explains that the equipment was used in census-taking in Germany in the mid- to late-1930s. The museum does not know where the machine was actually used, a museum spokesperson said.

In the Dachau concentration camp alone, however, there were 24 IBM sorters, tabulators and printers, according to the lawsuit.

IBM long has contended that it cut ties with its German subsidiary in 1941, but both the lawsuit and the book try to show that IBM's relationship to Nazi Germany was longer and deeper than it previously appeared, or than the company has admitted.

IBM was a lucrative trading partner with the Nazis, Black told JTA. IBM recently sent a memo to its employees alerting them about Black's book and its accusations that the company provided data-processing technology to the Nazis.

"If this book points to new and verifiable information that advances understanding of this tragic era, IBM will examine it and ask that appropriate scholars and historians do the same," the company said.

Other American companies also have come under close scrutiny for their roles in the Holocaust. Some, such as General Motors and Ford, face pending litigation.

Michael Hausfeld, lead attorney for the plaintiffs in the IBM lawsuit, said his firm has identified 100 U.S. companies that had

operations in Germany during the Nazi era. He would not say if he thought any of the other cases merited legal action.

While the amount of money demanded by the plaintiffs is not specified, it is believed to be an estimated \$100 million.

The lawsuit does not ask for compensation to be paid to individuals, but rather asks that any money won be used to promote human rights and assist future victims of human rights violations.

The attorneys also are seeking fees, a point that disturbs Elan Steinberg, executive director of the World Jewish Congress. Steinberg said the WJC is not supporting the lawsuit, and said no one should profit from the Holocaust.

Steinberg said he is not surprised by the information in Black's book, but said the matter should be investigated.

Abraham Foxman, national director of the Anti-Defamation League, called the documentation in the book "shocking."

"It was IBM ingenuity that provided the wherewithal for the Nazi extermination machine," Foxman said in a statement.

Which other American companies and institutions will be called to account for their roles in the Holocaust remains to be seen.

A presidential commission examining Holocaust assets in the United States reported last month that the U.S. government made mistakes that hurt restitution efforts.

As a result, some Holocaust victims or their heirs never received their assets, the commission said.

The commission recommended that a foundation be formed to identify assets taken from victims of the Holocaust that came into the possession of the U.S. government. □

**Airing of rape footage on Israel TV prompts allegations of pornography***By Naomi Segal*

JERUSALEM (JTA) — The broadcast in Israel of footage of a beating and rape is sparking debate over what constitutes pornography and how to address the issue of sexual assault.

The images appeared as part of a report on the rape of a Haifa woman aired last week on Israel Television's Channel One news.

The footage was filmed by the attacker and showed him beating the naked victim, whose face was blacked out.

The video was obtained by an Israel Television reporter and used with the victim's consent, who insisted only that no identifying details be shown.

Israel Broadcasting Authority officials responsible for the newscast defended the use of the footage as material that must be made public.

"If you don't broadcast it, nothing happens, but if you do, it naturally raises a storm that must be dealt with," said IBA Director-General Uri Porat.

He subsequently instructed news directors to be cautious in dealing with sensitive materials, and said that in hindsight, less video footage could have been shown.

Women's rights activists denounced the use of the footage, with Labor Knesset member Yael Dayan calling the broadcast "pornographic."

Meirav Dadia, director of a Tel Aviv rape crisis center, told the daily Ma'ariv that the broadcast of the footage would harm efforts to encourage women who have been assaulted to come forward.

"It silences women and does not prompt them to seek help," she said. □