



# Daily News Bulletin

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84th Year

## TOP NEWS IN BRIEF

### **Bush: U.S. 'will not force peace'**

President Bush promised to work to "give peace a chance," but said it is up to Israel and the Palestinians to end the violence and reach an accord.

"Our administration will not force peace," Bush said Tuesday after meeting with Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon in the White House.

Sharon repeated his position that Israel will not resume negotiations until Palestinian violence ends.

The night before, Sharon told the American Israel Public Affairs Committee's annual policy conference that Jerusalem will remain "united under the sovereignty of Israel forever." [Page 4]

### **Foxman addresses house panel**

The national director of the Anti-Defamation League met Monday with a U.S. congressional committee to discuss his role in the case of fugitive billionaire Marc Rich, who made contributions to the ADL, JTA has learned.

That same day, Abraham Foxman issued a statement saying he "probably" should not have joined the effort to have President Clinton pardon Rich.

Meanwhile, the ADL issued its annual audit of anti-Semitism in the United States.

The audit indicated that in 2000 anti-Semitic incidents across the United States rose by 4 percent — and by 50 percent in New York City.

The increase in New York probably reflects reactions to Israeli-Palestinian violence and better reporting, the ADL says. [Page 3]

### **Cantor pleads guilty in sex ring**

A Chicago-area cantor and his wife pleaded guilty to charges of involvement in a prostitution ring. G. Joel Gordon and Alison Ginsberg each received six months of court supervision and a fine of \$200 for the crime after their pleas Tuesday.

Gordon resigned from the Conservative movement's Cantors Assembly after he was arrested last November.

### **Israel eases Bethlehem blockade**

Israel on Tuesday again eased its blockade on the West Bank city of Bethlehem.

The blockade was imposed a day earlier after an Israeli driver was killed in a nearby terrorist shooting, just hours after the original blockade was removed.

## FOCUS ON ISSUES

### **As Lamm leaves, Y.U. confronts fault lines of modern Orthodoxy**

By Julie Wiener

NEW YORK (JTA) — For 25 years, Rabbi Norman Lamm has been not only the president of Yeshiva University, but the unofficial president of modern Orthodoxy in America.

Both the university and this wing of Orthodoxy have a mission of "Torah u'maddah" — literally, Torah and science — balancing Jewish learning and strict adherence to Jewish law with engagement in the world at large.

Now, with Lamm planning to retire in August 2002, the direction of both Yeshiva University and modern Orthodoxy is somewhat unclear.

Finding a successor will be a challenge. With Orthodoxy becoming increasingly factionalized, observers say, it will be difficult to find someone who shares Lamm's combination of rabbinic and academic credentials — he has degrees in both chemistry and Jewish philosophy — and his ability to raise funds.

Compounding the uncertainty about modern Orthodoxy's future is the fact that its other major institution in the United States — the Orthodox Union — is also seeking to replace its top professional.

The individuals who replace Lamm and the O.U.'s Rabbi Raphael Butler — who resigned in late January in the wake of a major scandal — will have a major influence on the character of modern Orthodoxy.

Jonathan Sarna, the Braun Professor of Jewish History at Brandeis University, said that regardless of their position on the ideological spectrum, the incoming leaders of Yeshiva University and the Orthodox Union "are going to face some very substantial challenges."

In a recent article in the journal *Sh'ma*, Sarna, who belongs to a modern Orthodox synagogue, argues that Orthodoxy's future in North America is threatened by a "severe leadership crisis," a "brain drain" to Israel and sharp divisions between right-wing and left-wing factions over how to confront modernity.

But under Lamm's watch, both Orthodoxy in general and Yeshiva University in particular have seen considerable growth. In addition to its rabbinical seminary and undergraduate programs serving Orthodox Jews, Yeshiva also is a nonsectarian institution with prestigious graduate schools in areas such as law and medicine.

Lamm is widely praised for rescuing Y.U. from financial disaster, being an articulate and inspiring speaker, and increasing the university's enrollment and prestige. But Orthodoxy and its flagship institution also have faced serious tensions and splits during Lamm's tenure, primarily in balancing secular and Jewish values.

Y.U. has faced competing demands from the academic faculty and the leaders of religious instruction at the Rabbi Isaac Elchanan Theological Seminary, which ordains approximately 35 to 40 rabbis each year.

Tensions flared recently over clubs for gay students — and whether to allow same-sex couples to live in married-student housing — in the nonsectarian graduate schools.

Some on Orthodoxy's right wing say Lamm has not imposed a strong-enough Orthodox imprint on the university and say he went "too far" by creating an advanced Talmud program for women. Talmud study traditionally was reserved for men.

On the other side of the Orthodox spectrum are modern Orthodox leaders disappointed that Lamm distanced himself from Edah, a fledgling, left-leaning organization whose motto is "the courage to be modern and Orthodox."

In the past two years, two rival rabbinical seminaries have opened in New York —

## MIDEAST FOCUS

### Arabs to bankroll Palestinians

Gulf Arab states agreed to provide the Palestinian Authority with \$40 million a month for the next six months, *The New York Times* reported Tuesday.

The move, which reflects heightened Arab support for the Palestinians in their six-month-old conflict with Israel, will make Arab countries the chief source of financial support for the Palestinian Authority.

### IDF predicts 'protracted clash'

The Palestinians are preparing for a "protracted clash with Israel," according to the Israel Defense Force chief of staff. "The Palestinians are fortifying positions, stockpiling munitions, and are attempting to smuggle in weapons through any means, by sea, by tunnels, by the Egyptian border and via international borders," Lt. Gen. Shaul Mofaz told the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee on Tuesday.

### P.A. rejects interim accords

A Palestinian minister said the Palestinian Authority rejects Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's proposal that the two sides pursue long-term interim agreements rather than a comprehensive final accord, *Israel's Army Radio* reported Tuesday.

### Palestinians unleash e-virus

A new computer virus originating in the Palestinian Authority swamped Israeli government computers Tuesday, *Israel Radio* reported. The report said the virus appears as an e-mail file attachment named "Injustice." After being opened, it proliferates through the e-mail address books of Microsoft Outlook Express, sending out calls of support for the Palestinian cause.

### Tourism to Israel plummets

Tourism to Israel fell by 50 percent in February compared with the same period last year. According to the Israel Tourism Ministry, 104,300 visitors entered Israel last month.



## Daily News Bulletin

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Lander College and Yeshiva Chovevei Torah, on the right and left of Orthodoxy, respectively — because of the perception that Y.U. no longer meets their constituents' needs.

Some critics say that the secular, or "maddah," and Judaic, or "Torah," faculties at Y.U. barely communicate with each other.

Because of the balancing act Lamm's position requires in serving such diverse constituencies, some speculate that he will be replaced with two people: one to oversee Y.U.'s secular academic side and one to oversee Judaic study.

But Lamm said dividing the position in two is not a desirable solution.

One person should fill the presidency "to symbolize what the university stands for: Torah u'maddah," he told JTA.

"This position requires a balancing act," he said. "And you can't balance if you have two personalities — it's difficult enough as one person."

Among the names being floated as possible successors to Lamm are Rabbi Shlomo Riskin, chief rabbi of Efrat, an Israeli settlement near Jerusalem; Rabbi Jonathan Sacks, chief Orthodox rabbi of England; and Rabbi Jacob Schacter, founding dean of the Rabbi Joseph B. Soloveitchik Institute in suburban Boston.

Lamm would not confirm if they are indeed candidates.

The differences and tensions Y.U. faces are not as severe as many charge, Lamm said.

"There are differences of opinion, but it is only organizations where everyone is unthinking that have a uniformity of opinion," he said.

Lamm disagrees with those who say that Y.U., particularly its rabbinic school and undergraduate program, has moved steadily to the right during his tenure.

"If by the right, one means greater dedication to the study and analysis of Torah, then we are to the right and I welcome it," Lamm said.

"If by right you mean we're benighted Neanderthals and provincials and people who hate everyone else, no absolutely not," he continued. "Are there some individuals who qualify for such opprobrium? Yes, and some have left. But for the greater part, the" heads of the Judaic program "are dedicated, brilliant people and are rational people, and entitled to their own opinions and nuances."

Among the issues dividing modern Orthodox Jews in recent years have been the extent to which they should cooperate with the more liberal streams of Judaism, support secular academic pursuits — as well as religious learning — and embrace efforts to give women a larger role in Jewish learning and worship.

The movement also faces smaller and more tangible issues, and all can be felt at Y.U. Even the term "modern Orthodox" has proven controversial, with many rejecting "modern" for "centrist," and others preferring no modifier at all.

Lamm, who uses the two interchangeably, said he initially shifted from "modern" to "centrist" several years ago because he did not like the assumption that "what is modern is always good."

"But then centrist was misunderstood to mean some mathematical point evenly between Neturei Karta" — the small, fervently Orthodox sect that is militantly anti-Zionist — "and Reform," he said. "Therefore I use both terms, each one to cancel out the weakness of the other." But he added, "I think eventually I will settle on modern."

Rabbi Saul Berman, a professor at Y.U.'s Stern College, co-founder of the new, more liberal Chovevei Torah seminary and director of Edah, said the openings within the O.U. and Y.U. are an opportunity "for the lay and rabbinic leadership to redefine the direction in which the institutions of the modern Orthodox community are going to be moving over the next quarter of a century, if not longer."

The positions the new leaders take on issues such as how Orthodoxy relates to the broader Jewish community will have a great impact, Berman said.

It remains to be seen whether anyone will be able to walk the kind of tightrope Lamm has.

Rabbi Yosef Blau, the mashgiach ruchani — spiritual guidance counselor — at Y.U.'s rabbinic seminary, said Lamm's overall record was positive.

"The vast majority of" rabbis, "if you'd ask them, would say yes, over the years they thought Rabbi Lamm was weak on this issue or that issue," Blau said. "But if you look back at the total picture and see how Yeshiva University has grown and developed, including the rabbinical school, he balanced all the pressures really well." □

## JEWISH WORLD

### Council OKs 10 Commandments

A Colorado city council voted to allow a tablet of the Ten Commandments to remain in front of its City Hall.

But the council in Grand Junction also agreed Monday to erect other monuments placing the tablet in historical context, along with a disclaimer saying the city does not endorse any religion.

### Austrian leader: 'Never again'

Austria's president pledged that his country "must never again be home to anti-Semitism."

Thomas Klestil made the comment Tuesday while welcoming a group of 80 visiting Jews, many of whom were making their first trip to Vienna since fleeing the city during the 1930s.

### Jewish group accuses Napster

A French Jewish group is claiming that the Napster music-swapping Web site is disseminating neo-Nazi propaganda.

The French National Union of Jewish Students claims that by keying in "Adolf Hitler" or Joseph Goebbels, the Web user gains access to Nazi documents or propaganda songs from the Nazi era.

### Korea's Nazi nightspots slammed

The Simon Wiesenthal Center protested to South Korea's ambassador to the United States about two nightspots in that country displaying Nazi symbols.

The center called for closing the "Hitler Techno Bar and Cocktail Show" and the "Gestapo" pool hall, demanding "intervention" by the South Korean government.

### Lawmakers eye Polish restitution

The New York State Assembly plans to hold a public hearing Thursday about Polish property restitution for Holocaust survivors.

Assembly members hope to provide "some remedy for the thousands of New Yorkers who are being denied access to property seized from them or their families during World War II," said Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver, who is among those convening the hearing.

### Supremacist pastor gets 30 years

A white supremacist pastor was sentenced to 30 years in prison in Missouri on Monday for abducting six of his grandchildren and keeping them at his farm to indoctrinate them.

During his trial, the Rev. Gordon Winrod repeatedly referred to the court as "the Jewdiciary," but denied that he hates Jews. Winrod has been linked to the Christian Identity movement, which considers white Christians superior to nonwhites and Jews.

## Foxman meets with investigators, admits ADL took money from Rich

By Matthew E. Berger

WASHINGTON (JTA) — The Anti-Defamation League is cooperating with a congressional investigation into the pardon of businessman Marc Rich, and has acknowledged that Rich was a donor to the organization.

The House of Representatives' Government Reform Committee also has sent a letter seeking the cooperation of former Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak, but has not yet received a response, a committee spokeswoman said.

The national director of the ADL, Abraham Foxman, met with committee investigators in Washington on Monday, the same day he released a letter saying he "probably" had erred by lobbying former President Clinton to pardon Rich.

Rich was indicted on 51 counts of tax evasion, racketeering and violating trade sanctions with Iran, but fled to Switzerland in 1983 before standing trial. He then became a major donor to Jewish charities and Israeli institutions, and many leading Israeli politicians and American Jewish figures lobbied Clinton on his behalf.

Clinton pardoned Rich in the waning hours of his presidency in January, saying that the Jewish pressure — particularly Barak's — was one of the major factors in his decision.

Myrna Shinbaum, ADL's director of media relations and public information, acknowledged that Rich has donated to the organization, but refused to divulge the amount he has given or when he gave it. Shinbaum also refused to comment on the substance of Foxman's meeting with investigators.

The House investigators are examining the process Rich used to gain a pardon, which allegedly bypassed the normal vetting process. The committee so far has held two hearings. The committee was expected to release a list Wednesday of everyone investigators have contacted about the pardon.

The committee also will report that it is seeking an interview with Avner Azulay, a former Mossad agent who oversaw the Rich Foundation in Israel, a committee spokeswoman said. Attempts to contact Barak's office and Azulay were unsuccessful.

Foxman's meeting with investigators came the day he issued a statement explaining his participation in the Rich pardon.

"I did so because I believed, along with many others whom I respect, that Mr. Rich deserved a second chance," Foxman said in the statement. "In hindsight, this case probably should not have had my involvement."

Shinbaum said the statement was unrelated to Foxman's meeting with investigators.

Many of the Jewish and Israeli officials lobbying for a pardon had benefited from Rich's largesse.

Among those writing Clinton were Shlomo Ben-Ami, Israel's former foreign minister; Ehud Olmert, mayor of Jerusalem; Michael Steinhardt, a philanthropist and CEO of Steinhardt Associates; and Rabbi Irving "Yitz" Greenberg, chairman of the United States Holocaust Memorial Council.

None of Rich's other advocates connected with Israel or the Jewish community were contacted for questioning, the committee spokeswoman said.

In his Dec. 7 letter to Clinton urging a pardon, Foxman acknowledged Rich's "generous support of the Jewish community and abroad" and said he had made amends for his alleged crimes.

"The extent of Marc Rich's suffering has become disproportionate to his mistakes," Foxman wrote. "His life has been committed to making the world a better place."

In his statement Monday, Foxman wrote that he has since re-examined his decision.

"On further reflection, as this unique case unfolded, I began to question whether a person's good deeds should overshadow other aspects of his behavior," Foxman wrote.

Rabbi Eric Yoffie, president of the Reform movement's Union of American Hebrew Congregations, has been an outspoken critic of the Jewish community's push for Rich.

On Tuesday, Yoffie said he was glad to see the ADL acknowledge that its support of the pardon was an error of judgement.

"Whether or not Mr. Rich contributed, the suspicion was created that there was a motive" to write the letters of support, Yoffie said. "If contributions were made, that makes it all the more serious." □

**BEHIND THE HEADLINES****Against backdrop of violence, AIPAC reverts to a harder line***By Sharon Samber*

WASHINGTON (JTA) — It was only a year ago that the American Israel Public Affairs Committee was cheering Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak and rallying support for the peace process.

What a difference a year makes.

Long perceived as being on the hawkish end of the American Jewish political spectrum, AIPAC appears to be shifting back toward its roots, trying to strike a balance between the hope that peace might one day be possible and the conviction that the Palestinians have shown themselves woefully unprepared for peace right now.

In fact, AIPAC has placed the road to peace — or, to use a term now clearly out of favor, the “peace process” — not so much on a back burner as on a different stove altogether.

A new agenda has been adopted, one that focuses on the short term and Israel’s immediate security.

With Palestinian violence against Israel well into its sixth month — and Iran and Iraq working to develop weapons of mass destruction — leaders and grass-roots activists alike give short shrift to the possibility of imminent peace negotiations.

Those attending AIPAC’s Washington conference seemed purposeful but frustrated, strong in their commitment to stand with Israel but skeptical of Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat and the chances for any meaningful breakthrough.

“The realities are just so different now,” said Ronald Rakover of Austin, Texas, who added that the deteriorating security situation in Israel motivated him to attend the conference.

Others echoed the sour mood, disappointed that peace efforts had come to a violent end and unsure of the next policy push beyond urging an end to the fighting.

“Most people here don’t believe that peace with Arafat is possible,” said David Kahan of Troy, Mich., who was attending his 10th AIPAC policy conference.

Kahan is upset by the incitement and hatred of Israel prevalent in Palestinian media and schoolbooks, an issue that has begun to seep into mainstream consciousness after years on the margins.

“How can you see a ray of hope with this kind of behavior?” Kahan asked.

Even Nobel Peace Prize winner Elie Wiesel finally gave his first address to AIPAC — after years of declined invitations — because he felt a need to raise his voice on the current situation.

AIPAC seems far more comfortable with a harder-line approach and a renewed focus on Israeli security than it did with last year’s role as supporter of a peace process that moved in fits and starts but produced few tangible results for Israel.

At the 2000 conference, AIPAC preached unwavering support for the peace process, and then-Prime Minister Barak called for unity from the American Jewish community.

This year, when Prime Minister Ariel Sharon called for unity, it had different connotations.

“Jerusalem will remain united under the sovereignty of Israel forever,” Sharon told attendees Monday night, touching on what was only recently a sticking point in peace talks under Barak but is a rallying cry for the new Israeli government.

The statement brought rousing applause, and a reference to

Jerusalem as “the eternal capital of the Jewish people” brought a standing ovation. In his speech, Sharon sounded like the general he once was.

“Israel will not negotiate under fire,” he said. “I will do what is necessary to protect the people of Israel.”

Sharon did call for a “new, more realistic approach,” including a long-term interim agreement with the Palestinians, but said conditions clearly were not right for a permanent peace deal.

As Sharon addressed the conference, hundreds of mostly Arab protesters gathered outside with banners reading “Free Palestine” and “No U.S. Tax Dollars for Israeli Oppression.” In response, Jews chanted “Stop the violence, stop the hate” and sang Israeli peace songs.

With 1,100 delegates attending — a 22 percent increase over last year — the conference was more animated than in recent years, attendees said.

According to one lawmaker, the harder-line message that AIPAC will bring to its Capitol Hill lobbying will be well-received.

Rep. Shelley Berkley (D-Nev.), attending her 15th AIPAC conference, said she thought Congress would get tougher on Arafat. Berkley also said it is in America’s interest to stand strong with Israel, and that the term “honest broker” would become obsolete.

The United States has to stand up now for Israel’s security, AIPAC’s executive director, Howard Kohr, told JTA.

While emphasizing the importance of a strong and united front for Israel, Kohr also cited the need for political dialogue between Israel and the Palestinians and a return to the diplomatic process.

“There’s not a single person at this conference that doesn’t want to get back to the table,” he said.

But the terms at that bargaining table are not the topic on people’s minds. The American Jewish community had been polarized on Israel, according to Abraham Foxman, national director of the Anti-Defamation League, but the community is now more united — and AIPAC’s message will be heard more clearly.

“People haven’t given up on peace,” Foxman said. “Just on peace now.”

The radically different political landscape has forced Jewish organizations to reassess their strategies, said Stanley Urman, executive director of the Center for Middle East Peace and Economic Cooperation.

Israel is in a state of governmental transition, but both Israelis and Palestinians have become more entrenched in their positions, he said.

As for the AIPAC delegates, it appears their outlook also has hardened. Some attendees booed Dennis Ross, former President Clinton’s special Middle East coordinator, who staked much of his career on the peace process.

Yet mention of Israel’s military edge and calls for tougher stances against Arafat never failed to elicit rousing applause. □

**Report: Denial forum in doubt**

JERUSALEM (JTA) — Fourteen prominent Arab intellectuals recently called for the cancellation of a Holocaust denial conference scheduled to be held at the end of the month in Beirut, according to the Israeli daily Ha’aretz.

Among those joining the call were Palestinian poet Mahmoud Darwish and Columbia University Professor Edward Said.

Participants from countries in the Middle East, North America and Europe are set to take part in the conference, “Revisionism and Zionism,” which is sponsored by two neo-Nazi groups. □