



# Daily News Bulletin

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## TOP NEWS IN BRIEF

### Peres discusses cease-fire

Israel will begin easing restrictions it has imposed on Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip in preparation for a possible cease-fire, Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres said. After meeting with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak in Cairo on Sunday, Peres said that much progress had been made on a joint Egyptian-Jordanian peace initiative, but "there are still issues that we have to clarify."

Peres later traveled to Jordan to discuss the initiative with King Abdullah.

### Israeli dies as violence flares

An Israeli was killed and several others wounded in a drive-by shooting on a main highway in Israel's Galilee.

According to reports, the assailants pulled up next to the Israelis at a stop light Saturday night, asked directions and — determining from their Hebrew that they were Jews — opened fire. After killing 21-year-old Shlomo Elmakias, the assailants drove off toward the Israeli Arab city of Umm el-Fahm. A group associated with Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat's Fatah movement claimed responsibility.

On Saturday night, a Palestinian man was killed in gunfire near Rachel's Tomb in Bethlehem.

Five Israeli teen-agers suffered shrapnel wounds following a Palestinian mortar attack on a Jewish settlement in the Gaza Strip, according to the Jerusalem Post. One suffered moderate wounds in Saturday's attack; the others were said to be in good condition.

And a car bomb exploded Sunday near a school bus transporting Jewish children in the West Bank.

There were no casualties among the students, although several reportedly went into shock. According to Israeli security sources, the body of a Palestinian man believed to be a suicide bomber was found in the badly damaged car.

### Austrians: Files clear Waldheim

Austrian officials are claiming that CIA files on Nazi officials released last Friday prove that former Austrian President Kurt Waldheim was not guilty of Nazi-era war crimes.

But Eli Rosenbaum, an official with the U.S. Justice Department's Nazi-hunting unit, said the files only show that Waldheim had not worked for the U.S. intelligence community after the war. [Page 4]

## Charitable choice, elderly housing focuses of lobbying on Capitol Hill

By Sharon Samber

WASHINGTON (JTA) — Sen. Joseph Lieberman (D-Conn.) was winding up a speech to Jewish lay leaders with some jokes — and the audience was laughing appreciatively.

But when Lieberman said he'd take questions, it took only a few seconds before the crowd turned serious. "Faith-based!" one woman yelled.

The leaders of the United Jewish Communities — who came here from across the country last week to lobby Congress on aid to Israel, the administration's faith-based initiative and elderly care — were showing how they were able to stay "on message," as they might say in the nation's capital.

With a laugh, Lieberman told the UJC Leadership Summit that he only gets that question from Jewish groups. He explained the latest developments in President Bush's proposal to have faith-based groups receive government funds to provide social services.

The administration is hoping to expand charitable choice, a part of the 1996 welfare reform law that allowed religious organizations to get federal money directly rather than through separate, secular nonprofits they established to run their social services.

So far, the Jewish community's reaction to the plan has been tepid at best.

UJC, the Jewish community's central fund-raising and social services agency, says it wants to work with the administration. While it supports a national effort to strengthen faith-based groups' ability to meet social needs, UJC believes those in need of social services must have viable alternatives to services provided by religious groups.

These and other parts of the plan have not been fully fleshed out by the administration. In addition, the House of Representatives is holding hearings on different aspects of charitable choice.

Lieberman told the summit that he is interested in the idea because faith-based groups are doing valuable work. He said, however, that the White House wisely had decided not to move ahead with more controversial aspects of the program.

UJC President and CEO Stephen Solender told the former vice presidential candidate that the community needs people like him who will help shape the legislation to safeguard civil liberties. Rabbi Eric Silverman of the Greater New Haven, Conn., federation said that when he discussed the issue with his congressman, Rep. Jim Maloney (D-Conn.), he found the congressman was "in the same place as we are."

Silverman said Maloney agreed that charitable choice has become very complex, and that faith-based organizations will be fighting over too few dollars because Bush has not proposed new money for the plan. Other leaders said their representatives were receptive on issues such as the need for affordable housing for the elderly.

Among the UJC talking points on elderly housing is a request to increase funding for federally subsidized elderly housing to at least \$1.3 billion. Bush's 2002 budget calls for \$779 million.

Injecting a little realism into the budget numbers, Sen. Arlen Specter (R-Pa.) told the UJC leaders that the budget process was just getting under way, but that the budget looks tight. "It leaves us very little room," he said.

Leaders from different locales stressed different programs. In Pittsburgh, the Neighbors program provides activities, social service and nursing interventions to allow elderly to "age in place." UJC leaders tried to convince their representatives to secure federal money for the program, which has been supported only by private funding.

Reps. William Coyne and Mike Doyle (D-Pa.) were very receptive, Pittsburgh residents Mahnaz Harrison and Edgar Snyder said. Harrison lobbied for \$15 million for

## MIDEAST FOCUS

### Bomb detonated in Netanya

Israeli police detonated a bomb in the town of Netanya and later said they had detained an Arab suspect. In another incident Sunday, a bomb went off in the Jewish settlement of Sha'arei Tikva, near Nablus in the West Bank. The bomb shattered windows but caused no injuries.

Meanwhile, Israeli tanks fired shells near the Khan Younis refugee camp in the southern Gaza Strip. The army said it was responding Sunday to gunfire from Khan Younis aimed at military posts near the Jewish settlements of Gadid and Neveh Dekalim, where one Israeli was wounded.

Israeli troops battled with Palestinian gunmen at several other Gaza locations.

### Report: Arafat planned attacks

Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat participated in a recent meeting at which Palestinian security officials planned attacks against Israeli targets, according to the Israeli daily Ma'ariv.

Arafat's Fatah Party, meanwhile, denied reports that Arafat had ordered an end to mortar attacks on Israeli communities. Palestinians fired at least eight mortars at Gaza settlements over the weekend, according to the Jerusalem Post.

### Report: Jordan arrests Islamists

Jordanian authorities arrested 13 Islamic activists on suspicion of planning terrorist attacks against Israeli and Western interests in Jordan, according to Israel's Army Radio.

### Israel raids settlers' compound

Israeli police raided a Jewish compound in the West Bank city of Hebron on Sunday.

A spokesman said police were looking for evidence against several settlers suspected of vandalizing Palestinian stores and committing other crimes against Hebron Arabs.



## Daily News Bulletin

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Neighbors-style pilot projects known as Naturally Occurring Retirement Communities, called NORCs. More needs to be done to help the elderly all over the country, according to Jerry Yanowitz, who came to Washington from the East Bay near San Francisco.

Yanowitz is asking several congressional representatives to support increased funding for elderly care and housing. UJC needs federal help to continue its mission of tikkun olam, or repairing the world, Yanowitz said. UJC leaders also asked their senators and representatives to wear blue ribbons to show solidarity with Israel.

In addresses to the summit, both Lieberman and Specter said the situation in the Middle East is bleak, but that congressional support for Israel remains strong. The senators blamed Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat for the resurgence of violence.

But Lieberman added that Bush's posture of "detachment" could not last for long, and said that allowing European countries or Russia a leadership role in the Mideast would not be in Israel's interest. He also criticized some possible administration plans, such as Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld's suggestion to remove American troops from the Sinai.

Lieberman emphasized that support for Israel in Congress was "as strong, if not stronger" than he'd ever seen.

It should be noted that UJC knows where the true power of Jewish leadership still lies: In order to book Lieberman as a speaker, UJC officials went through Marsha Lieberman, the senator's mother. □

## Campaign intensifies in Arab world against 'Zionist' Pokemon kids' game

By Tom Tugend

LOS ANGELES (JTA) — The Arab campaign against the Pokemon children's game for its allegedly Jewish connotations is picking up steam across the Middle East.

Full-scale anti-Pokemon campaigns are under way in Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Egypt, Oman, Qatar and Dubai, according to The Los Angeles Times.

Pokemon, which includes video games, trading cards and cartoons with images of monsters, has only belatedly made its way to the Arab world. Some Muslim officials now claim that the word "Pokemon" means "I am a Jew" in Japanese, and believe the toy craze is part of a Jewish-Zionist conspiracy to turn Arab children away from Islam.

Despite assurances from the Japan-based Nintendo, which launched Pokemon in 1995, that the trade name stands for "pocket monsters," the video games and related items have been stripped from store shelves in Saudi Arabia and turned away at ports.

A fatwa, or religious edict, issued by a Saudi sheik urges all Muslims to beware of the game, noting that most of the cards bear "six-pointed stars, a symbol of international Zionism and the state of Israel."

A similar fatwa in Dubai warns that Pokemon "is based on the theory of evolution, a Jewish-Darwinist theory that conflicts with the truth about humans and with Islamic principles."

Partly underlying the anti-Pokemon campaign may be the same frustrations felt by parents in the United States whose children played with the products obsessively.

"Our children have found in Pokemon an opportunity to lose themselves in it," complained a magazine article, headlined "Pokemon Virus," published in the United Arab Emirates.

The original Pokemon contained 150 brightly colored characters, each a mini-monster with the potential to transform into a more powerful creature. By 1999, when the game's popularity peaked in the United States, it had evolved into a multimedia phenomenon, with movies and television shows, clothing and toy lines — and sales in the billions of dollars.

The anti-Jewish overtones of the Arab world's campaign have raised concerns among American Jewish leaders. Abraham Foxman, the national director of the Anti-Defamation League, is quoted in the Times as warning that "when you start saying, 'The Jews are manipulating children's minds,' that is scary. And when it comes wrapped in 'fatwas,' as God's truth," then "it becomes a lot scarier."

In 1999, ADL complained that one Pokemon card bore an image similar to a swastika. Nintendo discontinued the card. □

## JEWISH WORLD

### Specter presses Bush on envoy

Sen. Arlen Specter (R-Pa.) urged President Bush to name a U.S. envoy to the Middle East, saying in a letter that the situation in the region "is extremely bleak." U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell told lawmakers last week that he has not ruled out the idea, but said, "at this point, we don't think that there is a need yet for one to give it the kind of attention that's suggested."

### Court to rule on slave lawsuits

A U.S. appeals court plans to hear arguments on May 15 to determine if a judge erred by refusing to dismiss Holocaust-related lawsuits against German companies.

German firms as well as lawyers for Holocaust survivors complain that Judge Shirley Kram's ruling has prevented Germany from making payments out of a \$5.2 billion fund for Holocaust-era slave laborers.

The fund was first created in February 1999. A panel made up of representatives of the German government, German industry and survivors' groups later agreed to the exact amount.

### School speeches to back Israel

Several fervently Orthodox rabbis plan to broadcast speeches Monday to thousands of North American day school students in hopes of offering a "spiritual counterforce against the daily assaults in Israel."

The speeches will be broadcast under the auspices of the Monsey, N.Y.-based Chofetz Chaim Heritage Foundation.

### Russian lawmakers nix hate bill

Russian lawmakers rejected hate crimes legislation that would have tightened laws against anti-Semitism and other forms of ethnic hatred.

In response to last week's failure of the Anti-Defamation League-sponsored measure, which received only 138 of the 226 votes needed to pass, a Jewish legislator resigned from Russian President Vladimir Putin's faction. Alexander Fedulov said his resignation was prompted by the hypocrisy of his colleagues in the Unity faction, three-quarters of whom did not vote on the measure.

### Arrests made in N.Y. shul arson

Three teen-agers were arrested for allegedly trying to burn down a Manhattan synagogue founded by Holocaust survivors.

Several hundred congregants fled into the streets after Saturday night's incident at K'Hal Adath Jeshurun.

Police said they believe the crime, which caused minor damage but no injuries, was an act of vandalism not motivated by bias.

## Heir to stolen Jewish property foiled by Czech restitution law

By Magnus Bennett

PRAGUE (JTA) — The top Nazi official in Czechoslovakia liked nothing better than to relax in his favorite wartime residence 15 miles north of here.

The Panenske Brezany Castle wasn't Reinhard Heydrich's home, however.

It had been taken from a Jewish businessman of Czech nationality, Ferdinand Bloch-Bauer, who had escaped from the country before the Nazis invaded.

When Bloch-Bauer died just after the end of the war, he left the castle to his two nieces and a nephew. But the postwar Communist regime had different plans, absorbing the property into state hands.

It seemed as if the castle would finally return to the family when Czech legislators passed a new restitution law 10 years ago allowing seized property to be handed back to descendants of original owners.

But there was a catch. Only Czech citizens could apply.

That came as a body blow to Marie Altmann, Bloch-Bauer's heir and only surviving niece, who recalls with fondness the summers she spent at the castle as a young girl until she and her family were forced to flee from Europe in the late 1930s.

She had never taken up Czech citizenship and therefore could not make a claim for her heritage.

"It is terribly unjust," the 85-year-old told JTA from her home in Los Angeles. "What has my citizenship got to do with this? My uncle was a very good Czech and a friend of Tomas Masaryk," Czechoslovakia's first president, "and yet I cannot claim the property."

Ironically, Altmann and other foreigners can make claims in the Czech Republic for looted artwork, which are not subject to the same citizenship restrictions.

Altmann's U.S. attorney is livid about the restitution clause.

"In our view, it is nothing less than scandalous," said Randol Schoenberg, who is also trying to recover from Austria a set of valuable paintings once owned by Bloch-Bauer in a separate case. "This is a property used by Heydrich which was taken from a Jewish family and was never returned. Mrs. Altmann has not received a penny from her uncle's estate."

Schoenberg believes the case epitomizes a much wider problem, a view backed by the British-based group Search and Unite, which specializes in locating people who lost Czech property during the Nazi and Communist eras.

Founder David Lewin, who said he had already been approached by half a dozen non-Czech citizens from around the world who had failed in Czech property claims, argued: "It is totally wrong of any government to accept that people have been wronged but to refuse to give property back because they are of a different nationality."

Lewin believes there are many other cases like Altmann's, most of which involve Jewish claimants.

He is particularly concerned that many have been put off from applying for their properties back because of the law, which stipulates that property claims must be made by May 25.

The pressure is building on the Czechs to rethink their policy. Baroness Sarah Ludford, a member of the European Parliament, wants to make changes in the restitution clause a prerequisite for the Czech Republic's planned accession to the European Union.

She raised the issue in a letter this month to a European commissioner, Guenther Verheugen, after hearing of a similar case to Altmann's from a British citizen.

Describing the legislation as a "serious injustice," she told Verheugen: "It seems to me to offend against the ban in the E.U. treaties against discrimination on the grounds of nationality for the heirs resident in and holding citizenship of an E.U. country to be disbarred from reclaiming property in the Czech Republic."

If necessary, Ludford intends to raise the issue on the floor of the European Parliament in an attempt to embarrass the Czech Republic into a change of heart.

That seems unlikely at the moment.

A spokeswoman for the Czech Ministry of Finance, which oversees issues of property and restitution, said the current law did not allow any exceptions. If there are to be any changes in the law, it must come from the Czech Parliament, she said. □

## Who really won the Cold War? Nazis, according to CIA documents

By Sharon Samber

WASHINGTON (JTA) — Newly declassified CIA files provide an inside glimpse of the extent to which U.S. intelligence officials relied on suspected Nazi war criminals for information about the Soviets after World War II.

According to the files, some of the Nazis on the CIA's payroll lived the high life after the war, apparently profiting from stolen Jewish property. Perhaps the most famous Nazi on the U.S. intelligence payroll was Klaus Barbie, a Gestapo officer known as the "Butcher of Lyon" for ordering the murder of French Jewish children during the war.

Among the files' other findings was that Gestapo head Heinrich Mueller likely died at the end of World War II, and therefore never worked for the CIA, contradicting previous assumptions.

Nearly 10,000 pages were made available to the public last Friday under the Nazi War Crimes Disclosure Act of 1998, but historians were quick to point out that many questions linger because the files must still be analyzed.

The files focus on 20 Nazi figures, including Adolf Hitler and Adolf Eichmann.

Included in the Hitler file was a document involving an informant who said in January 1937 that he had talked with a surgeon who had observed Hitler. According to the informant, the surgeon believed Hitler was "a border case between genius and insanity," and potentially could become "the craziest criminal the world ever saw."

In April 1937, the doctor told the informant that Hitler had begun to swing toward insanity and that Germany therefore was doomed, according to the document.

Austrian officials claimed that the documents prove that Kurt Waldheim, the former U.N. secretary-general and Austrian president, was not guilty of Nazi-era war crimes.

But an official with the U.S. Justice Department's Nazi-hunting unit, Eli Rosenbaum, said the files only showed that Waldheim had not worked for the U.S. intelligence community after the war. Waldheim may have worked for Soviet intelligence organizations, Rosenbaum added.

The Waldheim file shows the United States suspected that Waldheim had been compromised by the Soviet Union, but nevertheless did not ask for a CIA background check when Waldheim ran for U.N. secretary-general in 1971.

After Waldheim's Nazi past was discovered — he served during World War II in a Nazi army unit linked to atrocities against civilians in the Balkans — the United States put Waldheim on its "watch list" of undesirable aliens in 1987.

The newly released documents indicate that the Office of Strategic Services, the CIA's wartime predecessor, was determined to identify and track down Nazis. After the war ended, however, many of those same Nazis were employed by U.S. intelligence to help spy on the Soviets.

At the same time, other Nazis were hired by the Soviet Union to spy on the United States.

Of the 20 Nazis who were the focus of the just-released files, Rosenbaum said, at least six were used by U.S. intelligence, six by Soviet intelligence and five by the CIA-dominated Gehlen Organization, the West German intelligence bureau established by a

former Hitler general, Reinhard Gehlen.

"These documents show the real winners of the Cold War were Nazi war criminals," Rosenbaum said.

The Nazis were able to escape justice because the United States and Soviet Union were too focused on challenging each other in the postwar period, Rosenbaum said. U.S. officials "lost their will to pursue Nazi perpetrators, and even deemed some of the criminals to be useful in conducting Cold War intelligence operations," he said.

In recent years, U.S. intelligence officials have been forced to admit that they used Nazi war criminals as informants at the dawn of the Cold War, an approach that was "a horrendous mistake," according to historian Richard Breitman, who directed research of the CIA files.

Declassifying the files could help prevent future atrocities because democracy is strengthened when its "dirty linen" is exposed, said former U.S. Rep. Elizabeth Holtzman, a member of the Nazi War Crimes and Japanese Imperial Government Inter-agency Working Group, which worked to open and examine the files.

Rep. Carolyn Maloney (D-N.Y.) started a crusade in 1994 to declassify U.S. intelligence agency documents on the Holocaust and America's postwar dealings with former Nazis.

Maloney was spurred to action after the U.S. government refused to open documents relating to Waldheim, who had hid his Nazi past for decades. □

### OBITUARY

## Leading scholar part of movement that linked Jewish, secular culture

By Richard Allen Greene

LONDON (JTA) — Rabbi Julius Carlebach, who escaped Germany as a child and rose to become a leading scholar, died in Brighton, England, on April 17 at the age of 79.

Honored by Germany for turning Heidelberg's University for Jewish Studies into the country's leading institution of its kind, Carlebach worked in a wide range of fields during his life.

He came to England at the age of 16, while the rest of his family, including his father, the distinguished Rabbi Joseph Carlebach, died in the Holocaust.

After serving in Britain's Royal Navy during the war, he ran a Jewish children's home for 10 years.

Then he served as rabbi of the Nairobi Hebrew Congregation, producing a book on the Jews of Kenya before earning a master's degree from Cambridge when he was in his 40s.

He went on to earn a doctorate from the University of Sussex, and taught there for the rest of his life, eventually becoming emeritus professor of German-Jewish studies.

He also served as rabbi of Hove Hebrew Congregation, near Brighton.

"I am amazed by the range of things he did in his career," said Edward Timms, a professor of German at the University of Sussex.

"He had tremendous versatility for someone who was, at heart, a scholar," Timms said.

A member of the distinguished Carlebach rabbinic family — the late Shlomo Carlebach was a cousin — Carlebach was heir to the 19th-century tradition of Wissenschaft des Judentums, which promoted the scientific study of Judaism using the tools of modern scholarship. □