



Daily News Bulletin

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84th Year

TOP NEWS IN BRIEF

UJC to get new leader

The executive of the Jewish Community Federation of Cleveland has been tapped to succeed Stephen Solender as the top professional at the United Jewish Communities. [Page 3]

HUC names new president

The Reform movement's Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion named Rabbi David Ellenson as its new president.

Ellenson, a longtime professor and administrator at the college's Los Angeles campus, will replace Rabbi Sheldon Zimmerman, who resigned in December after being suspended from the movement's Central Conference of American Rabbis.

CIA director heads to Middle East

The Bush administration sent CIA Director George Tenet to the Middle East to serve as a facilitator for Israeli-Palestinian security talks, similar to the role he played during the Clinton administration.

In another development, President Bush spoke to Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak and Jordan's King Abdullah on Tuesday as part of his effort to monitor the situation in the Middle East and seek a larger peace role for Israel's neighbors, White House spokesman Ari Fleischer said.

Conservatives alter school plan

The United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism is allowing its member congregations to switch from three-day-a-week to twice-a-week Hebrew school.

United Synagogue has long criticized the twice-a-week plan, although many of its synagogues did it anyway. Other new Conservative education policies approved this week included expanding education standards to include early elementary grades and high school, and requiring that students regularly attend Shabbat services.

Israeli officials close clubs

Israeli officials closed several nightspots in Jerusalem as part of a crackdown on unlicensed clubs in the aftermath of a wedding hall collapse last month that killed 23 people. Long accused of turning a blind eye to shoddy building practices, Israeli officials ordered the clubs to complete a permit process that includes an inspection before reopening.

UAHC cancels Israel programs; others persist with fewer teens

By Julie Wiener

NEW YORK (JTA) — In a move that some are criticizing as a blow to American Jewish efforts to show solidarity with Israel, the Reform movement has canceled all its teen programs to Israel this summer.

The Union of American Hebrew Congregations' decision was announced Saturday night, a day after a suicide bomber killed 20 young Israelis outside a Tel Aviv nightclub.

While the bombing was a factor, the decision stemmed from various security fears and followed weeks of what the group described as "painful soul searching."

In a speech to his board of trustees, the UAHC's president, Rabbi Eric Yoffie, said the movement's "religious and Zionist commitments run deep, but this movement never uses other people's children to make a political or ideological point."

The UAHC — which sent 1,500 high school students to Israel last summer — is the largest group to cancel teen trips to Israel so far and many expect its decision will influence other groups and individuals that were uncertain whether or not to go to Israel.

It also puts other programs who are continuing with their trips on the defensive from worried parents.

The UAHC's decision comes amid massive declines in tourism and teen trip registration since the outbreak of violence last fall.

The UAHC's enrollment for this year was only 20 percent of last year's. In addition, numerous community-based trips to Israel have been canceled in recent months.

However, so far no other major, national Jewish programs have followed the group's lead. The steering committee of Birthright Israel, which offers free 10-day Israel trips to young Jews, met Sunday and decided to continue its trips — although one provider, Hillel: The Foundation for Jewish Campus Life, tentatively postponed until next week participation of approximately 120 New York-area students who had been scheduled to depart early this week.

The United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism voted unanimously Sunday to continue its youth trips to Israel.

Also, Young Judaea, a Zionist youth group under the auspices of Hadassah, and the Orthodox Union's National Conference of Synagogue Youth said they will continue their programs.

"We believe that it's important to offer the option," said Rabbi Jerome Epstein, executive vice president of the United Synagogue.

His group's United Synagogue Youth expects to send 350 teens to Israel this summer, down from last year's 600.

While parents "have the right to make the decision not to send their children," said Epstein, "a number of our constituents have said they believe it's still appropriate to go and have confidence in Israelis being able to provide for the security."

Rabbi Dovid Kaminetsky, national director of the Orthodox Union's National Conference of Synagogue Youth, echoed Epstein.

"I understand why any individual would drop out, but I believe as an organization it's important for us to stay with our plans.

"There are families who feel there's a message implied or given to" youngsters by saying "we're behind Israel and want you to go because canceling is giving in," he said.

NCSY sent 625 teens to Israel last year, and has approximately one-third that

MIDEAST FOCUS

U.S. to Arafat: Arrest terrorists

U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell urged Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat to arrest those responsible for last Friday's terror bombing in Tel Aviv.

During a call Monday, Powell insisted that Arafat "undertake a 100 percent effort against violence and terrorism," State Department spokesman Richard Boucher said.

Disco victim's condition improves

The condition of an Israeli critically wounded in last Friday's suicide bombing outside a Tel Aviv disco was upgraded to serious but stable. Thirty-nine people wounded in the attack remain hospitalized, five in serious condition.

The victim of another suicide bombing, a 6-year-old boy seriously wounded in a May 18 attack in Netanya, was released from a hospital.

The boy's father was killed in the attack and his mother remains hospitalized in serious condition. Five Israelis were killed in that attack.

Hamas won't honor cease-fire

Hamas will not honor the cease-fire called by Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat, according to the group's spiritual leader.

Disputing earlier reports that Hamas was to abide by a cease-fire, Sheik Ahmed Yassin told The Associated Press that Hamas wants "to tell the world that our Palestinian people are not going to kneel down."

In a related development, the leader of Hezbollah urged more Palestinian suicide bombers to strike within Israel.

Neither Israel nor the United States "can keep a young Palestinian from breaking through all the guard posts and blowing himself up so that his country might live," Sheik Hassan Nasrallah told a rally in Beirut on Tuesday.

number registered for this summer. However, most participants have not yet paid, so may still cancel, Kaminetsky said.

Although reluctant to directly criticize the UAHC, leaders of other groups appeared to bristle somewhat at the implication that their decision to continue was politically motivated.

"We feel we can provide a quality educational experience and do it safely. Not because we're trying to make a political statement, but because this is what we do," said Joseph Bremen, president of the Alexander Muss High School in Israel.

Bremen is also chair of the North American Alliance for Jewish Youth, an umbrella organization for youth groups, camps and Israel trip providers.

The groups sticking with their programs said the UAHC's decision will affect them.

"The pressure's going to build," Kaminetsky said. "I believe we're doing the right thing but it's going to be more difficult because people are going to ask" why the NCSY thinks the trip is safe when the UAHC has deemed it unsafe.

Doron Krakow, Young Judea's national director, said he is certain the UAHC's decision will result in "a larger volume of questions being asked to all of us who've not made a similar decision."

USY, NCSY, Birthright and other groups sticking with their plans say they are heightening already strict security measures and will likely adjust their itineraries to have less time in major central cities like Tel Aviv and Jerusalem.

In addition, all the groups are eliminating free time — and possibly home hospitality weekends — for participants.

Instead of allowing the young adults to mill around cafes and malls or go to beaches, the programs will offer more structured events and parties and take participants to private beaches.

The need to cut out free time factored into the UAHC's decision to cancel, said Rabbi Allan Smith, director of the organization's youth programming.

"The beauty of an Israel program for teens has always been to let kids roam," Smith said. "It would have been very much camp compound-like, where you don't have freedom to wander around."

Several Israeli officials expressed disappointment at the UAHC's decision, saying the Jewish state desperately needs tourists and solidarity.

"I really am saddened," said Orly Gil, consul for academic affairs at the Israeli Consulate in New York.

"We need people to show their faces in Israel," she said.

Menachem Ravivi, the representative to North America of the Jewish Agency for Israel's education department, said Jewish groups "should take the leadership at this point and after making necessary arrangements should carry on with the programs.

"In the last 52 years we've never had quiet peaceful years, but people felt it was important to be in Israel — not just for the Israelis but for the Jewish identity of our youngsters," Ravivi said. "The message of canceling groups as an organizational decision — it's very difficult for us." □

Israeli gets Palestinian's heart

JERUSALEM (JTA) — An Israeli has received a heart transplant from a Palestinian man recently shot dead in disputed circumstances near Jerusalem.

The coordinator of Israel's national transplant association said it was the first organ donation by a Palestinian since the outbreak of violence last September. The family of Mazen Juliani claims he was shot by an Israeli settler, but Israeli police say the man was killed in a dispute with another Palestinian. □

Airlines resume Israel service

JERUSALEM (JTA) — Air France and Delta resumed regular flight service to Israel early this week after canceling weekend flights because of security concerns.

Israeli Transportation Minister Ephraim Sneh had initially criticized the cancellations and asked for an explanation from the airlines, but said Tuesday he considered the matter closed now that the flights have been resumed. □



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JEWISH WORLD

Survivors remember SS St. Louis

More than 40 survivors participated in a reunion Monday in Florida to remember the voyage of the SS St. Louis, a luxury liner barred from docking on Cuban and American soil in 1939.

The St. Louis, with 937 Jewish refugees aboard, left Germany before World War II. But entry to Cuba was denied, as were efforts to land in Florida.

When the ship returned to Europe, some passengers gained refuge in England, while others were sent to Belgium, France and the Netherlands.

Hundreds of Jewish passengers were later killed in Nazi death camps.

ADL to commemorate 1657 edict

The Anti-Defamation League plans to commemorate on Thursday a nearly 350-year-old edict that embraced religious tolerance.

The 1657 edict, known as the Flushing Remonstrance, declared that an area that is now in the New York City borough of Queens would be a place where the "law of love, peace and liberty" would be extended to Jews, Turks, Egyptians, Protestants, Baptists and Quakers. The decree created a precedent for religious tolerance that would later be embraced by the founders of the United States.

Jewish preschools get funding

Several Jewish philanthropists — including Michael Steinhardt's Jewish Life Network and the Charles and Lynn Schusterman Foundation — provided a total of \$175,000 in seed money to raise awareness about Jewish early childhood education.

The Baltimore-based Jewish Early Childhood Education Partnership will advocate for Jewish preschool programs, which are thought to shape Jewish identity but face severe shortages of staff and funds.

Scotland searches for looted art

Glasgow officials said they are posting on a Web site more than 200 works of art that may have been looted by the Nazis.

The move is part of a British campaign to determine whether artwork currently in Britain had been stolen from Jewish families by the Nazis. Images and descriptions of the 232 pictures and sketches are being posted on Britain's National Museums Web site, www.nationalmuseums.org.uk.

Czech town honors survivor

A Czech town honored a 75-year-old survivor for her work in helping to educate the Czech public about the Holocaust. On Monday, Hana Greenfield, who survived Auschwitz and Bergen-Belsen, was made an honorary citizen of Terezin, where a Jewish ghetto was located during World War II.

Cleveland exec tapped for top post amid leadership reshuffling at UJC

By Julie Wiener

NEW YORK (JTA) — In what is being called a long-term "succession plan," the executive of the Jewish Community Federation of Cleveland has been tapped to succeed Stephen Solender as the top professional at the United Jewish Communities.

Cleveland's Stephen Hoffman will likely replace Solender, who retires in 2003. But Hoffman is expected to join the North American federation umbrella group in the near future, running its day-to-day operations before that, said Joel Tauber, chair of the UJC's executive committee.

Hoffman declined to comment, saying discussions were still ongoing.

Solender said he is pleased with the new plans, and that he expects to focus on special projects and ensuring a smooth transition while Hoffman assumes responsibility for the UJC's operations.

The latest development comes two years after Solender was hired, following a lengthy search process. At that time, Solender, now 63, told lay leaders that he would stay only until he turns 65, Tauber and Solender said.

However, in recent weeks, rumors had circulated that Solender was being pushed out under pressure from James Tisch, who has been invited to become the UJC's next chairman of the board.

Tisch, currently president of the UJA-Federation of Greater New York, was rumored to dislike Solender, who is former executive vice president of that federation.

But Tisch, who said he is accepting the offer to be chairman of the board, dismissed those rumors as "patently ridiculous." Solender said the rumor has "no basis in reality."

Tauber said recent discussions over the UJC's top professional position have been limited to himself, Hoffman, Solender and Charles Bronfman, the UJC's current chairman of the board.

"Jim Tisch has had no input, no involvement, no discussion and no influence" in the hiring decisions, Tauber said.

Both Bronfman and Tauber will step down from their volunteer posts in October. Robert Goldberg, immediate past board chair of Cleveland's federation, is expected to replace Tauber.

Hoffman's selection is the latest staffing move at the top echelons of UJC, which is the product of the 1999 merger between the United Jewish Appeal and the Council of Jewish Federations. Until December, the group had a chief operating officer responsible for many of the day-to-day operations Hoffman is expected to assume, but she left after weeks of negotiations.

The new changes mean that top leadership will be heavily weighted towards New York and Cleveland. New York has the largest campaign, and Cleveland has the fifth largest campaign.

Tisch, the president and CEO of Loews Corporation, was selected because he has "done an absolutely outstanding job in the New York federation on every level," said Daniel Shapiro, the chair of the nominating committee.

Tisch is "an articulate spokesman for the federation system and for making a gift to the federation campaign" as opposed to the current trend toward designated giving to particular institutions, Shapiro added.

Tisch's business holdings — which include the Lorillard tobacco company — may draw some controversy, as they did when he was named to the top post in New York.

While the nominating committee discussed that possibility, Shapiro said, "with the exception of one, maybe two, people, everyone felt that was not really relevant."

"His business is run lawfully and legally and they're functioning in the business world today," Shapiro said. "He's an upstanding citizen and part of a family that's been unbelievably philanthropic."

Goldberg, who has had major leadership roles in Cleveland's Mandel Foundation, as well as the city's federation, has been extremely involved in the UJC's governance. The UJC's immediate past treasurer, Goldberg currently is chairman of its Overseas Needs Assessment and Distribution Committee, which determines how federations should allocate funds to Israel and Jews in other countries. □

NEWS ANALYSIS

In the logic of regional violence, terror attack leads to cease-fire

By David Landau

JERUSALEM (JTA) — The vicious minds that planned last Friday's suicide bombing outside a Tel Aviv disco may have been too primitive — or too filled with hate — to understand the logic of counterproductivity.

The bombing that ripped through the crowd of mainly Russian immigrant teen-agers gathered outside the Dolphin Club, killing 20 Israelis, was part of an eight-month-old Palestinian onslaught against the Jewish state.

But as it turned out, the disco attack created a chain of events that finally prompted the Palestinian Authority to call for a cease-fire.

Every hour that passed this week without another bomb or another fatal shooting added hope that this time, perhaps because of the very enormity of the Tel Aviv outrage, the cease-fire would hold.

The international community, led by the United States, watched closely for the right moment to throw its full weight behind the cease-fire.

World leaders seemed reluctant to move too soon for fear of being tarnished by the unfavorable fallout of a failed diplomatic initiative and a return to further bloodletting.

On Tuesday, the Bush administration announced it is sending CIA Director George Tenet to facilitate security talks between Israeli and Palestinian officials.

During a strategy session the previous day, administration officials had decided it was not yet the right time for U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell to visit the region.

If the calm holds, there is talk in world capitals of creating a machinery, perhaps in the form of unarmed observers, to help implement the cease-fire.

If this cease-fire does prove to be a turning point, coming just as the two sides were poised at the edge of an abyss, it will have been thanks to a combination of factors:

First, Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat realized, at the very last moment, that a grieving and infuriated Israel was about to deliver a military blow of such proportions that the P.A. might never recover.

There was serious talk in some Israeli government circles — though this was not government policy at any stage — of deposing Arafat and his coterie and forcibly transporting them back to Tunisia, from where they came at the beginning of the Oslo process.

But Israel's Inner Cabinet had approved air and land bombardment of a long list of Palestinian Authority targets which, had it been carried out, might have left much of the P.A.'s government infrastructure a smoldering ruin.

It is not known whether the Jewish state's retribution would have included army incursion into areas that are under Palestinian control.

Arafat may have been indifferent to the suffering endured by his people during the past eight months of violence.

But there is no reason to suppose that he is equally fatalistic regarding the prospect of a military assault directed at his government.

Second, the international community, especially the United

States, used the imminent threat of massive Israeli retaliation to persuade Arafat that this was really his last chance to order a cessation of hostilities.

The international community's pressure was driven home in a particularly effective manner thanks to the chance presence in the region of Germany's foreign minister, Joschka Fischer.

Fischer was staying in a Tel Aviv seafront hotel when the bomb went off.

"I thought of my own two children, aged 17 and 20," Fischer later told reporters as he shuttled between Jerusalem and Ramallah to inform the two sides about the need to stop the slide to all-out war.

Informed diplomatic sources said the German minister spoke to Arafat in a more forceful way than any European statesman had ever addressed him before. And, for now at least, it seems to have worked.

Arafat issued instructions on Saturday to halt the shooting; the instructions were carried, though not as headlines, on the official Palestinian radio; and, most important, P.A. forces fanned out at key pressure points to prevent firefights with Israel.

There was sporadic fighting early in the week, but Israeli Defense Minister Benjamin Ben-Eliezer announced that there had been a marked drop in shooting incidents throughout the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Israel was still demanding that the P.A. arrest or, in most cases, rearrest known Hamas and Islamic Jihad terrorists in order to prevent more suicide bombings.

The last factor that makes this cease-fire potentially different is Israel's national unity government, which was able to show restraint and thereby preserve the tentative cease-fire in the wake of the disco bombing.

A weaker government either of the left or right would almost certainly not have had the political confidence to withstand the huge wave of anger that swept the country over the weekend and the demands for military retribution.

Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon defended his decision not to respond to the Tel Aviv attack.

"Restraint is strength," he said after visiting a Tel Aviv hospital where young people were recovering from injuries suffered in the bombing.

Shimon Peres, the senior Labor Party member in the unity government, told his party that the broad base of the government made restraint possible.

Ultimately, though, both veteran leaders acknowledged that their policy of restraint is predicated on the Palestinians' commitment to uphold the cease-fire.

As Israeli officials know only too well, any shooting incident has the potential to upset the delicate balance of deterrence and diplomacy that has so far kept the region from falling into the abyss. □

Israel warned on money laundering

JERUSALEM (JTA) — The United States and Europe could impose sanctions on Israeli companies because Israel is on a list of 15 countries considered "noncooperative" in fighting money laundering, the director general of the Israeli Treasury said in an interview with the Israeli daily Yediot Achronot.

Although the Knesset, Israel's parliament, passed a Money Laundering Law in August 2000, it is often not enforced, Avi Ben-Bassat said. □