



Daily News Bulletin

Vol. 79, No. 114

Wednesday, June 20, 2001

84th Year

TOP NEWS IN BRIEF

Disco bombing claims 21st victim

A 15-year-old Israeli girl died Monday night of wounds she suffered in a June 1 suicide bombing outside a Tel Aviv disco.

Yevgenia Dorfman's death brought the number of people killed by the suicide bomber to 21.

After being critically wounded in the blast, Dorfman hung on for nearly three weeks, a hospital spokeswoman said.

Israel warns P.A. to halt attacks

Israel warned Tuesday that it will reconsider its commitment to a U.S.-brokered cease-fire if the Palestinian Authority does not clamp down on violence.

"The cease-fire is not working," said Ra'anan Gissin, a spokesman for Prime Minister Ariel Sharon. Israel "can't go on like this. People are getting killed."

After two Israelis were killed by Palestinian gunmen a day earlier on West Bank roads, Israeli officials said a cooling-off period that was supposed to lead to peace talks will not begin as planned on Wednesday.

Group: Hold off on executions

A U.S. Jewish group is calling for a moratorium on the death penalty in light of the first two federal executions since 1963.

The Jewish Council for Public Affairs says the death penalty, which is currently legal in 38 states as well as at the federal level, is "incompatible with the traditional Jewish regard for the sanctity of life."

Last week, Timothy McVeigh, the Oklahoma City bomber, was executed.

On Tuesday, Juan Raul Garza, who committed a drug-related murder and ordered two other people killed, was put to death.

Greece demands P.A. retraction

Palestinian officials in Athens issued a statement claiming that a top official of the Greek Orthodox Church had blamed Israeli settlers for the recent shooting death of a Greek monk in the West Bank — an attack widely attributed to Palestinian gunmen.

After officials at the Greek Foreign Ministry learned that the church official never made such a claim, the ministry called on the Palestinians to issue a retraction. The Palestinians refused.

Colleagues praise new UJC leader for his intellect — and his humility

By Julie Wiener

NEW YORK (JTA) — In choosing Stephen Hoffman, the longtime president of Cleveland's Jewish federation, as its new chief executive, the United Jewish Communities has brought in a CEO widely praised as both a visionary and an effective manager.

Many describe Hoffman as "the most respected" federation professional in North America — ideal for an organization like the UJC, the North American federation umbrella group that is battling criticism it has suffered from fuzzy vision and low staff morale since its creation two years ago.

In Cleveland, Hoffman is credited not only with increasing revenues, but dramatically boosting support for education, social services and synagogues, and grooming professionals for service in Jewish federations throughout the country.

Hoffman also has been a key player in shaping the UJC, formed from the merger of the United Jewish Appeal and the Council of Jewish Federations.

In an interview with JTA, Hoffman said his top priorities in the post will be strengthening morale and teamwork among lay and professional leaders, implementing an Israel solidarity initiative and stepping up efforts to recruit, train and place Jewish professionals throughout North America.

The UJC must address the "aspirations for the health and welfare, physically and spiritually, of our people around the world, with a special emphasis on the State of Israel," Hoffman said.

Hoffman replaces Stephen Solender, who will step down in a two-stage process. Hoffman will become the organization's chief executive officer next month and will add president to his title in November.

Even then, Solender, 63, will continue to run specific projects while Hoffman handles day-to-day operations. Solender will have the title of president emeritus until he retires in 2003.

Citing his wife's tenured faculty position at Cleveland's John Carroll University, Hoffman already has said that he plans to work only three years at UJC, then return to his Cleveland post.

He will continue to live in the Cleveland suburbs, commuting weekly to UJC headquarters in New York.

"They're going to get me 24-6," Hoffman said of UJC. "Shabbat I'm going to keep for myself and my family. The rest is theirs."

Some lower-level UJC professionals are privately grumbling that the organization is spending a lot of money to pay for executives who commute from outside New York. Two other UJC executives also commute from other cities.

But UJC leaders and executives of the local federations — the "owners" of the umbrella group — seem unfazed either that Hoffman sees the post as temporary or that he will commute from Cleveland.

"In this business, nothing is permanent," said Joel Tauber, chair of the UJC's executive committee. "It is a very difficult job. When you look back at the various UJA and CJF executives, they were two-, three-, five-year kind of jobs, because it's a very difficult job and time-consuming."

Robert Goldberg, who will replace Tauber in October, has worked closely with Hoffman at the Cleveland federation, where Goldberg used to be chairman.

Just as Hoffman "is leaving Cleveland now for three years and no one has any concern about the organization falling apart, when he's through with his tour in New York and comes back to Cleveland I'm sure he'll have the UJC in a position where

MIDEAST FOCUS

Report: N. Korea helps Egypt

Egypt is about to buy North Korean missile technology, according to the Israeli daily Ha'aretz, which cited U.S. intelligence sources. The report said Egypt is acquiring the technology to produce a missile with a range of 500 miles. Egypt currently has the Scud missile, which has a range of only 190 miles.

Israel, P.A. trade blame

Israeli and Palestinian security officials charged each other with numerous cease-fire violations during a meeting Monday night between the two sides.

The meeting ended with no agreement on a timetable for the truce negotiated last week by CIA director George Tenet. The Palestinians rejected the Israeli condition that six weeks of quiet precede any resumption of negotiations, Israeli Communications Minister Reuven Rivlin said. Another meeting was set for Wednesday.

Station jams air traffic control

An illegal Palestinian radio antenna in the West Bank was removed Tuesday after Israel complained it was interfering with air traffic control transmissions at Ben-Gurion Airport and endangering flight safety.

Israel's Communications Ministry said what was believed to be a pirate radio station near the West Bank city of Tulkarm was broadcasting on frequencies used by the control tower at the airport.

Arab lawmaker remains defiant

An Israeli Arab legislator failed to show up for police questioning regarding anti-Israel remarks he made last week at a memorial ceremony for Syrian President Hafez Assad.

Returning from Syria on Monday, Azmi Beshara defiantly declared he would not retract his calls for Arabs to escalate their conflict with Israel. He also said he is consulting with legal advisers about whether he has to submit to the questioning.

they'll miss him but carry on very strongly," Goldberg said.

Privately, colleagues say Hoffman's move is a smart insurance policy, as the UJC job — which forces the chief executive to please a large number of often-dueling constituencies — is far less secure than his current post.

Since its formation, the UJC has struggled both to combine organizations with different cultures and to please the local federations, which some say have sought to micro-manage the umbrella group.

In addition, many critics say the UJC has been slow to articulate a vision or demonstrate real leadership.

Hoffman is hardly unaware of the UJC's challenges.

He played a key role in designing the new organization's governance structure.

He has also worked closely with its overseas partner — the Jewish Agency for Israel — by helping to create a strategic plan and communicate more effectively with the federations.

John Ruskay, executive vice president of UJA-Federation of Greater New York, described Hoffman as "a person who sees both the large picture and is constantly asking the question of what is needed, and is mindful of the multiple details that need to be attended to."

In a field with its share of big egos, Hoffman is known for his modesty and for "not dominating meetings," according to the executive of one large federation who asked to remain anonymous.

"Steve will be at a meeting — whether it's national, international or local — and he will sit quietly and take everything in," Goldberg said.

"But when he speaks it's because he has listened and is speaking from knowledge," he continued. "Often afterwards, everyone's quiet and then follows" Hoffman's recommendations.

Hoffman also has earned praise for his management style and for making Cleveland a national training ground for federation professionals. He knows how to "delegate and expect performance, and then have accountability," Tauber said.

Hoffman is "one of the few executives in the field who ever really took the time to mentor," said Cindy Chazan, director of alumni and community development for the Wexner Foundation and former executive director of the Jewish Federation of Greater Hartford.

One federation leader who worked under Hoffman in Cleveland is Barry Shrage, now president of Boston's Combined Jewish Philanthropies.

Shrage, considered something of a gadfly in the federation world, described Hoffman as "very forceful, plain-spoken and very up front."

"He doesn't pull punches," Shrage said. "We're very old friends, but when I'm wrong he lets me hear it straight up. I have a lot of respect for him."

Hoffman, who became one of the youngest people to head a large-city federation when he was named Cleveland's president at age 33 in 1983, said he is "in this work because I was the regional aleph gadol of the Philadelphia AZA" — B'nai B'rith Youth Organization lingo for president of his regional youth group chapter.

"I really get charged up by the ability to work with some of the best and brightest Jewish people in the United States who share my passion for worrying about Jews, solving problems for Jews and working as Jews to improve the conditions of other human beings among whom we live," Hoffman said.

A graduate of Dickinson College in Pennsylvania, Hoffman earned a master's degree in Jewish studies from the Baltimore Hebrew University and a second master's degree in social work from the University of Maryland.

He has a wife and two daughters and belongs to B'nai Jeshurun Congregation, a Conservative synagogue in suburban Cleveland. □

Federation creates pro-gay fund

NEW YORK (JTA) — Chicago's Jewish federation is establishing what is believed to be the first federation fund in North America designated for gay and lesbian needs.

The Jewish Lesbian and Gay Fund will raise and allocate money to educate the Jewish community about gay and lesbian concerns, provide services for gay and lesbian Jews and mobilize Jewish support for anti-homophobia initiatives. □



Daily News Bulletin

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JTA DAILY NEWS BULLETIN is published five days a week, except holidays, by the Jewish Telegraphic Agency Inc., 330 Seventh Ave., New York, N.Y. 10001-5010. For information about how to subscribe by e-mail, fax or regular mail, call (212) 643-1890, or visit our Web site at www.jta.org.
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JEWISH WORLD

ADL opens anti-extremist site

The Anti-Defamation League announced a new initiative Monday to help law enforcement officials in the battle against extremists and hate groups.

As part of the initiative, ADL officials unveiled a new Web page the group called a site for "one-stop shopping for current and archival information, trends, analysis and programs."

Located at <http://www.adl.org/learn>, the site includes a who's who guide to the hate world, a state-by-state calendar of upcoming extremist events and a chronology of extremist-related criminal activity.

Site near Auschwitz vandalized

Vandals sprayed anti-Semitic slogans on the walls of an uninhabited building near the former Auschwitz death camp, Polish police said Monday. The building formerly housed a convent of Catholic nuns.

Queen honors two Shoah scholars

Queen Elizabeth II recognized two Holocaust scholars in the annual Queen's Birthday Honors List announced last Friday. Ernst Fraenkel, the chairman of the London-based Wiener Library, was made an Officer of the British Empire. Suzanne Bardgett, the project director for the Imperial War Museum's new permanent Holocaust exhibition, became a Member of the British Empire.

Czechs to help fund memorial

The Czech Republic plans to contribute about \$100,000 toward construction of a \$2 million memorial to the victims of Nazism.

The memorial will be located in the Czech village of Lidice, which was destroyed by the Nazis in 1942 in retaliation for the assassination of Nazi official Reinhard Heydrich. Construction of the memorial is slated to begin later this year.

Solzhenitsyn writes about Jews

A book on Russian-Jewish relations by Alexander Solzhenitsyn debuted in Moscow bookstores Monday. In an interview, the Nobel Prize-winning author said he expects the book to spark controversy. He also told the interviewer Russia had been smeared by allegations of widespread anti-Semitism.

Book on Nazi Germany honored

A book that radically re-examines the rise of Nazi Germany won the \$40,500 Samuel Johnson Prize, Britain's largest non-fiction literary award.

When the prize was announced Tuesday, the chairman of the judging panel described historian Michael Burleigh's "The Third Reich: A New History" as a work of "authentic historical genius."

BEHIND THE HEADLINES

Slave labor fund to begin payout, but survivors say it's not enough

By Michael J. Jordan

NEW YORK (JTA) — Expressions of triumph and relief greeted the news that Nazi-persecuted slave laborers are finally beginning to receive compensation from Germany.

It wasn't long before the cordial mood was punctured.

The first 10,000 applicants will soon get payments of 10,000 German marks — about \$4,400 — each, officials of the Claims Conference announced Tuesday.

But Roman Kent, a renowned figure in the Holocaust survivor community, put the \$4.5 billion compensation fund in a different perspective for the assembled media.

Kent, a survivor of the Lodz Ghetto and five years in three separate concentration camps, blasted away at those he said were so preoccupied with the money as to obscure the crux of the issue — "historic and moral justice," he said.

Kent lashed into the German government — venting directly at the German representative in the audience, Ambassador to the United Nations Dieter Kastrup — for dragging its feet for years; at media that allegedly concentrated too much on dollars and cents; and at lawyers with what he called "the glitter of gold in their eyes."

Fifty-one lawyers have divvied up legal fees of \$52 million — far below the lawyers' normal contingency fee. "It is wrong. It is morally wrong," said Kent, vice president of the Claims Conference. "I'm ashamed that I was a participant in these negotiations. But in a way, I'm happy that in some way, for 1 million slave and forced laborers, they will achieve some token of moral justice."

Other Jewish leaders tried to be more upbeat.

"Far too long has elapsed, but it's with a sense of gratification that we make these payments," said Greg Schneider, assistant executive vice president of the Claims Conference. "After sixty years of pain and agony, four years of negotiations, two years of political wrangling, one year of legal proceedings, and one month of administration, we have arrived at this point," Schneider said.

Kastrup chairs the German Foundation, which will disburse the funds. He said the delays in payment — due in part to German companies' insistence on "legal closure," a guarantee of no further lawsuits — "were sometimes very painful to me."

Nevertheless, Kastrup said, "an important chapter is closed. But I want to be very clear: There can never be moral closure."

The payments will be drawn from the fund, established in February 1999 by the German government and a group of German businesses.

Nearly 150,000 out of an estimated 160,000 eligible Jewish survivors, from 25 different countries, have completed applications for compensation. In all, up to 1 million former slave and forced laborers under the Nazis will receive payments from Germany.

Burt Neuborne, a professor at New York University Law School who was awarded \$4.4 million, told The New York Times he began work on litigation in 1997 not expecting to be paid. "While the fees for me are more than I would have dreamed of, they are not particularly high," he told the paper. "I worked as hard as I could. There wasn't a day in the last four years that I haven't worked hard on this case."

Still, his payment works out to a rate of about \$3,000 per day.

At the same time, slave laborers — essentially those marked for death through work — will receive up to \$6,600 in compensation, while forced laborers — everyone else forced to work — will get up to \$2,200.

But survivor Mendel Rosenfeld says nothing has changed. The Germans "didn't do it because of their good will; they were forced to do this," said Rosenfeld, 73, a native of Dej, Romania, who now lives in Brooklyn.

"This compensation doesn't mean anything to me. It will never be possible to improve the situation," he said. "And all the Jews who went through the real action feel the same way."

Germany has extended the deadline for applying for compensation from August until Dec. 31. □

American survivors should call 1-800-697-6064, or search the Internet at www.claimscon.org.

NEWS ANALYSIS

Elected as a hawk, Ariel Sharon now a champion of Israeli restraint

By David Landau

JERUSALEM (JTA) — Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, elected four months ago on a pledge to restore Israel's sense of security, finds himself holding back the dogs of war as Palestinian militants continue picking off Israelis on West Bank roads and firing mortars at residential communities.

After Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat's Fatah Party took credit for murdering two Israeli settlers this week in drive-by shootings, Sharon found himself under intense pressure from his right wing to stop complying with Israel's end of the cease-fire and to unleash a punishing — perhaps even mortal — blow to Arafat's Palestinian Authority.

Due in Washington for talks early next week, however, Sharon has chosen to heed the broad international consensus on maintaining a cease-fire agreed to last week, in hopes that diplomacy and political pressure will impress the Palestinian Authority.

"I am not going to drag this nation into war," Sharon declared at a meeting of his Likud Party on Monday. "This is not the time. This would be a grave mistake."

Members of his party looked grim and downcast.

One of them, a West Bank settler, heckled the Israeli prime minister, insisting that settler leaders do "not want war — just security."

At the funeral the next day of one of the murdered Israelis — 38-year-old Doron Zisserman — settlers spoke openly of their bitter disillusionment with the man often depicted as Israel's arch-hawk, whom they supported in the elections for prime minister earlier this year.

"What kind of cease-fire is this?" asked Rabbi Chaim Druckman, a leading figure in the National Religious Party and the settlers' movement.

"We cease and they fire."

Compounding the outrage for Israelis, Fatah officials said the group's militia would continue attacking Israelis, arguing that the cease-fire applies only to those areas under sole Palestinian control — not to Israeli settlements and surrounding areas.

Zisserman, a father of four, was shot Monday by a Palestinian sniper as he was driving into the West Bank settlement of Einav.

The attack took place as a funeral was being held for Danny Yehuda, a 37-year-old father of three young children who was killed in a drive-by shooting earlier that day.

Likud critics told reporters that Sharon had fallen under the spell of his dovish foreign minister, Shimon Peres of the Labor Party.

They offered this view despite the fact that Sharon and Peres feuded openly at Sunday's Cabinet meeting over Sharon's refusal to let Peres meet with Arafat.

Sharon has repeatedly stated that there will be no negotiations until the Palestinians halt all attacks on Israelis.

According to another analysis, Sharon is adopting a policy of restraint because there is no clear recipe for a successful Israeli military campaign against the Palestinians, no matter how widespread the desire for revenge.

The past nine months of conflict, during which the Israel Defense Force has tried all manner of weapons and tactics, have shown the complexity of the military challenge that guerrilla

warfare presents to a regular army, especially in areas of high population density such as the Gaza Strip.

Moreover, many messy "successes" on the ground are wiped out by the price Israel pays in the court of international opinion.

However, some analysts believe that Sharon is merely waiting until the evidence of Palestinian belligerence is so overwhelming that the Israeli response is met with broad international understanding.

Under this scenario, Sharon does not believe Arafat will adhere to the cease-fire, but must give him every opportunity to demonstrate his treachery.

In addition, attempts to contain the violence by a broad array of foreign diplomats plainly are having an effect on the Israeli prime minister.

U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan told CNN on Tuesday that a remarkably broad international consensus is evolving around the cease-fire negotiated last week by CIA Director George Tenet.

Annan's high personal standing in Israel has enabled him to engage Sharon in a meaningful diplomatic dialogue. Annan, who visited the Middle East this week, said the United States, European Union, Russia and other world powers are united behind the cease-fire.

This is noteworthy in a conflict that for decades put superpowers and other nations at odds as they sought to wield influence in the region.

Other analysts maintain that Sharon's restraint is born of his desire to maintain the close relationship he has forged with the young Bush administration, which clearly would like the cease-fire to take hold.

According to this view, Sharon therefore will continue to grit his teeth and rein in the IDF — at least until after his visit to the United States next week.

Arafat's motives are similarly opaque.

Charitable souls say that after the June 1 disco bombing, he realized Israel had reached the end of its tether and was about to respond with massive force, perhaps toppling the Palestinian Authority itself.

Skeptics, however, believe Arafat is not motivated even by this level of self-preservation but merely chose the cease-fire as a tactical step until international attention moves from the Middle East to other issues.

Under this scenario, Arafat then will ratchet up the violence little by little, gradually undermining the cease-fire without openly repudiating it.

Arafat told reporters this week that he had given strict orders to prevent attacks on Israelis, adding that Palestinians "do not commit acts of violence."

If Palestinian "pacifism" continues at this pace, however, observers here and abroad say a violent Israeli retaliation is inevitable. □

Court blocks Sharon appointee

JERUSALEM (JTA) — Israel's High Court of Justice temporarily blocked Prime Minister Ariel Sharon from appointing Ehud Yatom as his head of counterterrorism.

Members of the left-wing Meretz Party objected to the appointment of Yatom.

As an agent of the Shin Bet security service in 1984, he was involved in the killing of two Arab bus hijackers while they were in custody. □