



# Daily News Bulletin

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84th Year

## TOP NEWS IN BRIEF

### House passes foreign aid bill

The U.S. House of Representatives overwhelmingly passed a \$15.2 billion foreign aid bill Tuesday night that contains \$2.7 billion in military and economic assistance for Israel and \$2 billion for Egypt.

The legislation, which next goes to the Senate, also calls on President Bush to impose sanctions if he determines that the Palestinian Authority is not combating terrorism. [Page 3]

### Israel kills Hamas activist

Israeli soldiers killed a senior Hamas activist accused of organizing a series of bombings in Israel. Saleh Darouzeh was killed Wednesday when tank shells hit his car near the West Bank city of Nablus.

### Denmark upset over Israeli envoy

A diplomatic storm is brewing over Israel's choice of a new ambassador to Denmark after the Danish justice minister threatened Wednesday to arrest the envoy if he sets foot on Danish soil.

Israel's nomination of Carmi Gillon has sparked outrage in Denmark because Gillon has admitted authorizing the torture of Palestinian suspects when he led Israel's Shin Bet domestic security service between 1994 and 1996.

Despite the threat, Israel said it would send Gillon to Denmark. The Danish justice minister, Frank Jensen, later backtracked, saying Gillon could not be arrested upon arrival in Denmark because he would have diplomatic immunity.

### N.Y. federation plans mission

The UJA-Federation of New York plans to lead a Sept. 9-14 solidarity mission to Israel.

Federation officials said they expect hundreds of Jewish leaders from New York and other U.S. communities to participate.

### P.A. official called arms smuggler

The head of Palestinian security in the West Bank is involved in smuggling weapons and distributing them to Palestinian militants, Israel Radio reported Wednesday, citing Israeli security officials.

According to the report, Jibril Rajoub and his staff are obtaining arms, ammunition, bombs and mortar shells in Jordan and Lebanon and also from Arab arms dealers within Israel.

## BEHIND THE HEADLINES

### Israeli study programs set to begin, but number of Americans way down

By Tom Tugend

LOS ANGELES (JTA) — With overseas study programs at Israeli universities set to begin, far fewer Americans are registering than in years past.

American college students who spend a year in Israel typically take a two-month Hebrew course from early August, before beginning the fall semester at universities in Jerusalem, Tel Aviv, Haifa or Beersheba.

With Israeli-Palestinian violence now in its 10th month, however, the number of Americans enrolling at Israeli universities is less than half what it was last year, according to Orly Gil, Israeli consul for academic affairs in New York.

Gil didn't have exact numbers, as many universities have been tight-lipped with their disappointing enrollment statistics.

Worried officials at California's two main public university systems have imposed sharp restrictions on students' movements in Israel, and on their use of public transportation.

Despite the warnings, participation from the University of California campuses at Berkeley, Los Angeles and seven other locations appears to be close to near-normal levels.

Of the 70 students accepted for a year's study in Israel, 55 are still going, said John Marcum, director of the Education Abroad Program.

The number is similar to those for the last five years, which ranged from 43 in 1996-97 to 73 the following academic year.

Overall, however, Israeli universities are preparing for a sharp decrease in the number of American students.

Hal Klopfer, New York director of academic affairs for Tel Aviv University's overseas student program, would say only that enrollment this coming semester is "down."

He declined to elaborate, saying extensive media coverage of the issue is "counterproductive" to recruiting students and "creates anxiety and fear in the Jewish community."

Gil said the main reason for low enrollment is that students, concerned about the escalation of violence and terrorism in the past year, "just don't apply" to the programs.

"Israel used to be one of the major countries to which American students traveled, and it's now in a much lower position," she said.

In 1998-99, the last year for which data is available, approximately 3,300 American students studied in Israel, according to the Chronicle of Higher Education.

The University of California's Marcum, who says he feels a strong sense of responsibility for the students' security and welfare, has warned them of the risks and advised them against using public transportation.

"I have conveyed one strong stricture to all students — that if they cross over into the West Bank or Gaza, they will be subject to dismissal from the program," he said.

Of the 55 California students, 29 are registered for the Hebrew University in Jerusalem, 22 for Tel Aviv University, three for Ben-Gurion University of the Negev and one for the Arava Institute of Environmental Studies.

Hebrew University, which has traditionally had the largest number of overseas students, expects 150 American students to begin the program next month, said Amy Sugin, director of academic affairs at the university's New York office.

Last year, 250 people were enrolled, and most stayed through the semester or year

## MIDEAST FOCUS

### Militants to visit Temple Mount

Right-wing Jews announced plans to disguise themselves as Arabs and pray on Jerusalem's Temple Mount despite a ban on non-Muslims visiting the site.

Saying the plan will go into effect "in the next few weeks," Baruch Marzel, a leading member of the outlawed anti-Arab Kach movement, told Reuters on Wednesday, "We're going to do it systematically."

### Study: Haifa has high cancer rate

The number of cancer cases in Haifa and its suburbs is 10 percent higher than Israel's national average, according to research by the nation's National Cancer Registry.

### Israel plans 3 desalination plants

Israel's water commissioner said construction will begin soon on three desalination plants along Israel's coast.

Shimon Tal also said Tuesday that the current water crisis is Israel's worst, and if consumption is not reduced, "We'll have irreversible processes. It will affect our water supply in the future."

### Israel blasts U.N. video probe

Israel criticized a U.N. investigation of a videotape shot by a U.N. peacekeeper that may shed light on Hezbollah's kidnapping of three Israeli soldiers last October. An Israeli official called the investigation one-sided, saying a U.N. team in Lebanon has refused to collect evidence on the incident from Israel.

### B-ball coach seeks teammate

The coach of a U.S. basketball team at the recently concluded 16th Maccabiah Games received 2,060 calls from Israeli women after he carried a sign during the Opening Ceremonies and appeared on Israeli television saying that he's looking for a wife.

It is not clear whether Todd Schayes went on any dates with any of the potential mates.

as planned. However, applications for the upcoming academic year dropped significantly in the spring.

"No matter who comes, it will be an academically viable program and a critical number of courses will be taught," Sugin said. "The students will have the academic program that their predecessors had, and the social program as well."

Jewish officials and educators applaud the University of California for continuing its programs in Israel without interruption. But their deepest praise is for the plan established by the California State University system after it initially canceled its Israel study program.

Last October, Cal State came under considerable criticism when it abruptly notified 11 students already enrolled at Hebrew University that the program had been terminated, and urged them to come home immediately.

The sudden decision left the students, who had completed a Hebrew language ulpan course, without promised financial support. Also thrown into question was whether credits earned at Hebrew University would be accepted at their home campuses.

Despite this pressure, only one student opted to return last fall.

Following months of intensive discussions with its own faculty council and the Jewish Public Affairs Committee of California, Cal State officials have now given the green light to a study program at Haifa University, believed to be safer from terrorist attacks than Jerusalem or Tel Aviv.

Cal State programs at the Hebrew and Tel Aviv universities are in abeyance for the time being, despite a lobbying effort by a Hebrew University official who traveled to Cal State's headquarters in Long Beach to make his case.

A key provision in establishing the Cal State-Haifa agreement is the appointment of a resident regional director to act as the eyes and ears of the Cal State administration in Israel.

It was the absence of such a director, with full authority to represent the Cal State chancellor, that some critics blame for the precipitous cancellation of the program last fall.

The newly appointed director is Norma Tarrow, an experienced hand at overseas crises. She was in charge of Cal State students at the Hebrew University in 1973 when the Yom Kippur War broke out.

"At the time, I was told" by the Cal State administration "to take the 14 students and wait out the war in Cyprus," Tarrow recalled.

She and the students decided to ignore the order, and stayed in Jerusalem throughout the war.

Tarrow considers her present assignment even more sensitive than the one in 1973.

"At the time, we were concerned about air raids, but we didn't have infiltration into the heart of Israel," she said.

She will meet with her students before leaving for Israel in early August, and will require them to sign agreements not to travel to the West Bank and Gaza.

Each student will be given a cell phone, and Tarrow will have a car to transport them so they can avoid public buses.

The downside is that while 12 students originally applied to study at Haifa, only four decided to go following the June 1 suicide bombing of a Tel Aviv disco, which killed 21 Israelis.

All four of the students are from northern California and most are not Jewish.

Leo van Cleve, Cal State's director of international programs, said he "couldn't justify continuing the program year after year" with such low numbers, but hoped participation would increase once the situation in Israel improved.

Whatever the future may hold, Jewish officials and faculty who have been negotiating with Cal State officials over the past months praise the university's willingness to listen and respond to criticism.

"I have been delighted with their attitude," said Barbara Yaroslavsky, chair of the Jewish Public Affairs Committee. "It would be wonderful if the programs in Jerusalem and Tel Aviv were reinstated."

Professor Sam Edelman of Cal State at Chico, a leading faculty advocate for the Israel programs, credited Jewish community support for "forging an understanding with the administration that will be useful in the future." □

(JTA Staff Writer Julie Wiener in New York contributed to this report.)



## Daily News Bulletin

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## JEWISH WORLD

### ADL to Vatican: Open archives

The Anti-Defamation League urged the Vatican to grant more access to its World War II-era archives so scholars can learn exactly what the Vatican knew about the Holocaust.

Tuesday's call from the ADL came a day after it was learned that a panel of Jewish and Catholic historians has suspended its research into the Vatican's wartime record, saying they couldn't proceed without access to documents.

### British Jews protest U.N. meeting

The umbrella organization that represents most British Jews is urging the community to write to Prime Minister Tony Blair protesting plans to condemn Israel at a U.N. conference on racism next month.

The Board of Deputies also recommends contacting British and European legislators, as well as international human rights organizations, to condemn the singling out of Israel at the conference, which will be held in Durban, South Africa.

### Calif. Jews to rebuild Polish shul

A modern Orthodox congregation in Berkeley, Calif., plans to recreate a synagogue that once stood in Poland but was burned down by the Nazis.

The effort to rebuild the synagogue from the Polish town of Przedsborz is known as the Wooden Synagogue Project.

Wooden synagogues, numbering in the hundreds, were a hallmark of Jewish life in Eastern Europe dating back to the 1500s.

### Ruling may affect faith initiative

A Kentucky judge dismissed accusations that a state-funded Baptist agency is guilty of religious discrimination when it fired a woman because she is a lesbian.

But the judge said Monday the lawsuit could continue on the question of whether government money should go to religious institutions to provide social services — a decision that could affect President Bush's faith-based initiative.

Bush is making a strong push for legislation that makes it clear that any religious group getting government money may consider religion in making hiring decisions, which in turn may result in job applicants being rejected because they are gay.

### Prague Jews blast racist slaying

Prague's Jewish leadership spoke out following a racially motivated attack in the Czech town of Svitavy that left a Gypsy dead from stab wounds.

Jewish officials said the incident, which involved a skinhead, gives fresh urgency to their recent appeal to the Czech security not to tolerate neo-Nazi activities.

## House foreign aid bill helps Israel, pressures Palestinians to fight terror

By Matthew E. Berger

WASHINGTON (JTA) — The House of Representatives has overwhelmingly approved a \$15.2 billion foreign aid bill that requires President Bush to assess the Palestinians' efforts in combating terrorism and possibly impose sanctions.

The House passed the Foreign Operations Appropriations Act late Tuesday night by a vote of 381-46.

The bill, which goes next to the Senate for approval, includes \$2.7 billion for Israel and \$2 billion to Egypt.

The foreign aid bill includes the full amount proposed by the Bush administration for Israel — \$2.04 billion for military aid and \$720 million for economic needs.

That allotment is consistent with an ongoing plan — agreed to by Israel — to add \$60 million in military aid and eliminate \$120 million in economic aid to the Jewish state each year.

The proposed law requires the State Department to analyze every six months whether the Palestinian Authority is in compliance with the Oslo agreement signed in 1993.

That agreement calls on the Palestinians to renounce violence and terrorism.

If the president determines that the Palestinian leadership is not upholding its obligations, he could either shut down its Washington office, cut or reduce funding to Palestinian-controlled areas or include Palestinian groups on the State Department's list of foreign terrorist organizations.

The United States is expected to send \$125 million in aid this year to an international program that distributes funds to the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The language also includes a national security waiver, allowing the president to avoid imposing sanctions even if he determines that the Palestinians are violating the Oslo accords.

There have been similar waivers that enable presidents to avoid enforcing acts passed by Congress to strengthen the U.S. relationship with Israel — such as moving the U.S. Embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem.

Rep. Gary Ackerman (D-N.Y.) proposed essentially the same bill on Palestinian compliance earlier this year, but — unlike the amendment to the foreign aid bill — his plan would need to pass Congress independently.

Ackerman lauded the provision in the foreign operations bill.

"Now, more than ever, the United States has to send a clear message to the Palestinian leadership that resorting to violence is absolutely unacceptable to our nation, and that continued pursuit of this bloody strategy will have a tangible negative effect on U.S. relations with the Palestinians," the lawmaker said.

It is unclear whether the Palestinian provision will be included in the Senate's version of the foreign aid bill.

If not, the compliance provision could be debated in the conference committee when the disparities between House and Senate versions of the foreign aid bill are reconciled.

But the bill's supporters say they are confident the measure will stand.

Under current law, the State Department is required to document terrorist activities in Palestinian-controlled areas every six months.

But that report does not analyze whether the Palestinian Authority is effectively combating terrorism.

The House has in recent years taken strong pro-Israel stances.

Members of the House International Relations Committee's Middle East panel are expected to advocate a tougher stance against the Palestinians when William Burns, assistant secretary of state for Near Eastern affairs, testifies there Thursday.

The foreign operations legislation also included language that would deny funding to the International Red Cross unless the organization recognizes its Israeli counterpart, the Magen David Adom.

Israel's humanitarian relief movement uses a red Star of David as its symbol and has been barred since 1949 from the Red Cross movement, which currently recognizes only the cross, crescent and Persian emblems. □

## Russian Jews say Solzhenitsyn writes bad history in new book

By Lev Gorodetsky

MOSCOW (JTA) — Nobel Prize winner Alexander Solzhenitsyn is being accused of distorting the history of Russian Jewry in his new book on Russian-Jewish relations.

In the introduction to "200 Years Together," a 500-page treatise, the famed novelist says he is "appealing to both sides, Russian and Jewish, to come to patient understanding and to acknowledge their own share of blame."

But the controversial author takes a position on the tsarist-era pogroms at that is odds with most historians. Solzhenitsyn, 83, blames the pogroms on a grass-roots movement, exculpating the Russian state from any responsibility in the anti-Jewish attacks.

He also blames the "liberal intelligentsia" — often code words for Jews — for exaggerating the extent of the pogroms.

That does not go over well in a community that suffered the pogroms' fury.

"Solzhenitsyn's book is anti-Semitic and mendacious. It is deliberately distorting the history of Russian Jews," Victor Dashevsky, a Jewish historian who heads the Moscow Anti-Fascist Center, told JTA.

Solzhenitsyn's book covers Russian-Jewish relations from the late 18th century — when the partition of Poland placed large numbers of Jews in the Russian Empire — until the Russian Revolution of 1917.

He intends to continue his exploration in a second volume.

This is hardly the first time Solzhenitsyn has made headlines.

Solzhenitsyn first burst onto the world literary scene in the 1960s as a Soviet dissident whose novels — including "One Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich" and "The Gulag Archipelago" — exposed the repression of Soviet communism.

His initial reputation as a beacon of freedom and enlightenment makes the current controversy especially ironic. Yet Solzhenitsyn ceased to be the darling of the West some time ago, when he made known his questionable attitudes toward democracy and Jews.

In December 1999, before Russia's last parliamentary elections, he was quoted on Russian television as being fearful of a Jewish conspiracy against Russia. But for some, Solzhenitsyn always will be remembered for his dissident activity.

"Solzhenitsyn is not an anti-Semite. He remains a banner of my generation, for Jews and non-Jews," said Mark Kajdan, 54, a Jewish researcher with the Russian Academy of Sciences, who was close to the dissident movement in the 1970s.

Indeed, some extremists even criticized the book for being too soft on the Jews.

"Solzhenitsyn is a traitor, who sold himself to world Jewry," one extreme nationalist newspaper wrote.

Some wonder if Solzhenitsyn — who returned to Russia a few years ago from exile in Vermont — is still relevant in post-Communist Russia.

"Solzhenitsyn is not a historian at all. He is an obsolete creator of myths," said Lev Krizhak, a Jewish student of history at a Moscow university. "He is not interesting anymore, he is himself a myth."

Russian President Vladimir Putin apparently disagrees.

Putin recently paid a highly publicized visit to Solzhenitsyn at his villa, though details of their talk were not disclosed. □

## B'nai B'rith Youth appears to be finding greener pastures on its own

By Julie Wiener

NEW YORK (JTA) — Two months ago, when B'nai B'rith International announced it would spin off its youth program into an independent nonprofit, leaders said the move would make it easier to raise money for the youth group.

If new gifts totaling \$1 million from four mega-philanthropists are any indicator, the move seems to be paying off.

The donations — \$250,000 each from Edgar Bronfman, Lynn Schusterman, Michael Steinhardt and Newton Becker — will fund regional offices and other needs for B'nai B'rith Youth Organization, one of the largest Jewish youth groups in North America.

The money also will compensate for the approximately \$1 million decrease in allocations this year from B'nai B'rith, which — due to the fraternal organization's ongoing financial and membership reductions — has consistently cut funds to BBYO in recent years. Until the decision to make the BBYO independent, many involved with the 78-year-old nondenominational youth group had worried about its future.

According to B'nai B'rith officials, there are about 20,000 North American teens in BBYO, although last month BBYO's Web site placed the number closer to 11,000. The site no longer provides membership statistics.

According to some insiders, major donors had been reluctant to contribute when BBYO was a B'nai B'rith department out of concern that gifts had to be channeled through B'nai B'rith, which could siphon money off the top.

This spring, the situation looked so bleak that an internal memo circulated to BBYO's 39 regions warned that they might lose all national funding by July and would have to raise all their own money.

The regions vary in their dependence on the national office. Some raise large amounts locally or receive Jewish federation allocations, while others get almost their entire budget from B'nai B'rith. However, the regions' allocations will not be cut this year — and may even be increased — according to Richard Heideman, B'nai B'rith's international president.

BBYO's national operations will continue to receive office space, in-kind services and \$1 million in funding from B'nai B'rith, but officials hope to continue to attract new donors.

The group is forming a new governance structure with representation from B'nai B'rith, teen-age leadership and philanthropists. The changes will "stabilize BBYO, set it on a path for growth and expansion and keep B'nai B'rith International involved forever," Heideman said. □

## Prague cemetery to get monument

PRAGUE (JTA) — Prague officials have given preliminary approval for a monument to be erected on the site of a medieval Jewish cemetery.

The officials said the proposal for the monument had been put forward by the London-based Committee for the Preservation of Jewish Cemeteries in Europe.

Last year, the group tried unsuccessfully to prevent an office building from being built over what is one of Europe's oldest Jewish cemeteries. □