



# Daily News Bulletin

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84th Year

## TOP NEWS IN BRIEF

### Strike held over Orient House

Palestinians held a one-day strike in eastern Jerusalem, the West Bank and Gaza Strip to protest Israel's takeover of Orient House.

Jerusalem Police Chief Mickey Levy said the closure order for Orient House was for six months, adding that reports saying Israel intends to hold onto the compound indefinitely are baseless.

### Bush defends Mideast policy

President Bush defended his Middle East policy and called on Israeli and Palestinian leaders to show a desire to end the violence.

"The United States is doing everything in our power to convince the parties," Bush said during a round of golf while on vacation in Texas. "But I want to remind people that there must be the will, the people in the area must make the conscious decision to stop the terrorism."

Bush reiterated that Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat "can do a lot more to be convincing the people on the streets to stop these acts of terrorism and acts of violence."

### Shoah denier offers deal

Holocaust denier David Irving offered to pay Penguin Books \$210,000 if the publisher as well as historian Deborah Lipstadt drop all further claims against him. Last year, a British court ordered Irving to pay Penguin's and Lipstadt's legal costs, estimated at \$3 million, when he lost a libel suit against them over Lipstadt's book "Denying the Holocaust: The Growing Assault on Truth and Memory."

### Center Party may join gov't

Israel's Center Party is poised to join Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's national unity government, according to the Jerusalem Post.

### Israel: P.A. freed terrorists

The Palestinian Authority released three Hamas terrorists involved in planning the June 1 suicide bombing outside a Tel Aviv disco, Israel charged. Before releasing them last week, the "Palestinian security services refrained from questioning the three and sufficed with holding them under lax supervision in comfortable circumstances," Israel's Foreign Ministry said Monday.

## NEWS ANALYSIS

### Israeli takeover of Orient House sparks Arab anger, Israeli debate

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM (JTA) — For some Israelis, the taking over of Orient House was a brilliant maneuver. Others were far less impressed.

After a Palestinian suicide bomber entered a Jerusalem pizzeria on Aug. 9 and detonated a duffel bag filled with explosives — killing 15 people, many of them children — Israel's Cabinet convened to consider a response.

Many Palestinians feared the worst — and, indeed, some Israelis wanted to see blood repaid with blood.

But the day after the attack, Israeli security forces took an unexpected step, closing the Palestinians' unofficial headquarters in eastern Jerusalem.

Along with taking over the building known as Orient House, Israeli security forces last Friday raided Palestinian Authority buildings in Abu Dis, located on Jerusalem's outskirts.

It was not the expected military reaction, but some Israeli analysts still said the move was a strike at the Palestinian jugular.

Western governments, including the United States, criticized the move as a "political escalation."

The government of Prime Minister Ariel Sharon justified the actions, saying the Palestinian Authority was using its offices in and around Jerusalem to support terrorists.

Moreover, the government said, the moves taken last Friday — including an Israeli airstrike on an empty Palestinian police station in Ramallah — were a restrained, bloodless response to the pizzeria attack.

Bloodless or not, the international community took a dim view of the Israeli actions.

The buildings Israel shut down in Abu Dis were important administrative centers for Arabs living in the Jerusalem area, but it was Orient House that got the attention.

Owned for generations by the family of the late Faisal Hussein — the top Palestinian official in Jerusalem until his recent death — Orient House long has been a thorn in the side of Israel.

Hussein repeatedly angered Israeli officials by hosting foreign dignitaries at Orient House, which Israel saw as an attempt to legitimize Palestinian claims to Jerusalem.

In the late 1980s, former Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir shut down Orient House temporarily.

Angered by the visits of foreign officials, former Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu tried to close Orient House late in his term — but backed down after Israel's High Court of Justice intervened.

Now, the Sharon government has succeeded in closing it down.

On Sunday, Ahmed Karia, a Palestinian negotiator and speaker of the Palestinian legislative council, issued a call to arms, saying he supports armed resistance to retaliate for Israel's moves in eastern Jerusalem.

"Resistance to this Israeli policy, using all means, has now become legitimate as well as a national and religious duty," Karia said.

In what was widely viewed as an attempt to inflame Palestinian passions, Karia also said that Israel next would seize the Al-Aksa Mosque on the Temple Mount. He did not cite any basis for the charge.

On Monday, Palestinians held a one-day strike in eastern Jerusalem, the West Bank and Gaza Strip to protest the Orient House takeover.

Outside Orient House, Israeli police scuffled with dozens of demonstrators who

## MIDEAST FOCUS

### Arab mourners call for revenge

Some 1,500 Arab mourners called for revenge against Israel on Monday as they buried a 7-year-old girl killed during a firefight between Israeli soldiers and Palestinian gunmen the previous night in Hebron.

Family members said the girl's grandmother died of a heart attack after hearing the girl had been killed.

### Hezbollah called major threat

Hezbollah gunmen in Lebanon have 8,000 rockets, Israeli Defense Minister Benjamin Ben-Eliezer said.

Speaking Monday in Tel Aviv at a meeting of the Israel-America Chamber of Commerce, Ben-Eliezer said the Iranian-backed Hezbollah poses a serious threat to Israel's security.

Ben-Eliezer also predicted that Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat eventually would be replaced by moderates more willing to compromise with Israel, not the Islamic extremists often presented as the only alternative to Arafat's rule.

### German minister to visit Mideast

Germany's foreign minister plans to begin a seven-day trip to the Middle East next week.

Joschka Fischer happened to be on a visit to Israel in June when a Palestinian suicide bomber killed 21 Israelis outside a Tel Aviv disco.

In the immediate aftermath of the blast, Fischer held talks with Israeli and Palestinian officials that led to a short-lived cease-fire.

### Report: El Al posts record loss

Israel's El Al airline will post record losses of \$160 million in 2001 because of lost tourism caused by Israeli-Palestinian violence, the Israeli daily Yediot Achronot reported Monday.

After losing \$109 million last year, El Al needs to reduce expenses by 25 percent to continue operating, the paper quoted an El Al source as saying.



## Daily News Bulletin

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tried to raise a Palestinian flag. Such scuffles have occurred daily since last Friday's takeover.

In the Arab world, reaction to what they saw as a harsh rebuke to Palestinian aspirations in Jerusalem was swift and angry.

Even Jordan's King Abdullah described the Orient House takeover as "a provocative aggression against Palestinian rights and the Arab character of Jerusalem."

Amre Moussa, the secretary-general of the Arab League, called the move "a regional catastrophe" and urged Arabs to "prepare for the worst scenario in the history of the Arab-Israeli conflict."

The wisdom of Israel's action also was debated across Israel.

In an editorial, the Jerusalem Post said the Orient House takeover and the moves against the Abu Dis offices marked "the first time in nearly a decade that the government has acted decisively to end the P.A.'s encroachment on Israel's capital."

The move may well have sent Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat a message that if he "fails to rein in terror, Israel might very well close down further P.A. offices, only next time in places such as Ramallah or Gaza," the paper said.

Supporters of the move note that Arafat, who does not want to lose ground in Jerusalem, was put on the defensive. They point out that he subsequently ordered the arrest of six Islamic terrorists — among them Abdullah Barghouti, who is suspected of having dispatched the suicide bomber to the pizzeria last week.

Opponents, however, say the Sharon government succeeded only in shifting world attention away from the terror bombing.

They point out that Arafat has sent a series of urgent cables to world leaders and is preparing an international tour to drum up support for Palestinian rights to Orient House.

Among the critics, Ha'aretz columnist Akiva Eldar wrote this week that the "Israeli flag waving over Orient House was the funeral of the Oslo Accords."

Yossi Beilin, a former justice minister and an architect of the accords, told JTA, "Sharon's action makes Orient House into the fourth holiest place to Islam.

"Every day that passes makes the issue more difficult," he said. "Sharon always does those things. He makes a drastic move, and then he does not know how to get out of it."

Already, some Israelis are envisioning a time when Israel will find itself having to withdraw from Orient House — as a host of Palestinian officials march triumphantly in.

Reuven Merhav, a former director general of the Foreign Ministry, said over the weekend that Israel had "scored a pleasant and comfortable victory in a very important arena."

"But this is merely a tactical victory," he warned. "We are only at the beginning" of the battle over Jerusalem — "certainly not at its end."

The Orient House takeover also strained Sharon's unity government.

Foreign Minister Shimon Peres opposed the Cabinet decision to close down Orient House, and Knesset Speaker Avraham Burg, who is seeking the Labor Party leadership, said Sharon had made it "convenient" for the world to "forget about Palestinian terrorism."

Among the supporters, the minister of public security, Uzi Landau, said he felt "privileged" to see the Israeli flag fly over Orient House.

Landau had the support of many Israelis — who feel only bold moves will impress on Arafat that he will lose assets if he continues to tolerate terror — but others remained skeptical. For them, it will not be so easy to overcome Palestinian aspirations, especially in the matter of Jerusalem.

As the late Faisal Husseini once put it: "The Arabs of Jerusalem need not establish facts on the ground. They are facts on the ground." □

## Technion opens Nasdaq

NEW YORK (JTA) — The American Society for Technion — Israel Institute of Technology officially opened the Nasdaq stock market in New York on Monday morning because of the role the Technion has played in driving Israel's high-tech economy.

Of the 111 Israeli companies listed on U.S. stock exchanges, 96 are in high-tech fields, including 65 companies launched or managed by Technion graduates, according to the Technion society. □

## JEWISH WORLD

### Russian church critic blasted

A Russian Jewish leader is being attacked in the media for seeking charges against a diocese of the Russian Orthodox Church for publishing and distributing an anti-Semitic tract, according to the Union of Councils for Jews in the FSU.

Church leaders in Yekaterinburg are defending the diocese's distribution of the book and accusing Mikhail Oshtrakh of "inciting antagonism toward Jews." The Prosecutor's Office said it is investigating the issue.

### Slovakia pressed on WWII bishop

The Simon Wiesenthal Center's Jerusalem office urged the Slovak government to oppose the Catholic Church's beatification of a bishop who served in Slovakia during World War II.

Bishop Jan Vojtassak gave his "unequivocal support for the deportation of Slovak Jewry in March 1942," the center said in a letter to the Slovak ambassador to Israel.

### Jewish students to meet in Italy

More than 400 young Jews from all over Europe will converge on Italy next week for the annual European Union of Jewish Students Summer University.

The weeklong event will take place near Milan and include social activities, lectures, educational programs and a trip to Venice. One participant said it would give Jewish students a chance to "think, talk, party and meet hundreds of other young Jews of all different nationalities."

### Israel irked by Greek church head

The Greek Orthodox Church in the Holy Land chose a new leader who is opposed by Israel.

On Monday, the church chose Metropolitan Irineos, whom Israel regards as hostile to its interests. For months, Israel had tried to block Irineos and four other candidates from succeeding the late Diodorus I, citing "security considerations" and "interests in Jerusalem."

### Harmonica wizard dies at 87

Larry Adler, a harmonica virtuoso whose musical partners ranged from George Gershwin to Elton John to classical orchestras, died in London on Aug. 7 at 87.

The son of two observant Russian immigrants, Adler was raised in Baltimore and left for New York as a teen-ager.

"I couldn't wait to get out of Baltimore," he told the Baltimore Jewish Times. "I got beat up quite often because I was a Jew."

A left-wing atheist, Adler moved to Britain in the 1950s after he was blacklisted during the McCarthy era.

## British business official resigns amid allegations of anti-Semitism

By Richard Allen Greene

LONDON (JTA) — The policy director of Britain's Federation of Small Businesses has resigned over allegations of anti-Semitism.

Jewish leaders welcomed the Aug. 8 resignation of Donald Martin from one of the top positions in the FSB, a 160,000-member lobbying group.

Martin told the JTA he is "neither anti-Semitic nor racist," and said he was pressured to go because "false and inaccurate allegations" were causing public relations damage to the group.

But a source close to the FSB said Martin had "defended anti-Semitism" at the closed-door emergency meeting where he was forced to resign.

Martin gave a speech "defending anti-Semitism, and was applauded for it" by a minority, said the source, who asked to remain anonymous.

The source described Martin's views as "abhorrent" and "totally off the wall, but actually quite dangerous."

Martin's resignation came after a 10-month campaign by the anti-fascist magazine Searchlight, which alleged last November that Martin's Bloomfield Books is "one of Britain's leading distributors of anti-Semitic material," including "The Protocols of the Elders of Zion" and "The Myth of Racial Equality."

The magazine claimed that Martin has a history of far-right activity dating back to the 1970s.

Martin consistently has denied the magazine's allegations. He said he does not publish or promote "The Protocols," but does distribute it "if people ask for it."

"I value the racial and religious tolerance of British society and abhor the activities of those, including Searchlight, who seek to cause strife between different groups of people," Martin said.

"As a publisher and book seller, I believe in and practice freedom of statement within the law, without endorsing any matter published or distributed."

Martin fought hard to keep his posts as U.K. policy director and honorary vice chairman of the group.

Following Searchlight's initial report, the FSB hired a private investigator to check the allegations. Martin was suspended during the investigation, but re-elected after it was completed.

The private investigator's report was not released to the public. Steve Silver, the Searchlight reporter who broke the Martin story, said it "vindicated us" but that Martin was able to keep his position due to the support of the FSB's national council.

Silver said Martin used his position in the organization to limit the extent of damage from the report.

However, under continuing pressure from lawmakers, the media and organizations such as the Board of Deputies of British Jews, the group's national chairman, John Emmins, wrote to Martin demanding that he resign.

"I am forced to take this action exactly because you have not been willing or able to provide a complete and full rebuttal of the allegations," Emmins told Martin.

Martin refused, prompting the emergency meeting of the FSB's national council.

Before the meeting, a group of British legislators wrote to the FSB to complain about Martin, as did a number of companies that offer benefits to members of the organization.

The Forum of Private Businesses, another lobbying organization, told the FSB it would not participate in any meetings where Martin was present.

The House of Commons Banking Committee suspended contact with Martin and threatened to break off relations with the group if it did not sack him.

Searchlight reporter Silver said Martin was able to hang on to his position for as long as he did because FSB members "did not realize what they were dealing with at first, and closed ranks" to support him.

He said he thought Searchlight's campaign had made FSB members understand how serious the allegations were.

The FSB source said there were other people in the organization who supported Martin's views, and "we will be asking for their resignation as well." □

## BEHIND THE HEADLINES

## A symbol of Cold War mistrust, Berlin Wall separated city's Jews

By Toby Axelrod

BERLIN (JTA) — Forty years ago this week, a wall rose dividing East and West Berlin.

East Germany said at the time the Berlin Wall it was erecting would protect the divided city from "fascist" forces in the West.

But, in fact, ultimately it blocked East Germans from fleeing to the West.

When it was finished, the 96-mile-long wall divided the city into two, separating families and friends — including members of the city's Jewish community.

The wall remained in place until nearly 12 years ago, when jubilant crowds took sledgehammers to what was perhaps the most enduring symbol of the Cold War.

Now, on the anniversary of the wall's construction, only a few graffiti-covered slabs of reinforced concrete stand along the old dividing line, reminders of some 800 people shot to death by East German border guards while trying to escape to the West.

They also are reminders of how Germany's tiny postwar Jewish population, consisting mostly of Holocaust survivors and their children, was forcibly divided.

Jerzy Kanal, a West Berliner and president of Berlin's Jewish community from 1992 to 1997, said the Berlin Wall reminded him of the division of Jerusalem prior to the 1967 Six-Day War, but with an important difference.

On the eastern side of the barriers dividing Jerusalem, "there were enemies."

But on the other side of the Berlin Wall, "there were our own people, our own families."

Rabbi Andreas Nachama, president of the Berlin Jewish community from 1997 until May 2001, remembered the first images he saw of the wall's construction.

"We were in Italy and we saw pictures from Berlin on the evening news," he said. "We thought that it would be the beginning of World War III," he added.

His father, Estrongo, an Auschwitz survivor born in Greece, was the chazan, or cantor, of the Berlin community until his death last year.

"My father asked the rabbi in Venice if they needed a chazan there. We were convinced we would not make it back."

But they made it back.

Estrongo Nachama became one of several Jewish leaders in West Berlin who was given permission to cross the border to officiate at funerals, weddings and circumcisions in the East.

When the wall went up in 1961, 16 years after the end of World War II, Germany's tiny Jewish community already was divided along ideological lines.

Most in the East were committed Communists. Others had fled to the West during Stalin's post-World War II anti-Jewish purges, or because they abhorred the lack of freedom in the Communist system. In 1953, separate official Jewish communities were established in the two Berlins.

"The separation basically crushed the Jewish community in East Berlin," said Andrew Roth, co-author of "The Goldapple Guide to Jewish Berlin."

"Almost all of the religious Jews left for the West, leaving a minuscule community intact in the East," Roth said. "And that

applied not just to East Berlin, but all of East Germany, which was in effect Judenrein," he said, using the Nazi term for "rid of Jews."

Kanal, who was born in Poland in 1921, survived the Warsaw Ghetto and several concentration camps. He and his late wife, Serena, moved to West Germany from Paris in 1953.

"At first there were many people from the displaced persons camps" in postwar Germany, Kanak said. "Most went on to other places. Those who stayed in the East were a lost minority. They had very little to do with the Jewish community."

By 1961, there were some 20,000 Jews in Germany.

About 800 were in East Berlin and about 6,000 in the western part of the city. Only one synagogue was used in East Berlin, while several were in use in West Berlin.

After the wall went up, "we always had contact. We tried to send prayer books over," Kanak said. "You had to have a special pass to go to the East. I could not go."

Andreas Nachama recalled accompanying his father on trips to East Berlin.

As a boy, Nachama, a historian who directs the Topography of Terror document center on the history of the Gestapo, wanted to accompany his father on his eastward trips, but "it was a problem because I had a German passport.

"So my father would say, 'If you want me to come and sing you have to get a permit for my son to come.' And I always got it," Nachama recalled. "We would travel with the S-bahn" elevated train "to Friedrichstrasse, where there was a special entrance for permit holders."

Salomea Genin, 69, is an author and performer whose family fled Nazi Germany to Australia. She returned as a young woman with Communist ideals and made her home in East Berlin.

She joined the East Berlin Jewish community in 1972 after having "the painful realization that people around me were forgetting the Holocaust. I felt a need to be together with those people who would know what I was talking about."

In East Germany, "the subject of being Jewish was a taboo subject among non-Jews," she said.

The Berlin Wall came down on Nov. 9, 1989. By coincidence, this was the 51st anniversary of Kristallnacht, when Nazi thugs ransacked Jewish-owned shops and set synagogues ablaze across Germany and Austria.

Now, the two anniversaries compete each year for the attention of Germans.

From 1961 to 1989, the Berlin Wall was surrounded by mines and barbed wire, watched over by sharpshooters in guard towers.

Some of those towers still stand today, with their once-ominous "No Trespassing" signs still posted — but their glassed-in observation rooms now are empty.

The fall of the wall brought relief and new anxieties.

"We had mixed feelings," Kanak said. "We feared that the right-wing scene would grow. And other countries all had that feeling."

In fact, there has been a troubling increase in right-wing extremist and anti-Semitic crimes since German reunification in 1990.

But there were no mixed feelings about being reunited with East Berlin's Jewish community, Kanak added.

"Of course there were Jews in the East German secret police, but there also were Jews who were opponents of the Communist state. This was not a problem," he said.

"After the reunion, many people from the former East Germany rediscovered their Judaism," Kanak said. □