



# Daily News Bulletin

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84th Year

## TOP NEWS IN BRIEF

### Israel, U.S. pull out of U.N. forum

Israel and the United States are withdrawing their delegations to the U.N. World Conference Against Racism under way in Durban, South Africa. [Page 1]

### Four bombs rock Jerusalem

At least three Israelis were lightly wounded after four bombs exploded in Jerusalem's French Hill and Gilo neighborhoods. The military wing of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine reportedly claimed responsibility for Monday's blasts, saying they were in retaliation for Israel's assassination last week of the group's leader.

### Two Palestinians killed in Hebron

Israeli troops killed two Palestinian militia members in the West Bank city of Hebron. The two were killed overnight Monday when the soldiers opened fire on a group of armed Palestinians.

And an Israeli was seriously wounded in a shooting attack south of the West Bank city of Hebron.

In another incident Monday, an Israeli was lightly wounded when shots were fired at his car as he was traveling toward an Arab village near Jerusalem.

### Pollard spurns Israeli offer

Calling it a "cheap publicity stunt," convicted spy Jonathan Pollard says he will not accept the \$1 million the Israeli government reportedly has offered to cover Pollard's expenses incurred during his imprisonment.

"They can take that offer and put it where the sun doesn't shine," Pollard told JTA in an exclusive statement from prison in Butner, N.C.

A former U.S. Navy analyst, Pollard is serving a life sentence for spying for Israel. [Page 3]

### Jewish institute opens in Sweden

An international conference on Jewish exile opened at a new Jewish institute in Stockholm.

The idea for the Paideia institute, which will offer nondegree programs ranging from one week to one year, came during a Holocaust education conference held in Sweden's capital in January 2000.

At the time, Swedish Prime Minister Goran Persson declared that his government would support research on World War II-era Swedish history, and pledged some \$5 million to promote Jewish culture, identity and history.

## BEHIND THE HEADLINES

### Jewish delegates to U.N. forum enduring a circus of Jew-hating

By Michael J. Jordan

DURBAN, South Africa (JTA) — On a cool and drizzly night in this Indian Ocean port city, a vast white tent standing in the middle of a cricket field seemed to fit in with the circus atmosphere of the U.N. World Conference Against Racism, one Jewish observer said.

This was no regular circus that had come to town, however, but a viciously anti-Israel, anti-Jewish circus that had carried on all week and was about to reach its apex. It got so bad on Monday, just halfway through the official governmental conference that began Aug. 31 and ends Sept. 7, that the United States and Israel recalled their delegations.

The U.S. delegation said it would not continue working in such a "racist," anti-Semitic atmosphere.

Speaking in Israel, Foreign Minister Shimon Peres announced that Israel had decided to withdraw following a "unilateral and ugly proposal by the Arab and Muslim leagues that are united against peace and for the intifada against Israel.

"We have instructed our delegation in Durban to come back home. We regret very much the very bizarre show in Durban," Peres said. "An important convention that is supposed to defend human rights became a source of hatred."

On Saturday night, however, thousands of nongovernmental organizations from around the world had gathered in the white tent to hammer out a final declaration after a weeklong preliminary portion of the racism conference. Thanks to Palestinian-led efforts, one issue dominated discussion — the Mideast conflict.

After a week spent enduring hate-filled chants, insults, pamphlets, posters, marches and demonstrations, some three dozen Jewish activists huddled in the first rows under the great tent.

To their right sat their nemeses — large delegations of Palestinians and other Arabs who waited excitedly, most dressed in secular garb but some in chadors and others with kafiyeh scarves draped around their necks.

The document to be considered included a litany of alleged sins to be laid at Israel's door — including genocide, ethnic cleansing and apartheid — and the Jewish contingent was split on strategy. Some wanted to walk out and register a symbolic protest, while others wanted to give their speech at the allotted time and stay until the end.

The verdict came sooner than expected. After a chaotic start with procedural disputes that lasted more than an hour, it was the fourth speaker, an African woman from the Ecumenical Caucus, who first broached the Jewish issue.

The speaker wanted to strike from the declaration a passage that the Anti-Semitism Commission had inserted: that anti-Zionist rhetoric over the past year had incited violence against Jews and Jewish institutions around the world and should be considered a new form of anti-Semitism.

"I am against anti-Semitism, but I am also against the genocide of Palestinians," the woman said. And she wanted the declaration to name names — that is, to castigate Israel.

The Jewish delegation immediately challenged, but the chairman called for a vote of the 43 caucus representatives.

All in favor? Forty-two hands shot into the air, holding aloft yellow voting cards. All opposed? The solitary hand of the startled Jewish representative.

With that, the members of the Jewish caucus rose from their seats. As they made

## MIDEAST FOCUS

### Cease-fire talks downplayed

Top Israeli and Palestinian officials are downplaying expectations for a possible meeting between Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres and Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat, despite ongoing efforts to arrange the talks.

Reports said the two leaders may meet later this week in Italy, where they will be attending an economic conference.

European Union foreign policy chief Javier Solana held talks in the Middle East as part of the group's efforts to end 11 months of violence.

### New alarms ring as school opens

The new school year in Israel opened Sunday with brand-new backpacks, notebooks — and, in Jerusalem's Gilo neighborhood, drills on responding to mortar attacks.

Security was tight around schools amid warnings of terror attacks.

Israeli Arabs closed schools in their areas as a protest against poor classroom conditions.

### Commander: We fired out of fear

A former Israeli police commissioner said his forces killed 13 Israeli Arabs during riots last October because they feared for their lives.

Alik Ron also told a state panel that poor intelligence had failed to prepare police for the intensity of the violence.

Ron said there was a history of tense relations between Arab residents of northern Israel and police.

### Google enters Promised Land

Google launched a Hebrew version of its search engine.

The new site, [www.google.co.il](http://www.google.co.il) is believed to be the first Hebrew search engine created by an international company.



## Daily News Bulletin

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they chanted "Shame, Shame, Shame!" The pro-Palestinian group erupted with a rejoinder: "Free, free, Palestine! Free, free, Palestine!"

After a full week of such treatment, they could stomach no more, the Jewish delegates said afterward.

"This is the first time I've ever felt anti-Semitism this personally, at such a level of intensity," said David Matas, the senior counsel for B'nai Brith Canada and holder of the Jewish Caucus' yellow voting card.

"It's a kind of collective guilt," said Matas, a Winnipeg-based refugee lawyer, "but instead of saying that the Jews killed Christ, they're using the modern-day language of human rights to accuse us of some of the worst sins known to humanity."

As the Jews vacated their seats in protest, the Palestinians and their colleagues swooped in to occupy them. There were smiles and hugs and handshakes all around.

For months, Jewish leaders and activists have warned that Palestinian and Arab diplomacy has been aimed at "delegitimization of the State of Israel."

In the weeks leading up to the Durban conference, Jewish activists had pushed frantically to prevent the Arab world from reintroducing a resolution denigrating Zionism as racism; minimizing the uniqueness of the Holocaust; and diluting the definition of "anti-Semitism" by expanding it to include discrimination of other "Semitic" peoples, like the Palestinians.

Those issues, it turns out, were mere "decoys," said Shimon Samuels, the Paris-based director of international liaison for the Simon Wiesenthal Center and the head of the Jewish Caucus in Durban.

With the approval of the NGO declaration, a blueprint for the conference's real agenda has come into focus, Jewish delegates said.

Call it the South Africa strategy.

Durban has given birth to a declaration that denounces Israel as a "racist, apartheid state" and calls for the world to use the same tactics against Israel that ultimately dismantled South Africa's apartheid regime.

The declaration calls for "mandatory and comprehensive sanctions and embargoes, the full cessation of all links (diplomatic, economic, social, aid, military cooperation and training) between all states and Israel."

It also demands the "launch of an international anti-Israel Apartheid movement" through "a global solidarity campaign network of international civil society, U.N. bodies and agencies, business communities, and to end the conspiracy of silence among states, particularly the European Union and the United States."

A pro-Palestinian activist at the conference said there is no overarching plan to dismantle Israel itself, only to revamp its political system.

"This is a paranoid kind of thinking," Jamil Dakwar, an Israeli Arab lawyer with Adalah: The Legal Center for Arab Minority Rights in Israel, told JTA. "The people I know who criticize Israel say it can't continue as a religious- and ethnic-based state, simply because it contradicts democracy."

The NGO document also calls for creation of a U.N. war crimes tribunal to prosecute Israeli "war crimes, acts of genocide, ethnic cleansing and the crime of Apartheid"; a U.N.-sponsored education and media campaign to counter those who support Israel and to promote the Palestinian cause; and elimination of the Law of Return — which guarantees citizenship for any Jew who wishes to settle in Israel — coupled with the Palestinians' own "right of return" for all refugees of Israel's 1948 War of Independence, and their descendants.

As always, Jewish activists said, Israel will count on the United States to defend it through lobbying or, if necessary, by wielding its veto on the U.N. Security Council.

Yet some activists noted that "apartheid" itself is now a recognized legal term that might be prosecuted if — as many activists hope — the International Criminal Court is established in the near future. Regardless, the Palestinians already have won a conviction of sorts against Israel in the propaganda war being waged here in Durban. Incessant Palestinian rhetoric and agitprop, dutifully reported by the world media, whipped the crowd here into a virtual frenzy.

"They scream at you and shake their finger in your face; you can feel scared and embattled," said Judy Palkovitz, chairwoman of government relations for Hadassah: The Women's Zionist Organization of America. "Whatever dollar amount they spent to organize this, it was well worth it. They've gotten very good bang for their buck. They may not win the war, but they've won this battle." □

## JEWISH WORLD

### Latvia presses for shooter's life

Latvia is asking a U.S. judge not to sentence to death a man convicted of killing five minorities, including a Jewish woman, during a shooting spree in Pittsburgh in April 2000.

Richard Scott Baumhammers, who holds both Latvian and U.S. citizenship, is slated to be sentenced on Thursday.

### Reform in Russia get 2 scrolls

U.S. Reform leaders handed over two Torah scrolls to their Russian counterparts for use in newly created congregations in cities in Siberia and Belarus. Saturday's ceremony in Moscow came during a four-day conference of more than 100 Reform leaders from across the former Soviet Union.

### Cars to be parked under Nazi site

German officials granted permission to build a parking garage in Berlin beneath a memorial where Nazis burned books.

Last Friday's decision to construct the parking lot for a nearby opera house came despite opposition from the Israeli who designed the memorial, which is a window that allows people to peek into a sealed room with empty bookcases.

### Zimbabwean leader upsets Jews

South African Jews are criticizing Zimbabwean President Robert Mugabe for accusing them of trying to control Zimbabwean factories.

"Jews in South Africa, working in cahoots with their colleagues here, want our textile and clothing factories to close down," Mugabe was quoted as saying last week.

Mugabe is "using whites, or Jews as synonyms of whites," to garner more support, said Russell Gaddin of the South African Board of Jewish Deputies.

### Russia: Anti-Semitic paper OK

An anti-Semitic newspaper in the Russian city of Samara does not violate laws prohibiting ethnic hatred, according to Russia's Press Ministry.

The move involving the Aleks-Info newspaper is being seen by watchdog groups, including the Union of Councils for Jews in the FSU, as evidence that the Russian government is not serious about cracking down on hate speech.

### Jewish women's leader dies at 51

Barbara Rabkin, president of Jewish Women International, died Aug. 29 at age 51. Rabkin had been involved with the volunteer and philanthropy organization, formerly known as B'nai B'rith Women, for more than 30 years, and had served as its president since March 2000.

## Pollard turns down \$1 million from Israel to cover expenses

By Matthew E. Berger

WASHINGTON (JTA) — Calling it a "cheap publicity stunt," Jonathan Pollard says he will not accept the \$1 million reportedly offered by the Israeli government to cover expenses incurred during his imprisonment.

"They can take that offer and put it where the sun doesn't shine," Pollard told JTA in an exclusive statement from prison in Butner, N.C.

A former U.S. Navy intelligence analyst who is serving a life sentence for spying on behalf of Israel, Pollard said he was "shocked and dismayed" to learn of the offer through the Israeli press, and that he has never sought money, only assistance for his clemency bid.

"The only thing I have asked them is to get me out of prison and bring me home," Pollard said. "That's all I've asked."

Pollard said the offer was a way of deflecting attention from his case.

According to the Israeli daily Ha'aretz, a special grant of \$1 million to help Pollard was recommended by Israeli Cabinet Minister Danny Naveh and approved by two committees, one headed by Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's military liaison and the other by the Defense Ministry's deputy director.

The committees determined this week that the \$1 million would sufficiently pay expenses for Pollard and his wife, Esther, who lives in Canada.

The amount is based on \$5,000 for each month Pollard has spent in jail.

Esther Pollard told JTA that neither she nor their attorneys had received an official offer.

Despite the fact that she is "deeply in debt," Esther Pollard said she will return the check if and when she receives it.

"We don't want blood money, and we don't want to dirty ourselves," she said. "We will make it to the finish line clean."

Pollard, who has been serving a life sentence since 1987, has received support from numerous American Jewish groups and leaders, but was unable to secure a pardon from President Clinton before he left office.

He came very close during the Wye River peace negotiations in 1998, when Clinton reportedly promised to free him as part of an Israeli-Palestinian agreement.

But Clinton eventually backed out after American law-enforcement officials threatened to resign in protest.

From his prison cell, Pollard said his freedom should be a matter of principle, and that the United States has already promised to release him.

"My case, my life, the issues involved, are not a matter of dollars and cents," he said. "My freedom is not on the block." □

## Israeli reportedly freed in Ukraine

MOSCOW (JTA) — Ukrainian police recently freed an Israeli who was kidnapped two months ago by a Chechen gang, according to Ukrainian media reports.

The Ukrainian-born woman, who came from Israel to Odessa to sell her apartment, was seized by Chechen criminals who called her mother in Israel with a \$50,000 ransom demand.

Police have arrested two of the kidnapers and are still searching for the gang's leader.

The victim is recovering in a local hospital and is expected to travel soon to Israel for further medical treatment.

In the past two years, during the war between Russia and separatist Muslim guerrillas, Jews occasionally became a target for Chechen gangs.

These gangs believed that world Jewry would pay large ransoms to win the hostages' freedom.

Last month, a Russian court sentenced a Chechen refugee to seven and a half years in prison for kidnapping an Israeli teen-ager who was held in Chechnya for five months before her release. □

## Germans take aim at anti-Israel material in Palestinian textbooks

By Toby Axelrod

BERLIN (JTA) — German representatives to the European Union's legislative branch are urging the European Union to halt funding for the Palestinian Authority until schoolbooks with anti-Semitic material are withdrawn and replaced.

The first of several discussions on the topic took place Aug. 28 during the opening session of the E.U. Parliament in Brussels.

The question of withholding tens of millions of dollars in funds to the Palestinian Authority was addressed by the Foreign Affairs Committee and will be addressed in other committees during coming weeks.

In one of the Palestinian texts in question, Jews are described as "treacherous and disloyal."

In another, it is suggested that the Zionist cause benefited from successive persecutions and the Holocaust.

"Martyrdom in the struggle against Israel" is placed as the highest goal for young Muslims, and the state of Israel does not appear on any maps in the texts.

As a funder, the European Union is indirectly responsible for the texts' content, said Amin Laschet, a member of the E.U. legislative body and Germany's representative to its economics committee.

The European Union needs to "send a signal to the Palestinians that E.U. money is meant to support the peace process," said Laschet, a member of the Christian Democratic Union Party. "But when it goes for hate and violence, then we can stop it."

Meanwhile, officials with the Palestinian Authority's Education Ministry have denied publishing anti-Semitic texts.

According to the German press agency DPA, the ministry also said it had only published textbooks up to the sixth grade. Until books are ready for other grades, Palestinian schools are using Jordanian and Egyptian texts, the ministry said.

The ministry added that Israel is described in the books as an occupier — "as it is by the United Nations."

Though European nations have tended to side with the Palestinians in the current crisis, Laschet told JTA he expects broad agreement that the European Parliament shouldn't fund the offensive texts.

He suggested that it was about time the European Union put pressure on the Palestinians, considering the enormous financial contribution Europe makes to them.

The European Union has provided nearly half a billion dollars to the Palestinians since 1993 toward improving infrastructure and education, Laschet said. The schoolbooks in question reportedly are funded through the U.N. Relief and Works Agency, which receives money from the European Union and the United Nations.

Peter Hansen, an official with UNRWA, told Reuters last week that it is unrealistic for the Palestinians to praise their occupiers.

About 30 percent of the annual contribution to the Palestinian Authority comes from German taxes, a fact that prompted Paul Spiegel, head of the Central Council of Jews in Germany, to appeal to Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder about the texts.

These books "sow the seeds for bomb attacks," Spiegel said.

Officials at the German Foreign Ministry say they plan to analyze the texts.

Laschet said he took up the cause this summer after reading English translations of Palestinian school texts provided by the

New York- and Jerusalem-based Center for Monitoring the Impact of Peace.

Laschet and other members of the E.U. Parliament met in July in Israel with representatives of the Center, and later met with P.A. President Yasser Arafat in the West Bank city of Ramallah.

Laschet said Arafat confirmed that the English translations of the texts are accurate and explained that they were reprints of Jordanian schoolbooks that would be used until new Palestinian texts are ready in 2005.

The reprints were funded by Holland and Finland, which clearly did not know the content, Laschet told JTA.

"But everyone who reads them thinks it is the opinion of Holland and Finland," he said.

He said Belgium already had withdrawn its unintended support of anti-Semitic texts this summer.

Laschet has cited several egregious examples of anti-Semitism in Palestinian texts, including:

- A fourth-grade religion textbook that calls Jews "the enemy of the prophets and true believers."

- A 12th-grade history book that says Jews are hated around the world because of their greed and money-changing. Furthermore, says the text, "European Jews were hated because of their anti-Christian Jewish faith." A teachers guide for this textbook urges discussion of the following point: "The persecution of Jews was desirable and advantageous to the Zionist movement, and remains so today."

In no text is Israel mentioned as a state. Cities within Israel are described as Palestinian cities.

Recalling his meeting with Arafat, Laschet said the Palestinian leader assured the European Parliament members that new schoolbooks do not contain hate material.

But "martyrdom is included in the new books, and Israel does not exist in the new books," Laschet told JTA. "Israel is the occupier" in these books and "suicide attacks are described as good."

"We criticized this, and Arafat said, 'Israel is the occupier and our children are experiencing occupation,'" Laschet said. "We told him we do not expect him to be teaching that Israel is their friend, but they should not be teaching violence." □

## Czech Jews may get property back

PRAGUE (JTA) — Czech Jewish communities soon could see the return of up to 100 pieces of real estate stolen from them by the Nazis or confiscated by the former Communist regime.

Last week, the Czech government started to discuss the transfer of the first pieces of state-owned property to the Czech Federation of Jewish Communities.

Properties under consideration include cemeteries, buildings and vacant land across the country.

The current discussions within the government only concern state-owned properties. Not included are pieces of real estate now owned by local town halls or sold by the state over the years.

The federation said about 1,500 properties had been listed as owned by Jewish communities before World War II, but some of these already had been returned.

Many others were excluded from the transfer process because new buildings have been erected on the sites.

Once the government decides which of the 100 or so properties are eligible, a special decree will be passed allowing the real estate to be returned to its original owners. □