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TOP NEWS IN BRIEF

Shootings threaten cease-fire

An Israeli woman was killed and her husband wounded in a drive-by shooting Thursday in the West Bank.

And a Palestinian gunman was killed and five Israeli soldiers wounded in the Gaza Strip after Israel returned fire near the Jewish settlement of Kfar Darom.

The incidents threatened a cease-fire called by both sides in the wake of last week's terror attacks in the United States.

Meanwhile, Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon told U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell on Wednesday night that the Palestinians were not adhering to the cease-fire.

Arafat-Peres meeting canceled

A cease-fire meeting between Foreign Minister Shimon Peres and Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat was canceled after an Israeli woman was killed Thursday in a drive-by shooting.

Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon has repeatedly stated that he will not allow Peres to take part in such a meeting until there is 48 hours of complete calm.

Clergy weigh in on response

Religious leaders who met with President Bush said they were confident he would find an appropriate response to last week's attacks in New York and Washington.

The leaders, who included Rabbi Joshua Haberman of Washington, counseled and prayed with the president on Thursday at the White House and said a U.S. reaction is necessary to prevent further acts of terrorism.

"We have both a moral right and a grave obligation as a nation to protect the sanctity of life and the common good," the leaders said in a statement released after the meeting.

Meanwhile, several rabbis signed on to a letter backed by religious leaders calling for "sober restraint" as the United States determines its response to the Sept. 11 attacks.

Some 1,500 clergy across the United States have added their names to the letter, which calls on Americans to "dig deep to the roots of our faith for sustenance, solace and wisdom."

NEWS ANALYSIS

Israel likely to play key, quiet role in global war on terrorism

By Jessica Steinberg

JERUSALEM (JTA) — As the U.S. ally with the greatest experience fighting terrorism, Israel is likely to play a key role in the planned international war on terrorism.

But its role is likely to be less public, working primarily with U.S. intelligence and the Defense Department, terrorism experts say.

"There aren't going to be 500,000 U.S. troops in Saudi Arabia in this scenario, so the cooperation and activity will not be as visible," Gerald Steinberg, a Bar-Ilan University professor, said, alluding to the Persian Gulf War.

"Israel has a lot of good intelligence experience and the Americans definitely need that experience in terms of anti-terrorist activities."

Steinberg predicted that as the U.S.-led fight against terrorism gets under way, there will be many short "in-and-out missions" in Afghanistan, believed to be the base of Osama bin Laden, the suspected mastermind of last week's terror attacks in Washington and New York.

Operations in Afghanistan could resemble "what's going on in Jenin or Ramallah," Steinberg said. "Israel can train people how to do that."

Last week, Israeli army units entered the Palestinian-controlled areas of Jenin and Jericho, blockading the cities by day and carrying out arrests and demolishing police posts at night. The actions were part of the government's new policy of retaliating with greater severity to Palestinian attacks on Israeli civilians.

Israel also has been carrying out "targeted assassinations" against Palestinian terrorists during the last 12 months of the intifada. While Europe and the United States have criticized that method, it is considered fairly successful by members of the defense establishment.

With the United States looking to carry out a very different style of warfare against Saudi suspect bin Laden and his cohorts, these types of short-term incursions and attacks might become the norm, with Israel providing assistance.

But it isn't likely that Israeli agents will be going through the hills of Pakistan to plant a bomb in bin Laden's cell phone, said Martin Kramer, a senior fellow at the Moshe Dayan Center at Tel Aviv University.

"This whole business with bin Laden and the Taliban goes way over our heads and over the heads of the core of the Middle East," Kramer said. "The objectives of these people is to hit the U.S., which they think of as the occupier, with their carrier groups offshore, ruling the skies with cruise missiles and puppet regimes."

In bin Laden's mind, the Jews are "occupying" a corner of the Middle East, Kramer said, but the United States is occupying the whole of it.

Furthermore, he said, the current conflict with the Palestinians has had "little effect on the calculation of these terrorists. We saw the bin Laden story start taking place in the 1990s when the peace process was on track."

Bin Laden allegedly dropped his first U.S. bomb in 1993, with an explosion at the World Trade Center. Three years later, there was a bombing of U.S. military housing in Saudi Arabia and, in 1998, the bombings of two U.S. embassies in Kenya and Tanzania.

Former Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who wrote a book about terrorism, said Israel must take part in the global effort to eradicate terrorism.

"America must lead the international war against terrorism, but Israel must do its share," he wrote in Friday's Jerusalem Post. "Here, right next to us, a terror-supported regime par excellence, led by Arafat and the PLO, has developed. It too, must be

MIDEAST FOCUS

Security could have foiled terror

Airport interrogations, armed air marshals and a sophisticated security net used by Israel's El Al Airlines probably would have foiled last week's devastating terror attacks in the United States, Israeli experts said. They acknowledged that it would be difficult for Americans to be as stringent as Israelis given the huge number of flights in the United States.

Delta cancels Israel flights

Delta Airlines canceled flights between New York and Tel Aviv through Oct. 31 as a result of last week's terror attacks in the United States. Delta also canceled service from JFK Airport to Cairo, Zurich and Brussels.

Egypt gets spy trial redux

An Egyptian accused of spying for Israel went on trial for a second time in Cairo this week. Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak had overturned the acquittal of Sherif Filali, an Egyptian engineer accused of trying to gather military information for the Jewish state. Israel has denied any involvement in the case.

Poll: Israelis fear attacks

A poll published in Yediot Achronot said 59 percent of Israelis are afraid that their nation may be attacked by an Arab country in retaliation for possible U.S. military operations.

Shoah prayer book published

Israel's Yad Vashem Holocaust Memorial published a Spanish edition of a Rosh Hashanah prayer book that was written from memory by a Holocaust inmate in a labor camp, according to the Jerusalem Post. Naphtali Stern penciled the evening service for Rosh Hashanah onto pieces of brown paper bag at the Wolfsberg labor camp so he could lead other inmates in the holiday services. Yad Vashem published a Hebrew edition of the prayer book last year.



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disarmed and demilitarized — before it is too late." The current atmosphere of anti-terrorism creates an atmosphere of zero tolerance for terrorist attacks, and that's a problem for the Palestinians, who have acquiesced to Hamas and Islamic Jihad suicide bombings as one lever of pressure in the intifada.

"What is clear is that this is a body blow to the intifada," Kramer said. In addition to a new sympathy for victims of terrorism in wake of the attacks on America, attention is being shifted away from the Palestinian cause to another Middle Eastern arena.

Part of Israel's determination to act against terrorism is encapsulated in Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's hesitance to let Foreign Minister Shimon Peres meet with Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat this week.

If the two meet, Arafat will see it as a "down payment," allowing him to claim that he doesn't control the local terror organizations and letting anti-Israel incitement continue, Steinberg said.

"Everything is fluid and we have to be prepared for the effects on us," he said. "It will be better for Israel and the U.S. to work together." □

Iranian Jews face hostility in wake of terrorism attacks

By Tom Tugend

LOS ANGELES (JTA) — Two days after the devastating attack on the World Trade Center, Jimmy Delshad was driving toward a cemetery here to attend a funeral when he stopped to ask an elderly man for directions.

The man took one look at Delshad's face, then angrily waved him off, shouting, "You should all go to hell."

Delshad is a business executive and a prominent member of the 30,000-strong Iranian Jewish community of Los Angeles. He is convinced that the elderly man mistook him for a Muslim and is concerned that such cases of hostility based on mistaken identity will increase in the future.

"I faced similar experiences in 1979 and 1980, when Iran's new revolutionary regime held 62 Americans hostage at the U.S. Embassy in Tehran," Delshad said.

His defense mechanism then was to wear an American flag pinned to his lapel, and now he has bought a new batch of flag pins for members of his family.

George Haroonian, president of the Council of Iranian American Jewish Organizations, approached a customer in his rug store last week to offer assistance. The customer looked at Haroonian, then remarked sarcastically, "You don't have any rugs from Afghanistan?"

Such incidents are rare and so far quite isolated, but they are enough to put the Iranian Jewish community on alert.

"There is a reasonable concern that the backlash against Muslim terrorists might mistakenly extend to all people of Middle Eastern background," said Marjan Keypour, the Iranian-born associate director of the regional office of the Anti-Defamation League.

"It's our responsibility, and that of the media, to educate the public about the diversity of people who come from the Middle East," she said.

Keypour also thinks that Iranian Jews, many of whom have had first-hand experience of living under a fundamentalist Muslim regime, should take the initiative in explaining to their fellow Americans the mind-set that leads young extremists to become suicide terrorists.

Sam Kermanian, secretary-general of the Iranian American Jewish Federation, recalls unpleasant experiences from the embassy hostage period, but has heard of none since the World Trade Center attacks. Although he believes it might be useful to prepare fellow Iranian Jews for possible future incidents, he noted that "the leadership of the community has been in such a state of shock" that no concerted plan to prevent such incidents has been discussed.

Kermanian urged that the Iranian Muslim community in Los Angeles not be scapegoated for last week's terror attacks.

"We must distinguish acts of terrorism from the Islamic religion," he said.

Pooya Dayanim, another Iranian Jewish community activist, agrees.

After being asked by Iranian Muslim groups about how they could demonstrate their patriotism, he advised them to set up relief funds and donate blood. □

JEWISH WORLD

Russian tycoon funds counseling

A Russian tycoon with Jewish roots said he would donate \$100,000 for a counseling center to help Russian Jewish emigres in New York cope with the trauma of last week's terror attacks in New York and Washington. Boris Berezovsky made the announcement about the center Thursday.

Case vs. HUC staffer dismissed

Embezzlement charges were dismissed against a former bookkeeper at the Los Angeles campus of the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion.

A judge dropped the charges Tuesday against Jean Thorbourn because a grand jury that indicted her did not know that HUC administrators knew about the embezzlement.

Thorbourn, 63, was accused last year of forging checks to embezzle more than \$1 million from the HUC between 1989 and 1997.

Egyptian emigre's trial delayed

A California judge delayed the trial of an Egyptian immigrant accused of murdering a child because he did not believe the man could receive a fair trial after last week's terror attacks in New York and Washington.

Judge Richard Witherspoon reportedly made the decision because the 163-member jury pool all has strong views about the death penalty or people of Middle Eastern descent after the Sept. 11 attacks.

Witherspoon plans to call new jurors in the case against John Ghobrial, a Coptic Christian, in several weeks.

Putin sends New Year's greetings

Russian President Vladimir Putin sent New Year's greetings to Russian Jews this week. Putin praised the spiritual achievements of the Jewish people and pledged that Russian authorities would fight anti-Semitism and further Jewish religious and communal life.

Meanwhile, 1,400 Jewish youth marked Rosh Hashanah in Moscow's City Hall in a gathering organized by the Moscow branch of Hillel — The Foundation for Jewish Campus Life.

Appeal made against Nazi doctor

A French prosecutor requested a suspended jail sentence for comments made in 1998 by a doctor who served at Auschwitz.

A court of appeals is expected to rule next month on the charges against Hans Munch, who was quoted as saying that sending Gypsies to gas chambers "was the only solution." A lower court previously dismissed the case, saying Munch is senile.

Czech museum features exhibit of looted art that needs a home

By Magnus Bennett

PRAGUE (JTA) — Prague's Jewish Museum has opened an art exhibition in the hope that its contents will be reunited with the original owners or their heirs.

"Restituted Works of Art — The Collection of Dr. Emil Freund" features 30 of the 61 works returned to the museum last year under the terms of a Czech restitution law designed to "mitigate certain injustices concerning the property of Holocaust victims."

Several art collections, featuring hundreds of works, have already been returned to private hands since the Czech restitution law was introduced last year, but no one has yet made a claim on the art being held by the museum.

The focus of the exhibition in the Robert Guttman Gallery is part of a collection amassed by Czech insurance company director Emil Freund, who died in the Lodz Ghetto in 1942 after the Nazis confiscated his property.

Repeated attempts by the Jewish Museum to find Freund's heirs have failed, according to Michaela Hajkova, the museum's curator of paintings, drawings and graphic art.

"We have been trying to trace Freund's sisters without success," she said. "It seems that one of them died in 1982 in Chicago, and we are continuing to search for any children or grandchildren."

The collection includes works by Czech artist Vaclav Spadla and French artist Maurice Utrillo.

The bulk of Freund's collection was saved after being incorporated into the wartime Central Jewish Museum in Prague.

The paintings, however, were confiscated again in 1950 by the Communist regime.

Then, they were left in the vaults of Prague's national gallery until their recent release.

Jewish Museum Director Leo Pavlat said the exhibition, which will run until the beginning of January of 2002, was a "symbol of the beginning of restitution" in the Czech Republic.

"The exhibition is important for several reasons," he told JTA. "We want to show that we are ready to give up those things which were once in someone else's hands and today are in ours."

Pavlat said the museum would gladly return any of the pictures if people could substantiate their claims to the works.

In the case of the Jewish Museum, restitution only applies to objects held by the Central Jewish Museum between 1942 and 1945 after being confiscated from owners who were deported from the Prague area to the ghettos at Lodz and Terezin.

Further details on the items and how to make a restitution claim can be found at www.jewishmuseum.cz or www.restitution-art.cz. □

European synagogues get grants

ROME (JTA) — Synagogues in England and in seven countries of Eastern and Central Europe will receive a total of \$140,000 from the World Monuments Fund as part of a preservation program.

The synagogues that will receive the grants, announced Monday, include the biggest Sephardic synagogue in the Balkans, a Baroque synagogue in Hungary and a ruined synagogue complex in Lithuania.

The grants will be awarded through the New York-based organization's Jewish Heritage Program and the Ronald S. Lauder Foundation, which last year made a five-year, \$500,000 commitment to such projects. Additional funding came from private donors.

This was the second year that the Jewish Heritage Program made such grants.

This year's recipients were selected from proposals submitted by nongovernmental organizations, Jewish communities and others interested in the preservation of Jewish cultural heritage.

Some localities have already pledged matching funds for the grant recipients. □

NEWS ANALYSIS

'War on terrorism' requires battles waged on many fronts*By Matthew E. Berger*

WASHINGTON (JTA) — Once again, a President Bush is assembling an international coalition to wage a major war in the Middle East.

But unlike the Persian Gulf War his father led against Iraq a decade ago, President George W. Bush's proposed "war on terrorism" would take on a group without a clear leadership structure, with cells in numerous countries and without a capital to be subdued.

While military action is likely, such a war also would require a multifaceted attack on terror groups and their financial infrastructure, the destruction of their training facilities and the deterrence of young people from joining the ranks, terrorism and military experts say.

Experts warn that the process could take years, if not decades, to complete and may require the participation of some of the United States' current enemies — along with all of its allies.

"I think this is going to be a struggle that the United States is going to be involved in for the foreseeable future," Vice President Dick Cheney said Sunday on NBC's "Meet the Press."

"It's going to require constant vigilance on our part to avoid problems in the future, but it's also going to require a major effort and, obviously, quite possibly the use of military force."

Shoshana Bryen, a longtime analyst of U.S. strategic and military affairs for the Jewish Institute for National Security Affairs, said she believes this war must be fought in an innovative way.

"An assassination policy won't do it for you," Bryen said.

"If you cut off the head of the snake, you haven't killed the snake."

In the Persian Gulf War, a concerted air attack on Iraq and 100 hours of ground attacks forced Saddam Hussein to retreat.

But with terrorist forces it is nearly impossible to determine when the opponent has surrendered, or who will rise to replace fallen "martyrs."

The Bush administration has identified Osama bin Laden as the key suspect in last week's attacks on the World Trade Center in New York and the Pentagon in Washington.

The Saudi-born billionaire, who also has been linked to the bombings of U.S. embassies in Kenya and Tanzania in 1998, is believed to be hiding in Afghanistan.

Bin Laden's network may be the first target of the anti-terror coalition, but it is just one of many networks operating around the world.

Bush administration officials spoke this weekend of a complex web of terrorist organizations that work together and feed off each other.

James Lindsay, a senior fellow at the Brookings Institution, said that while defeating a country is like healing a broken bone, defeating terrorism is more like treating a chronic illness.

The battle is long and involved — and must focus on minimizing danger and any immediate threat, rather than eradicating them fully.

"You have this problem, and your job is to as best as you can fight this invader, which is clever and will adapt and probe your weakest parts," Lindsay said.

Congress has given Bush the authority to take actions against any person or organization responsible for the Sept. 11 attacks. Those actions, experts say, will take a long time.

"Once we announce that we are having a war, and we implement certain steps," the terrorists "are going to take steps to thwart us," Bryen said.

"They will take steps, and they are very well-organized, and they have a strategic goal."

One step the United States is likely to take is freezing the financial assets of terrorist groups.

Many terror cells have supporters in major democracies who send funds.

Shutting off that cash flow, experts say, will be important in eliminating the terror threat.

Bryen said she believes great pressure will be required to convince countries to get their banking systems to freeze terrorists' assets.

It also will be a top priority to stop the terrorist organizations' recruitment and training efforts.

Jerrold Post, a professor of psychiatry and international affairs at George Washington University, said psychological tactics will also be pivotal.

A chief objective will be to prevent young people from entering terrorism cells, creating tensions within the group and offering amnesty for members who want to leave but who fear criminal prosecution.

"This is a war for minds, that's what terrorism is," Post said. "The way to counter psychological warfare is not with delta forces, it is with psychological forces."

The war against terrorism will require the cooperation — or at least lack of opposition — from some countries the United States is not used to courting.

That includes Pakistan, which has agreed to help — on condition that Israel and India not be part of the multinational effort.

Speaking Sunday on CNN's "Late Edition," Secretary of State Colin Powell said he understood Pakistan's sensitivities, but "at the end of the day, we will do what's appropriate and necessary."

The international coalition also may include Iran and Syria, two countries on the State Department's Foreign Terrorist Organization List.

Powell said he understood the "mixed relationship" the United States has had with these countries, but a department spokesman said Powell sees an opportunity for them to abandon their support for terrorism.

"It's a basis for turning the page," the spokesman said. "If we can get them to buy into this simple proposition, the whole world has gained something."

Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat also has pledged support for the anti-terror coalition. While the United States appreciates the gesture, it angers Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon.

Speaking in a conference call last Friday to American Jewish leaders, he said that the American-led coalition against terror also should target the "terror organization which is led by Yasser Arafat."

"I fear there is an attempt to draw distinctions between terror against Israel and terror against the rest of the world," said Sharon, who holds Arafat accountable for the numerous Palestinian terrorist attacks against Israel in the past year. "There is no good terror and bad terror." □