



# Daily News Bulletin

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84th Year

## TOP NEWS IN BRIEF

### Security Council call rejected

Israel and the Palestinian Authority rejected a U.N. Security Council statement.

In a statement Monday, the five permanent members of the Security Council — the United States, China, Russia, France and England — called on Israel to withdraw from two Palestinian-controlled cities in the West Bank and also urged the Palestinian Authority "to take all possible steps to put an end to violence." On Tuesday, Israeli officials said they would withdraw from Jenin and Tulkarm after the Palestinians halt attacks against Israel.

Also on Tuesday, Palestinian Cabinet minister Hassan Asfour condemned the Security Council statement, saying it justified "Israel's terrorist acts against the Palestinian people."

### Mistrial in rabbi murder case

The case of a rabbi accused of arranging his wife's murder ended in a mistrial.

The judge declared the mistrial Tuesday after the jury said it had been unable to decide on all three counts against Rabbi Fred Neulander. Jurors deliberated for more than 40 hours over seven days before sending the judge a note saying they could not reach a decision.

Local resident Ron Boben, of Cinnaminson, N.J., called the lack of a verdict "a shame. It's kind of like playing a sport and getting to the Super Bowl, and then saying it's a tie and having to play all over."

There is the possibility that Neulander will be tried again. Neulander's wife, Carol, was found beaten to death at the couple's home in 1994.

### Bronfman bids UJC farewell

Jewish federations should create more partnerships with Jewish family foundations on new initiatives, said Charles Bronfman. In his departing speech to the United Jewish Communities, the outgoing chairman of the North American Jewish federation system also said federations should welcome a younger leadership.

"We have to change the perception that is out there that rich, old guys who write big checks — guys even older than me — are the only ones who count," Bronfman said Monday. "Because there are rich young men and women, who may or may not write big checks, but who may have a wealth of ideas."

## FOCUS ON ISSUES

### Federation system at a crossroads amid political, economic uncertainty

By Julie Wiener

WASHINGTON (JTA) — On the second day of the North American federation system's annual gathering, word began to travel of the crash of American Airlines Flight 587 in New York.

Some participants at the United Jewish Communities General Assembly in Washington crowded around the television in the lounge, others checked the Internet at a cluster of computers in the exhibit hall, and still others used their cell phones to check on the safety of their family and friends.

Reaction to the crash — with its echoes of the devastating Sept. 11 attacks in New York and Washington — only heightened a sense of uncertainty and transition facing the Jewish federation system right now.

It is unclear how global forces like the U.S. war in Afghanistan, the U.S. economy and the situation in Israel will affect the federations, both in terms of the needs they will be asked to support and their ability to raise funds.

Federations serve as the communities' central fund-raising arm and provide monies for local, national and overseas needs.

Echoing the external uncertainties is the fact that the UJC itself is at something of a crossroads.

Its top founding lay leaders are handing over the reins to new people, and it recently installed a new CEO and president.

The product of the merger of three Jewish groups two years ago, the UJC has been hammering out issues related to governance and confronting internal conflicts, both among the players in the different groups that formed it, as well as among the 189 Jewish federations across North America that are its "owners."

The merger has a few final steps left, most importantly developing a new budget and clarifying its priorities — amid pressure from many large federations that would like to see serious cuts in spending.

The organization will be undergoing a "rigorous budget review" in the coming months, said Stephen Hoffman, UJC's new president and CEO.

Neither he nor the top UJC lay leaders indicated where any cuts would come.

Discussions at the G.A. reflected "the transition going on in the American Jewish community right now," said Howard Ross, executive director of the North Louisiana Jewish Federation in Shreveport, La.

"We have new leadership in the UJC, both professional and lay, and we don't know where they're going to take us," he said.

In addition, Ross said, federations are awaiting the results of the 2000 National Jewish Population Survey to help determine domestic priorities.

Findings of the UJC-sponsored study — the first comprehensive survey of American Jewry in 10 years — are expected to be released during the summer.

"We've got to wait and see," he said. "But we know we're on the precipice of the future."

Most large federations are reporting that their campaigns are unaffected by the recession so far — and in some cases, they are enjoying campaign increases, at least in kickoff events with lead donors.

Many have also raised new funds for Israel, as part of an Israel solidarity campaign launched this summer aimed at helping the Jewish state as it faces an ongoing Palestinian intifada, which has lasted for 14 months. That campaign has already raised

## MIDEAST FOCUS

### U.S. reaffirms Israel support

A Bush administration official says the U.S. supports Israel unconditionally. Addressing the closing plenary of the United Jewish Communities General Assembly, Cabinet member Tommy Thompson said that "supporting Israel is absolutely essential to the security of the United States," and that "America will stand for Israel, period." Delegates responded with a standing ovation.

The health and human services secretary followed Israel's deputy foreign minister, Rabbi Michael Melchior, who said that despite daily Palestinian attacks on Israel, the Jewish state must weigh its need for security with its responsibility to respect the Palestinians' humanity.

### Israelis to appear in U.S. court

Eleven Israelis being held for illegally working in the United States may be deported.

The 11, who are slated to appear before a federal immigration judge in Ohio, were arrested after the Sept. 11 terror attacks against the United States. Some 100 Israelis have been arrested throughout the United States as part of a crackdown on illegal foreign workers following the attacks. Two Israelis recently returned home after being held in Philadelphia for two months.

### Israeli troops search for bombers

Israeli troops briefly entered a Palestinian-controlled area in the Gaza Strip.

Tuesday's incursion came after a bomb was detonated near the Jewish settlement of Kfar Darom.

### Israeli expertise sought

Demand for Israeli security products and expertise jumped following the Sept. 11 attacks. A spokesman for Israel's Trade Ministry said Tuesday that inquiries have come from all over the world following the attacks on the United States.

almost \$86 million. Leaders with many federations, including Cleveland and MetroWest, N.J., say the Israel fund-raising campaign has actually boosted contributions to the general campaign as well.

However, it is too early to tell the long-term impact of the recession, and many are nervous.

"We're all waiting to see how things shake out," said Mark Lainer, a member of the executive committee of the Los Angeles Jewish Federation.

Robert Aronson, CEO of the Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Detroit, said the economic uncertainty in the United States means "federations are taking hard looks at their expenditures."

"This is not an easy year," he added.

Many federations, like the United Jewish Federation of San Diego County, are making special appeals to their top-tier donors, asking them to significantly increase giving this year because the recession "could mean the average donor may not be as generous as previously anticipated," said Michael Hirsh, the federation's director of planning, budgeting and administration.

But many UJC officials are downplaying the recession.

"We've been through economic tightenings in the past. There's no reason to believe this will be worse," Hoffman said.

Carole Solomon, chair of the UJC's Campaign and Financial Resource Development Pillar, said campaigns are "doing very well so far," although "potential uncertainties in the economy may manifest themselves later."

However, she said, over the past eight years, many donors "have made tremendous sums of money," and market losses are not wiping out their fortunes.

In a speech to the UJC's Delegate Assembly, Solomon said, "We can worry, or we can redouble our efforts."

Some are hopeful that the difficult times — at least the events of Sept. 11 and the crisis in Israel — will actually spur giving.

"A lot of people may want to be more involved and are looking for meaning," Lainer said, echoing the sentiment of many others.

Others hoped that the Jewish community's visibility after Sept. 11 — particularly the work of Jewish social service agencies in the New York area — will draw in new donors.

"Social service agencies no one ever knew of are being talked about now," said Helaine Loman, a member of the UJC's Young Leadership Cabinet.

"People give in times of crisis," said Loman, a board member of the MetroWest federation.

"And this is definitely a crisis."

Joe Brodecki, a board member of the Jewish Federation of Greater Washington and a former fund-raising director for the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum, said, "Sometimes when things get tough, people pull together and do things they never thought they could have accomplished."

It is not clear precisely what role the UJC will play in the coming years.

Many saw the Israel NOW rally scheduled for Sept. 23 as the group's first decisive act of leadership.

However, the rally — which had expected to draw approximately 150,000 people from around the country — was canceled in the aftermath of the Sept. 11 attacks on the World Trade Center and Pentagon.

The UJC's new volunteer leaders, James Tisch of New York, chairman of the board, and Robert Goldberg of Cleveland, chairman of the executive committee, are promising an expanded role for UJC and a smaller budget.

In an interview, Tisch said doing both is possible.

"Just because we cut the budget doesn't mean we're cutting services and doesn't mean we're not growing," he said.

It is also not entirely clear what Jewish federations want the UJC to be or do, although a variety of federation executives and lay leaders said they want it to be a combination of organizer, visionary, disseminator of best practices and a forum for collective action.

"We need an organization to coordinate our efforts," said Elaine Berke, a board member of the Los Angeles federation. "And it keeps us together like a mom and a dad keep a family together." □



## Daily News Bulletin

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## JEWISH WORLD

### UJC mission heads to Israel

Nearly 500 people left for Israel as part of a United Jewish Communities mission.

Most departed from Washington at the close of the UJC's annual General Assembly, with the largest delegations hailing from Washington, Boston and Philadelphia.

Planned long in advance, the mission took on greater importance after the terror attacks of Sept. 11, according to Stephen Hoffman, UJC's president and CEO.

After a meeting in Washington, Hoffman said, participants "are getting on a plane carrying our message and spirit to Israel."

Because of security concerns, organizers decided not to have a big send-off or news conference for the group.

### U.S. 'can look to Israel for help'

A White House official said he believed the United States can learn from Israel about domestic security.

Tom Ridge, the director of homeland security for the White House, told the United Jewish Communities' General Assembly on Monday that "American has much to do and much to learn, and we can look to Israel for help."

Ridge said he was interested in soliciting assistance from community organizations, including Jewish groups, and would "find something for every American who wants to participate to do."

### Alaska drilling OK, says O.U.

The Orthodox Union supports drilling for oil in Alaska. Reducing the U.S. dependence on Arab oil is better for the United States and Israel, according to the group.

Another group, the Jewish Institute for National Security Affairs, also supports drilling in Alaska's Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, but most Jewish organizations oppose drilling in Alaska.

Republicans pushing energy legislation through the Senate want to include a provision that will allow for oil and gas drilling in the Alaskan wilderness.

But Democrats have threatened to filibuster such legislation.

### Sentence for Swiss denier upheld

Switzerland's highest court upheld a three-month prison sentence for an 81-year-old Holocaust denier.

The Swiss Federal Court ruled that Gaston-Armand Amadruz has to go to jail despite his old age. The case was brought to trial after Amadruz published statements denying the Holocaust in his newspaper, *Courier du Continent*. During World War II, he was an outspoken admirer of Hitler and the Nazis.

## For N.Y. rabbi, latest tragedy strikes much closer to home

By Michael J. Jordan

BELLE HARBOR, N.Y. (JTA) — It's the sort of expertise that Rabbi Allan Blaine would rather be without.

But it quickly explained the horrible sound he'd just heard.

"After Sept. 11, I know what a purple plume of smoke is — burning jet fuel," said Blaine, head of the local Conservative community of Temple Beth-El in Belle Harbor. "I knew a jet had crashed."

For Blaine, Monday's tragedy of American Airlines Flight 587 was a much closer call than the suicide airstrikes that brought down the World Trade Center.

On Sept. 11, while local residents looked out over Jamaica Bay and saw the twin towers crumble and burn in the distance, Blaine was in the shul he has led for 33 years, working the phones, checking on his congregants.

On Monday, they may have been looking for him.

When the plane crashed, Blaine was driving around the quiet beach community. He had just dropped off a tie at the dry cleaners — for Shabbat, he said — and suddenly felt inspired to grab a sesame bagel, light cream cheese.

"And you knew I'd bought bagels yesterday," his wife, Suzanne, said later that night, sitting with her husband in their living room. "Why would you do that?"

But if he hadn't stopped for a bagel — and been delayed by a small line — he might have been on the street where the plane crashed, the rabbi said. "I probably would have been right under it. For some reason, I was spared."

As it was, the airliner crashed nose-down into a home, plowing into the ground, killing at least four residents, and sparking an inferno that ravaged 12 homes.

In addition, a reported 260 people aboard the plane are believed to have died.

One of them was an Israeli businessman. Ilan Wasserman's Israeli relatives contacted the Foreign Ministry after learning that Wasserman's wife had taken him to JFK Airport for the flight to the Dominican Republic. Wasserman had been living in Queens for 20 years.

Outside of Wasserman, no Jewish deaths have been reported, but 10 to 12 Jewish families live on the street where the plane crashed, Blaine said, half a dozen of which belong to his synagogue. One Jewish home was destroyed, and two were damaged, and the entire block was evacuated.

After learning the scope of devastation, Blaine said, "I could hardly contain myself emotionally. It was too reminiscent of what you saw on television Sept. 11 — that thick, acrid smoke — just on a smaller scale."

"And for it to happen in my own neighborhood, three blocks from my synagogue," he said. Despite official reports that it was an accident, Blaine said, "I don't know if it was mechanical failure or terrorism, but it's an uncanny coincidence that this should happen on Veterans Day."

Blaine immediately agreed to a police request that Temple Beth-El's red-brick community center be offered as a possible triage center.

But there were no survivors, no need for triage. The police instead took advantage of the community center's parking lot and restroom facilities.

Belle Harbor itself is now twice-bitten. The tight-knit neighborhood of Jews, Irish, Italians and Germans was already nursing the wounds caused by the Sept. 11 attacks.

Situated on a sandy peninsula, the neighborhood is marked by mostly colonial-style homes, virtually all of them now festooned with American flags.

Many firefighters, police officers and stockbrokers live in the area.

Some 100 people in the community perished in the events of Sept. 11; one parish, St. Francis DeSales, lost 20 congregants alone, leaving 15 children with only one parent.

One local Jewish man was killed at the World Trade Center.

Funerals and memorial services continue to be held.

Neighbors vowed to do anything to help those most affected by Monday's crash. The rabbi's wife believes the community will weather this tragedy, too.

"Ah, we're tough," said Suzanne Blaine.

The congregation had scheduled a prayer service and counseling for the community Tuesday night. □

## Powell set to revive peace push, but no big surprises are expected

By Matthew E. Berger

WASHINGTON (JTA) — Israel and American Jewish leaders say they hope the Bush administration's efforts to revive Israeli-Palestinian talks will be a catalyst for peace.

U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell is expected to outline a plan for ending violence in the region in a speech Monday in Louisville, Ky. Details of the address are still being hashed out, but community leaders say it is aimed at reinvigorating proposals already on the table, instead of formulating a new policy.

Although Powell is expected to reiterate the ultimate goal of a Palestinian state, he is also expected to place increased pressure on Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat to curb violence in the region.

The new U.S. initiative is not expected to tackle the final-status issues that derailed previous peace efforts, including the right of return for Palestinian refugees and the fate of Jerusalem.

It will also not delve into details of the kind that former President Clinton outlined in a speech shortly before leaving office last year, sources say.

What remains to be determined is what details will be included. Ideas are being floated by the administration to Israeli and Arab officials in the United States, and Israeli officials in Washington say they have been assured they "will not be surprised" by the initiatives in the speech.

American Jewish leaders say the State Department has been willing to meet with them to hear their concerns and priorities, but has not shown them a draft.

It is also unclear whether Powell will adopt the peace proposals being floated in Israel by Foreign Minister Shimon Peres and others. Peres' plan reportedly calls for Israel to dismantle settlements in Gaza and allow the Palestinians to erect a state there.

But that plan does not appear to have the support of many in the coalition government in Israel, especially as Prime Minister Ariel Sharon faces tough criticism from his right flank.

Powell's speech is expected to be a road map toward an ultimate two-state solution, piecing together plans and initiatives that have been outlined in the past year.

Key among those principles is the Tenet plan, hammered out by CIA Director George Tenet in June after a suicide bombing in a Tel Aviv disco. The plan seeks immediate resumption in security cooperation between Israelis and Palestinians, calls for the end to violence in the region and a restoration of the situation on the ground to what it was before the uprising began in September 2000.

Its goal is to get the two parties to implement the Mitchell plan, named for former U.S. Sen. George Mitchell, which outlines a three-pronged approach to rebuilding relations between Israel and the Palestinian Authority — ending violence, rebuilding confidence and resuming peace negotiations.

The Mitchell plan recommends a "cooling-off period" and urges both sides to condemn incitement. It also seeks "100 percent effort" from the Palestinian Authority to curb violence and demands that Israel freeze settlement activity in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Then there is the question of a Palestinian state.

While the details still need to be worked out, sources say, Powell is expected to reiterate the words that have come from President Bush and others in his administration in the last few

weeks, emphasizing an eventual Palestinian state, with security for both countries.

The Bush administration will be trying to balance the concerns of many different national and international constituencies with the new initiative.

In the post-Sept. 11 atmosphere, the White House would prefer to focus attention away from the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, and concentrate on maintaining its coalition against terrorism. But it knows that Arab countries are pressing for progress on the Israeli-Palestinian front.

In order to propose a deal that will entice Arafat, the United States is evoking the name "Palestine" and the vision of an eventual state, sources say. But, it is also placing additional public pressure on the Palestinian Authority to clamp down on terrorism and incitement.

While plans for a new initiative had been considered throughout the last two months, the timing of next week's address seems to be optimal, analysts say. With the first two months of the war on terrorism showing modest successes, the United States is in a good position to flex its international muscle, they say.

"The U.S. has the wind at its back," said Tom Smerling, Washington director of the Israel Policy Forum.

Smerling, who announced he is leaving his position next month for personal reasons, said the Palestinians are beginning to see the effectiveness of the intifada waning, and the Israelis are seeing the limits of controlling violence militarily.

"Everybody seems to be getting ready for a diplomatic push," he said. "That will never happen without a good shove from the United States; it never does."

Although some in the American Jewish community had been wary of a new U.S. initiative, recent comments from the Bush administration have helped allay their fears.

In the first weeks after the Sept. 11 attacks in the United States, the White House was seen to be courting Arab states, and American Jewish leaders feared any new initiative would favor the Palestinians. But in the past two weeks, the administration has placed additional sanctions on Palestinian terrorist groups, and the White House has publicly held Arafat's feet to the fire.

Jewish officials were heartened by comments such as the one last week by National Security Advisor Condoleezza Rice.

"You cannot help us with Al Qaida and hug Hezbollah," she told the Palestinians. "That's not acceptable. Or Hamas."

And despite Bush's use of the name "Palestine" to describe an eventual state during his address to the United Nations on Saturday, Jewish leaders were impressed by his tough comments on Palestinian violence.

"No national aspiration, no remembered wrong can ever justify the deliberate murder of the innocent," Bush told the U.N. General Assembly.

Some American Jewish officials say privately they would have preferred a new push on the Middle East to come from the president, because the White House has generally demonstrated more understanding than the State Department.

The State Department would not confirm Israeli media reports that Powell will follow up his speech with a trip to the region.

In addition, Powell may re-establish the position of a special envoy for the peace process, a job which was eliminated when Bush took office in January. But he is not expected to fill the role immediately.

Sharon, however, is expected to come to Washington on Dec. 3 for high-level meetings that were postponed last week. □