



# Daily News Bulletin

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84th Year

## TOP NEWS IN BRIEF

### **Bush seeks Jackson-Vanik move**

President Bush said he hopes to lift trade restrictions on Russia. Bush announced his intention to work with Congress to end application of the Jackson-Vanik Amendment while hosting Russian President Vladimir Putin in Washington on Tuesday.

Adopted in 1974, the Jackson-Vanik Amendment links U.S. trade to Soviet willingness to relax restrictions on emigration. It helped ensure the emigration of tens of thousands of Soviet Jews.

The United States also is considering lifting restrictions on the former Soviet republics of Armenia, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Moldova, Tajikistan and Ukraine.

### **P.A. compliance bill weakened**

Congress weakened a proposed measure that would have required President Bush to assess Palestinian compliance with peace accords.

A congressional conference committee Tuesday passed compromise language in the foreign aid bill that instead requests the president to assess Palestinian actions.

Jewish leaders say they are impressed the language was not removed altogether, given that Secretary of State Colin Powell had persuaded the Senate to withdraw the measure, known as the Middle East Peace Commitments Act, after Sept. 11.

### **Jewish couple on doomed flight**

A Jewish couple from Long Island was among the 260 victims aboard Flight 587.

Melvin and Elaine Landsman were planning to vacation in the Dominican Republic. A third Jewish victim was previously identified as Israeli businessman Ilan Wasserman, a longtime resident of Queens.

### **B'nai B'rith sells D.C. home**

B'nai B'rith International sold its Washington headquarters. The organization sold the building, which houses several other Jewish groups, to the Human Rights Campaign, a gay rights group, for \$9.8 million, according to the rights group.

Several Jewish organizations may move to a new building being built for Hillel in Washington, while others, including B'nai B'rith, are searching for new property. The B'nai B'rith Klutznick National Jewish Museum, housed on the property, also will be moving.

## NEWS ANALYSIS

### **New U.S. peace initiative could spell end of Sharon's government**

*By David Landau*

JERUSALEM (JTA) — U.S. pledges to increase Washington's involvement in ending Israeli-Palestinian violence may be welcome in some quarters, but they are a source of anxiety for some in the Sharon government.

Not only could a new U.S. initiative create new friction between Jerusalem and Washington, analysts here say, it could also trigger the breakup of Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's fragile national unity coalition.

Word of the new initiative came over the weekend in New York, where world leaders convened for the annual meeting of the U.N. General Assembly.

U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell is expected to outline U.S. policy in the Middle East next week. Billed as a major address by the State Department, the speech will be delivered Monday at the University of Louisville in Kentucky. Details of the address are still being hashed out, but Powell is expected to flesh out the U.S. vision of a future for Israel and the Palestinians.

On Sunday, Powell said after a round of meetings with Middle East leaders at the United Nations that Washington is "looking for opportunities to become more actively engaged" in Middle East peacemaking.

That same day, Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres said after meeting with Powell that the United States would soon be publicly presenting its "principles" for peacemaking.

A day earlier, during a speech to the General Assembly, President Bush set something of a precedent when he spoke of "Palestine" as a future state.

"We are working toward the day when two states — Israel and Palestine — live peacefully together within secure and recognized borders," Bush said.

U.S. officials have frequently made reference to a future Palestinian state, but they have not called it "Palestine."

Powell on Sunday confirmed that the president used the name intentionally.

"If one is moving forward with a vision of two states living side by side," Powell said, "it's appropriate then, as we start to reach more aggressively toward that vision, to call those two states what they will be: Israel, Palestine."

For decades, the use of this term would have been seen in Israel as a deliberately hostile gesture. "Palestine," after all, is the word used invariably by the Palestinians to describe their national goal.

Some Israelis contend that it deliberately hints at the pre-1948 situation, when all of the country under the British Mandate was called Palestine — and that the current use of the term implies a vision of eliminating the Jewish state.

Ra'an an Gissin, a spokesman for Sharon, said he is comfortable with Bush's use of the name "Palestine." Obviously, Gissin pointed out, Bush did not mean Palestine in place of Israel.

But it seemed equally obvious from the president's remarks that Bush also did not mean the kind of unconnected islands of Palestinian self-rule, surrounded by swathes of Israeli control, that Sharon has put forward as his vision of an eventual Palestinian state. Even if Israel agrees to the idea of Palestinian statehood, as significant as the step may be, it will not be enough to paper over the very real and very deep differences that divide Sharon from the Bush administration — and divide Sharon from Peres.

This explains the growing speculation in Jerusalem that newly energized U.S. peacemaking could easily result in tension with Washington and the collapse of the

## MIDEAST FOCUS

### U.S., Russia vow Mideast push

The United States and Russia plan to step up efforts to end Israeli-Palestinian violence.

President Bush and Russian President Vladimir Putin said in a joint statement after summit talks in Washington on Tuesday that they would be "acting in concert with other key parties" to end the conflict. Israeli and Palestinian officials praised the statement. However, in a sign of the challenges ahead, Israeli and Palestinian officials traded new charges over who is to blame for the failure to halt the bloodshed.

### Blair: Arabs must recognize Israel

Tony Blair said the Arab world must be ready to clearly recognize Israel's right to exist.

In a speech Monday night, the British prime minister said such recognition is one of two "fixed principles" for ending Israeli-Palestinian violence and reaching a final peace accord. The other is the creation of a "viable" Palestinian state.

### Peres sees peace opportunity

Israel's foreign minister sees a new chance for Mideast peace after the Sept. 11 attacks.

Speaking to reporters in New York, Shimon Peres said the attacks had created a "window of opportunity" by making clear to the Palestinian Authority that its embrace of terror organizations is no longer acceptable. P.A. President Yasser "Arafat says he's part of the anti-terror camp," Peres said. "The problem is not his declared position, it's his implementation."

### New Labor Party elections

The candidates for leadership of Israel's Labor Party agreed to new elections. The September primary was declared void amid allegations of voter fraud. The candidates, Defense Minister Benjamin Ben-Eliezer and Knesset Speaker Avraham Burg, agreed to limit harm to the party by holding a new vote.

national unity government. It was with the goal of preventing these two scenarios that Peres has been trying over the past several days — so far without success — to draw up with Sharon a mutually agreed list of Israel's peace principles.

Their discussions reportedly hit a snag over the suggestion that Israel would have to dismantle some settlements in the West Bank and Gaza Strip — or at least say it is ready to dismantle them — in order for its peace plan to carry credibility.

Sharon, constantly criticized from the right by former Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, is opposed to any such concession at this time.

He knows it would cost him support from the Likud's more hawkish coalition partners — and perhaps from some members of the Likud itself.

By the same token, Peres and the Labor Party leadership would find themselves under mounting pressure to end their coalition alliance with Sharon if the Americans step up their peace efforts — and the prime minister of Israel fails to respond in a positive and forthcoming way. Meanwhile, events on the ground make the task of peacemaking seem formidable indeed.

The difficulty of getting Israel and the Palestinians to back off from their nearly 14 months of violence was made clear Monday, when the five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council — the United States, China, Russia, France and Great Britain — issued a statement calling on Israel to withdraw from two Palestinian-controlled cities in the West Bank and urging the Palestinian Authority "to take all possible steps to put an end to violence."

On Tuesday, both Israel and the Palestinian Authority rejected the statement.

Israeli officials said they would withdraw from Jenin and Tulkarm after the Palestinians halt attacks against Israel. Palestinian Cabinet minister Hassan Asfour meanwhile condemned the statement, saying it justified "Israel's terrorist acts against the Palestinian people."

Israeli troops entered six Palestinian-controlled cities in the West Bank following the assassination last month of Tourism Minister Rehavam Ze'evi by Palestinian gunmen. Israel has since withdrawn from four of the areas.

The troops are remaining in Jenin and Tulkarm, Israeli officials say, because of repeated warnings that terror attacks on Israel will be launched from the two cities.

Along with the threats of new Palestinian violence, Sharon also has to contend with the pressures of domestic politics.

One such pressure point was created Monday night by Yossi Beilin, a leading Labor dove and close confidant of Peres.

Beilin accused Sharon of resisting peace by standing firm in his demand for a week of total quiet on the ground before implementing any of the proposals set forth by the Mitchell Commission in April.

A U.S.-led international panel, the commission set out a series of confidence-building measures to help end the Israeli-Palestinian violence.

As part of its new initiative, the United States is expected to press Israel and the Palestinian Authority to commit to the Mitchell recommendations as the means for getting the negotiating process back on track.

Speaking on Israel Television, Beilin said Sharon, for ideological reasons, is determined to avoid making such a commitment.

This, said Beilin, is because Sharon believes that once the negotiations resume, they will focus on the proposed solution put forward by President Clinton a year ago.

At the time, Clinton proposed to then-Premier Ehud Barak and to Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat a Palestinian state on some 95 percent of the West Bank and Gaza. He also proposed that Israel would give the Palestinians territory within Israel that is near the Gaza border in exchange for three West Bank settlement blocs.

In addition, Jerusalem would be divided, with each side holding sovereignty over the areas mostly inhabited by its nationals.

Sharon and the Likud have rejected these proposals, and if they resurface, Likud and Labor would find themselves at odds over how to react — and this could spell the end of the unity government.

Sharon, for his part, apparently hopes that the Bush administration will realize that pushing its proposals too hard could backfire. For if the Sharon government falls, the polls predict, its replacement may well not be a more moderate coalition, but quite possibly a more hawkish one led by Netanyahu. □



## Daily News Bulletin

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## JEWISH WORLD

### Rabbi: Putin foe of anti-Semitism

Russia's chief rabbi said he is convinced that Russian President Vladimir Putin wants to "eradicate" anti-Semitism at home.

Rabbi Berel Lazar led a delegation of six Russian and American Jews that met with Putin on Tuesday night at the Russian Embassy in Washington.

"The meeting proved to me the commitment of President Putin for the well-being of Russian Jewry, his commitment to fighting anti-Semitism in any form in Russia, and letting Russian Jews travel freely and retain their" dual Russian-Israeli citizenship, Lazar told *The Associated Press*.

### Students counseled after crash

Students of a small yeshiva located near the crash site of Flight 587 were given hours of "debriefing" to express their emotions.

Mercaz HaTorah in Belle Harbor, N.Y., was visited by a pair of Jewish counselors on Tuesday.

Debriefing is a stress-reduction exercise, commonly offered to firefighters and police officers, meant to reassure the yeshiva's 65 or so high school students that they are experiencing "normal reactions to an abnormal situation," said Marcel Biberfeld, vice president of Maimonides Medical Center and an advisory member of the local Jewish Board of Family and Childrens Services.

### Archive on WWII camp unveiled

A treasure trove of documents about a Croatian concentration camp is being made available to the public. During the past year, the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington assembled its archive about the Jasenovac camp, where Croatian fascists killed 17,000 Jews and scores of thousands of Serbs, Gypsies and others during World War II.

The archive includes tens of thousands of documents, thousands of photographs and hours of film footage.

### Child needs bone marrow donor

Screening tests will be held in New York for those willing to help a 6-year-old boy who needs a bone marrow transplant.

Ashkenazic Jews between the ages of 18-60 can go to Young Israel of the West Side, 210 W. 91st St. in Manhattan, between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. on Sunday.

### Dresden synagogue defaced

Vandals painted a swastika on the wall of a new synagogue in Dresden, Germany. The synagogue was dedicated last Friday, exactly 63 years after the original synagogue was destroyed by Nazi arsonists during the pogrom known as Kristallnacht.

## Following the Sept. 11 terror attacks, Jewish refugees are stuck in Europe

By Sharon Samber

WASHINGTON (JTA) — Hundreds of Jews are stranded in Moscow and Vienna because of a moratorium on refugee admissions to the United States.

After the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, all refugee interviews and processing stopped because of security issues.

The cessation was part of the United States' general re-evaluation of immigration policies after the attacks on the World Trade Center and Pentagon.

Since Oct. 1, no refugees have been admitted to the United States.

It is unclear when processing and admissions will start up again.

Jewish groups sent a letter Tuesday to President Bush requesting that the refugee admissions program be reinstated.

According to the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society, 470 people in Moscow and 119 HIAS-sponsored refugees in Vienna have been approved for admission to the United States and await the lifting of the moratorium.

More than 200 Jewish cases are also pending in the Vienna office.

Jewish leaders and heads of other refugee organizations met with White House officials last week and planned to meet State Department officials Wednesday to press for a speedy admittance of these refugees.

If the stoppage continues and federal funds are not forthcoming, then there could be dramatic changes at HIAS, according to Leonard Glickman, the president of the group.

There are more than 100 communities in the United States that work on resettling refugees, but some of the staff and programming, particularly in smaller agencies, would likely be cut if the situation does not change soon, Glickman said.

Both the Moscow and Vienna programs have been running for more than 10 years, and a moratorium on all refugees has never happened before, Glickman said.

Other immigration-related programs, such as student visas and work visas, are being allowed to continue.

The moratorium is an overreaction from the federal government, Glickman said.

For its part, the State Department said the annual review of how many refugees will be admitted has been delayed because of the Sept. 11 attacks, but it hopes to complete this review shortly.

"We are optimistic that this will happen very quickly," a State Department official said.

Given the uncertainty of how long the stoppage will continue and the possible staff reductions, Glickman is unsure of the ability of his agency to assist the administration if months from now the White House looks to HIAS for resettlement of Afghans displaced during the current war.

"When the government turns to us for help, we may not be there," he said. □

## Hungary blasted for silence on far right

NEW YORK (JTA) — The Hungarian government is not doing anything to combat an anti-Semitic political party, according to the leader of Hungary's Jewish community.

The government's silence on the activities of the Hungarian Justice and Life Party, known as MIEP, is connected with the country's upcoming parliamentary elections, Peter Tordai said.

The ruling government of Prime Minister Viktor Orban may be toning down its criticism of the far-right group because it wants to maintain its hold on power in the elections, scheduled for next spring.

Orban's party, the Young Democrats, is in a battle with the Socialists in the campaign.

While it is unlikely to form a government with Hungarian Justice and Life because it fears criticism from the European community, some observers believe the conservative party will count on the unofficial support of the right-wing MIEP to form a ruling coalition. □

**BEHIND THE HEADLINES****Congregants absorb the news — a hung jury in rabbi murder case**

By Suzanne Pollak

CHERRY HILL, N.J. (JTA) — With no decision on whether their former rabbi is a murderer, members of Congregation M'Kor Shalom are seeking solace in community.

Hours after a jury reported Tuesday that it couldn't decide if Rabbi Fred Neulander had contracted his wife's 1994 murder, some 35 members of M'Kor Shalom came together to sing songs and listen to peaceful readings. Neulander's wife, Carol, was found beaten to death at the couple's home on Nov. 1, 1994.

Authorities say the rabbi wanted his wife killed so he could continue an affair. Neulander resigned his pulpit in February 1995 amid reports that he had been unfaithful.

After 40 hours of deliberation, the jury announced that it couldn't reach a unanimous decision, and Judge Linda Baxter declared a mistrial. A guilty verdict could have sent Neulander to death row. Camden County Prosecutor Lee Solomon said his office will retry Neulander.

Neulander's attorney, Jeffrey Zucker, said his client "certainly is relieved, but he's disappointed he wasn't completely cleared."

Zucker said he will ask for bail, but Solomon said his office will oppose any such request.

Neulander has been in jail since June 2000.

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."

Even without a clear decision, members of M'Kor Shalom felt the need to process the outcome together.

"This is a simple gathering of prayer," Rabbi Barry Schwartz, who now presides over the synagogue of 900 families, said of Tuesday night's gathering.

At the trial, Neulander was accused of picking a Tuesday night for the murder since it's a busy night at the synagogue and many congregants would see him there. In fact, Cantor Anita Hockman testified that Neulander visited her choir practice that night, something he had rarely if ever done before.

Indeed, just before the congregation's 30-minute healing service began on this Tuesday evening, the choir could be heard practicing and the confirmation class could be seen winding down.

Many of those at the service had been close to Carol Neulander. They wanted the comfort of being together, Schwartz said.

"Shared joy is double. Shared sorrow is halved," he said. "Family and community become so important in trying times."

Schwartz never once mentioned Neulander's name or the trial's outcome. "We pray for tidy endings," he said. "We pray for certainties, but that's not always the way. Life is complicated."

Many at M'Kor Shalom had hoped for a clear verdict to end this seven-year ordeal.

"I just wish there was closure," said Sheila Goodman, who had been president of the synagogue when Carol Neulander was killed. However, she said, life at M'Kor Shalom goes on.

Sherry Wolkoff, a member for 23 years, agreed.

"The synagogue has grown. We are vibrant," Wolkoff said. "I as a congregant am proud of the way we've dealt with it and stayed

as dynamic as ever." After the jury reported that it couldn't reach a decision, the synagogue's president, Robert Elias, issued a statement.

"As a community, it was Congregation M'Kor Shalom's hope that this lengthy trial would have come to a legal conclusion," he said. "It is our continual hope that justice will be served. Our hearts continue to go out to the family of Carol Neulander and to all those in our own community" affected by these events.

Indeed, for many in the community, the trial had been almost as newsworthy as America's war in Afghanistan. "It hasn't been just the main topic of conversation. It's the only topic," said Jerrold Colton, who sends his children to M'Kor Shalom's day school.

"It's devastating for people to know that the person who married them, Bar-Mitzvahed them, officiated at their parents funeral turned out to be a treacherous, lecherous human being — and that's regardless of whether he's a murderer."

After the trial, attorney Glenn Zeitz called the hung jury "predictable," noting that the two hit men, Leonard Jenoff and Paul Michael Daniels, lacked credibility, and that Neulander himself had been "seriously impeached" during cross examination.

Jenoff had testified that he killed Carol Neulander after her husband had promised him \$30,000 and a chance to work for the Mossad, Israel's spy agency.

However, Jenoff later admitted on the stand that he often lies to inflate his achievements and that he has a drinking problem. Daniels testified that he has suffered from drug problems. □

(JTA correspondent Rachel Pomerance in New York contributed to this report.)

**At federations' meeting, Bronfman calls for more youthful leadership**By Stewart Ain  
New York Jewish Week

WASHINGTON (JTA) — The outgoing chairman of the United Jewish Communities, Charles Bronfman, has challenged the UJC leadership to "change the perception out there that rich, old guys who write big checks are the only ones who count."

"There are rich young men and women, who may or may not write big checks but who may have a wealth of ideas," he said. "They may even have a desire to become more involved with the Jewish community. Will we give them the opportunity to lead?" Bronfman, said in his departing speech to the North American Jewish federation system.

"If a person in his 20s or 30s can lead a major corporation, why can't she or he run a federation project or an agency or, indeed, a federation?"

Bronfman made his comments Monday at the UJC's annual General Assembly, held this year in Washington.

Bronfman pointed out also that private Jewish foundations, which now have assets in excess of \$25 billion and distribute more than \$1 billion annually to Jewish and non-Jewish causes, have surpassed the federation system in their distribution of dollars. Last year, federations in the U.S. and Canada raised \$920 million; its endowment funds total \$8 billion.

"These numbers have to tell us that we are living in a very new Jewish philanthropic world," Bronfman said. "Are Jewish foundations a threat to us or can we collaborate with them, now and in the future?" □