



# Daily News Bulletin

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84th Year

## TOP NEWS IN BRIEF

### **Poll: Support for intifada falling**

A poll of Palestinians shows growing dissatisfaction with the uprising against Israel.

In a survey conducted last month by the Palestinian Center for Public Opinion, 75 percent of respondents supported continuing the uprising, while 18 percent said it should be halted. In a poll this month, some 59 percent were in favor of the fighting, while 30 percent wanted it to end.

A growing number of Palestinians are discouraged by the devastating effect the uprising has had on the economy in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, pollster Nabil Kukali said.

### **Israel nabs 3 suspected terrorists**

Israel arrested three suspected terrorists in the West Bank. One of the three, Ibrahim Nazal, told interrogators he intended to carry out a suicide bombing in Israel, Army Radio reported.

Nazal is the brother of a suicide bomber who attacked a bus in Tel Aviv in 1994, killing 22 people and wounding 42 others.

### **Israeli troops staying in Jenin**

Israeli tanks and troops surrounding Jenin were ordered to remain in place.

Wednesday's order came in the wake of continued reports from Israeli intelligence officials that terror attacks are going to be launched against Israel from the West Bank city.

### **Settler leaders slam Powell**

Israeli settler leaders vowed to continue expanding settlements.

Leaders of the Yesha Council, which represents Israeli settlers in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, said they would oppose U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell's call on Monday for "Israeli settlement activity to stop." The Council issued a statement Wednesday calling on Prime Minister Ariel Sharon to repudiate Powell's remarks concerning settlements and Powell's use of the term "occupied land" in his Mideast policy speech.

REMINDER: The JTA DAILY NEWS BULLETIN will not be published Friday, Nov. 23.

## FOCUS ON ISSUES

### **With governance issues solved, federation system turns to vision**

By Julie Wiener

NEW YORK (JTA) — When Charles Bronfman stepped down last week as chairman of the United Jewish Communities Board of Trustees, he threw out a bold challenge to the thousands of federation leaders who had gathered to hear his valedictory remarks.

Addressing UJC's General Assembly in Washington, the former Seagram co-chairman dared to ask: "In the new world of Jewish philanthropy, will UJC and the federation system be relevant?" Citing a biblical proverb etched on his father's gravestone that reads, "Where there is no vision, the people perish," Bronfman said we are living in "an age that cries out for forceful vision."

"The baton is in your hands, my friends, and with it, the future of the Jewish people," he said. "In these early days of the 21st century, I pray that indeed you will be visionary pioneers."

His words were proof enough that UJC is at a crossroads today. The heavy work of hammering out the governance details of the merger of three national organizations that took some six years to implement is mostly completed. Now many, like Bronfman, are clamoring for the new entity to offer more vision and leadership, and to clarify its goals and priorities for the coming years.

Much will be determined by the actions of the new people at the top: Stephen Hoffman, the president and CEO, and James Tisch, Bronfman's successor as chairman of the board. In their new roles, Hoffman, 50, and Tisch, 49, face an array of competing demands from the 189 federations that are "owners" of the organization:

- offer vision and leadership that is strong and decisive, yet not authoritarian;
- address the major issues of the times without stepping on the toes of Jewish advocacy groups; and
- trim the group's approximately \$44 million budget, while offering more services.

On top of these demands, is Bronfman's call for vision, along with other advice and criticism. In his speech, Bronfman urged the federation system to strengthen its relationships with Jewish family foundations and major philanthropists and to partner with them on bold new national initiatives, in such areas as adult Jewish literacy. He also called on the UJC and federations to recruit young leaders.

"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.

In an interview with journalists, Bronfman also called on the UJC to be more vocal about major issues, even if it risks alienating some donors. And he criticized the group's slow, consensus process of decision-making.

"You can process yourself to death," Bronfman said, adding that it would be better for federations and the UJC to vote on major issues and move forward, based on what the overwhelming majority chooses, rather than deliberating until arriving at a plan everyone approves.

Hoffman, who joined the UJC this summer after serving as the top executive of the Cleveland federation since 1983, said he agrees with most of Bronfman's observations, particularly about strengthening ties to foundations and reaching younger leaders.

However, while acknowledging how "frustrating" consensus can be, he said it is necessary in a voluntary organization. Otherwise member federations "vote with their pocketbooks" or "vote with their feet" and choose to opt out of the system.

Nevertheless he believes the UJC can take a stronger role in "rallying support" for

## MIDEAST FOCUS

### 2 Hamas members captured

Israeli forces captured two senior Hamas members near Tulkarm.

Samir Mansour Khaida and his brother Salim were nabbed by an elite navy unit in the West Bank village of Kafr Labad, Israel Radio reported.

The two brothers — a 24-year-old Palestinian policeman and a 19-year-old university student — are accused by Israel of having participated in terrorist activities.

### Settlers block roads

Israeli settlers blocked West Bank roads Wednesday to Palestinian drivers.

Residents of Tekoa and Nokdim, two settlements south of Jerusalem, frequently have been targeted by Palestinian gunmen.

In one such attack, Sarit Amrani, 26, of Nokdim, was shot dead, and her husband wounded, two months ago.

### Ben-Gurion Airport strike ends

Workers ended their strike at Israel's Ben-Gurion Airport. Flights to and from the airport were scheduled to resume Wednesday after a strike crippled the airport for 31 hours.

The strike ended after workers accepted management's offer of an 8 percent wage hike.

Some 60 outbound flights were canceled during the strike, leaving more than 1,500 passengers stranded.

### Air crash victim buried in Israel

The Israeli killed in the Nov. 12 American Airlines crash in New York was buried Wednesday in Israel.

Ilan Wasserman, one of the 260 people who died in the Flight 587 crash, grew up in Israel and moved to New York 20 years ago. After his body was identified, it was flown to Israel for burial.



## Daily News Bulletin

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decisions once they are made — something it did this summer in planning a national solidarity rally for Israel.

Although the rally was ultimately canceled in the wake of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, it was expected to draw approximately 150,000 people, and had the support and participation of virtually all mainstream American Jewish organizations.

Asked his vision, Hoffman said, "The bottom line is I want us to build people, to build communities and to build commitment." He said he is "not ready to go public with specific goals," but will be outlining his strategy in the coming months.

Asked his leadership approach, Hoffman said he tends to do "a lot of listening, and I make an effort to synthesize what the various factions are calling for to have happen on a given issue."

Then he presents options. "You have to do a lot of listening before you offer a vision, and you have to know where the clients are at," he said.

Tisch, who is the president and chief executive officer of Loews Corporation and past president of the New York federation, said he would like to see the UJC remain focused on its core goal: "to help Jews in need, here, around the world and in Israel" and make sure that the Jewish public is aware of the work of the federation system.

Asked his specific goals for the UJC, Tisch said he would like to "leave this organization yet even stronger than it currently is."

"I'd like to leave it as an amicable place, where it can attract the best and brightest of the Jewish community to seek leadership roles," he said. "I also want to create an environment where executives and laypeople feel that they can experiment and possibly even fail."

If Tisch succeeds, he will have gone a long way toward inspiring the kind of innovation and pioneering spirit that Bronfman urged in his speech last week. □

## Holocaust denier admits links to bin Laden's terrorist network

By Fredy Rom

BERN (JTA) — A Holocaust denier has admitted having links to members of Osama bin Laden's Al Qaida terror network. Along with his activities as a denier, Ahmed Huber, 73, is believed to be a key figure in coordinating activities between Islamic extremists and European neo-Nazis.

In an interview with JTA, Huber admitted to having met in Beirut on several occasions with bin Laden followers, whom he described as "very intelligent and nice guys."

A well-known Holocaust denier, Huber helped plan a Holocaust revisionism conference that was slated for earlier this year in Beirut. The conference ultimately was cancelled because of international pressure.

Huber sits on the board of Al Taqwa, a financial company based in the Swiss city of Lugano. Earlier this month, President Bush issued a list of individuals and firms with suspected links to Al Qaida that included both Huber and Al Taqwa. Huber denied that he or Al Taqwa have helped bin Laden — but told JTA that he is proud to be on the list.

He also revealed that he plans to address a conference of Holocaust deniers that will be held soon in Tehran.

He added in the telephone interview that the Muslim holy war against Israel already has begun and that "no real Muslim will tolerate a Jewish state in Palestine."

The Swiss daily newspaper Blick and German Television had reports this week focusing on Huber's role as a go-between for Islamic extremists and neo-Nazis.

In the Blick report, Huber said the greatest leaders of the 20th century were Hitler and Ayatollah Khomeini. The report on German TV showed Huber at a rally of Germany's extreme right-wing National Democratic Party.

In October, members of the neo-Nazi party made their sympathies clear when they celebrated the Sept. 11 terror attacks against the United States during a demonstration in Berlin marking the 11th anniversary of German reunification. Party members called the attacks against the World Trade Center and Pentagon a justified response to American policy, and protested Germany's support for America's war on terrorism.

Huber told JTA that he has been in contact with the National Democratic Party. "They are brave people who understand that the Holocaust is a big lie," he said. □

## JEWISH WORLD

### Genocide conference in Rwanda

Rwanda is hosting a conference at which genocide survivors will share their experiences.

Representatives of the Jewish, Armenian, Cambodian, Bosnian and Rwandan communities have been invited to the six-day conference, which opens in Kigali on Sunday.

### Threats halt Brazil ceremony

Opening ceremonies for a Jewish center in Brazil were canceled.

Citing terrorist threats, the board of directors of the new center in the city of Recife said the building will be opened to the public without any official ceremonies.

Located where the 17th-century Zur Israel Synagogue once stood, the center is slated to host public lectures and an exhibit on Jewish immigration to Brazil. The opening was indefinitely postponed last month after Brazil's president refused to attend a dedication ceremony because he feared a possible terrorist attack.

### Synagogue reopens after arson

A U.S. synagogue reopened a year after it was damaged in a fire.

The Oct. 13, 2000, fire at Temple Beth El in Syracuse, N.Y., damaged the sanctuary and its stained-glass windows.

### Sept. 11 boosts supremacists

White supremacist groups are using the Sept. 11 terror attacks to fan religious bigotry, a watchdog group said.

"Blaming the attacks on Jews, Muslims and America's immigration policy, the groups have used the tragedy to accelerate their recruitment among young people and spur activities of hate," according to the Center for New Community, a Chicago-based organization.

The Center issued a report earlier this month called "The State of Hate: White Nationalism in the Midwest 2001-2002," that documents 340 supremacist groups.

### Soccer fans give Nazi salute

A Czech court expelled six young Croat soccer fans from the Czech Republic.

The six were expelled for giving Nazi salutes before an international soccer match against the Czech Republic.

The visiting fans had claimed they raised their right arms as the Croatian national anthem was playing because it is their traditional soccer club greeting.

## AROUND THE JEWISH WORLD

### As new Moscow center opens, rifts surface in Jewish community

By Lev Gorodetsky

MOSCOW (JTA) — The dedication of a new Jewish cultural center here late last week was more than just another triumph in the post-Communist Jewish renaissance.

The opening of the center in a \$3.5 million mansion also was concrete evidence of the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee's new strategy in the former Soviet Union.

But the center's opening also brought to the surface rifts in the Russian Jewish community, primarily between two competing umbrella groups, the Federation of Jewish Communities of Russia and the Russian Jewish Congress.

When the JDC first returned to the former Soviet Union in 1991, it focused its efforts — and the lion's share of its \$60 million — on basic needs and basic community revival efforts.

Now it seems that most of those problems have been solved, particularly in Russia. Hundreds of thousands of Jews across the region have been fed through the system of JDC-run Chesed welfare centers, and the 160 JDC-supported Jewish community centers have helped revive Jewish communal life in many cities and towns.

The main problem today, JDC leaders say, is reaching the majority of Jews.

"Apart from the 25,000 elderly people supported by our Chesed centers, we — together with the Jewish Agency for Israel, Israeli cultural centers and other Jewish organizations combined — are reaching only thousands of the roughly 250,000-strong Moscow Jewish population," said Joel Golovensky, of the JDC's Moscow office.

The goal, according to JDC officials, is to reach out to the Jewish professional classes, which are estimated to make up more than 40 percent of Moscow's Jewish community. "The particular needs of this group have remained unaddressed by Jewish organizations. The new center will fill this gap," said Mikhail Kunin, the center's director.

According to organizers, the new center will become a gathering place for artists, writers and scientists, as well as film, theater and dance enthusiasts — and will serve as a venue for their creations.

The new center is part of a two-center project in Russia's capital — both of which are being supported by the JDC.

The second, larger center will be built in the next several years near Russia's Choral Synagogue and will provide sports facilities and educational programs not possible in the smaller building.

Combined, the projects will cost \$10 million to \$20 million, said Michael Schneider, the JDC's executive vice president.

But the buildings are not making everyone happy.

The federation leadership apparently is displeased with the lack of financial support the JDC gives to the Marina Roscha Jewish center — a mammoth religious and cultural center that only recently was finished — and other federation-supported projects.

The discontent was expressed at last weekend's meeting between leaders of the federation — Russia's largest umbrella Jewish group, with a strong Chabad Lubavitch representation — and a JDC delegation.

And at an annual meeting of the federation Monday, Valery Engel, the CEO of the federation, called the JDC "a foreign organization, which doesn't take into account the real interests of the Russian Jewish community," and which in many places actually undermines Jewish communities that belong to the federation.

After returning to New York, a JDC official said he is puzzled by the federation's reaction — saying there is enough room for both centers.

Moscow is one of the few cities of its size that "doesn't have adequate Jewish community centers to attract Jewish life and to enable Jews to meet," Schneider said.

Schneider added that the JDC and the federation work together on many projects in the Soviet Union and around the world.

The dispute is the latest in the nearly 18-month struggle between the federation and the Russian Jewish Congress for primacy within the Russian Jewish community. □

(JTA Staff Writer Peter Ephross in New York contributed to this report.)

BEHIND THE HEADLINES**Palestinian official in Jerusalem seeks to break impasse with Israel***By Gil Sedan*

JERUSALEM (JTA) — The top Palestinian official in Jerusalem has some ideas for ending the Israeli-Palestinian conflict — though they may not be acceptable to his own people.

Sari Nusseibeh's suggestions come as some Israelis believe the Palestinians have tired of the intifada.

"They thought we would break down after a few months," Maj. Gen. Moshe Ya'alon, the Israel Defense Force's deputy chief of staff, said in a radio interview over the weekend. "They are frustrated that we did not break, and they are now deliberating whether the intifada has exhausted itself, and whether it is time to change direction."

Nusseibeh — recently appointed by Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat as minister in charge of Jerusalem affairs, replacing the late Faisal Husseini — is among those Palestinians who have been trying to suggest a new direction.

Indeed, there are signs that Nusseibeh is not alone in seeking a new approach to ending the conflict.

Mohammed Dahlan, the head of Palestinian security in Gaza, recently condemned what he said was the lack of any real Palestinian strategy to get out of the present stalemate with Israel.

In addition, Israeli politicians sometimes say that, in private conversations, leading Palestinians express exasperation and consternation with Arafat, arguing that he has no vision of where to lead the intifada and is only reacting as events unfold.

Nusseibeh earned a doctorate in Islamic philosophy from Harvard University and serves as president of Al-Quds University in Jerusalem.

He is the son of the late Anwar Nusseibeh, who served as minister of defense in Jordan in the early 1960s.

Like his father, Sari Nusseibeh often has expressed unorthodox views on resolving the decades-old Israeli-Palestinian conflict. In the 1980s, he served time in Israeli jails for allegedly engaging in subversive activities.

He also has been physically attacked in the past by fellow Palestinians for expressing moderate views.

During the past few weeks, for example, Nusseibeh raised Palestinian ire with comments he made in a series of public appearances, as well as with statements that appeared in the Arabic- and Hebrew-language press.

He made clear that in exchange for a peace deal with Israel the Palestinians would have to give up the "right of return" for refugees who fled or were forced to leave their homes in Israel during the 1948 War of Independence.

Such a demand is a "deal breaker" that Israel would never accept, for fear of undermining the Jewish identity of the state, Nusseibeh said. Israelis of all political stripes consider the demand that some 4 million to 5 million Arab refugees and their descendants be allowed into Israel as a veiled call for the elimination of the Jewish state.

In return, Nusseibeh said, Israelis must understand that the Palestinians demand all the land Israel occupied in the 1967 Six-Day War.

This means that Israel would have to give up all its settlements in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, and turn over all of eastern Jerusalem.

Nusseibeh's comments about the refugees might have aroused less outrage among Palestinians just a year and a half ago.

It was only after the collapse of peace talks last year that Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat revived the demand that the right of return be part of a final settlement with Israel.

Before that, it was implicitly understood under the Oslo accords that Palestinians would not demand to return to Israel once they had their own state.

After more than a year of violence, however, Palestinians are not inclined to hear that they too must make concessions for peace.

Just the same, Nusseibeh seems optimistic that his people ultimately will listen to his ideas.

"Although there is a lot of criticism of these views on the Palestinian side, this does not indicate that these views could not be acceptable" to the Palestinian people, Nusseibeh told JTA in an interview over the weekend.

The Palestinians are unhappy with the realities of the current situation, he explained: "They are looking for alternatives."

Nusseibeh is confident that public opinion ultimately will tend his way "if people are made to discuss the problem realistically, and feel that they are going to participate in the decision."

"The stalemate in the conflict is a result of the fact that there is no hope on either side," Nusseibeh told JTA. "But if the leadership on both sides can take this leap forward, then we can break the stalemate."

Despite such optimism, Palestinians took to the streets in Gaza last week to protest Nusseibeh's views.

Others signed a petition challenging his authority to cede the right of return.

Jibril Rajoub, head of Palestinian security in the West Bank — and a moderate in the eyes of some Israelis — said it was the timing of Nusseibeh's comments "which is problematic, not their substance."

But Ahmad Abdul Rahman, a Palestinian Cabinet minister, said Nusseibeh had expressed a "personal opinion" and not the official stance of the Palestinian Authority.

"The official position remains that we are committed to the right of Palestinian refugees to return," Rahman said.

Meron Benvenisti, a longtime Israeli observer of the Palestinian scene, does not believe the Palestinians will rally around Nusseibeh's ideas.

"His public is not willing to hear a rational argument," Benvenisti wrote in Ha'aretz.

But Nusseibeh is convinced that the Palestinians have no choice but to revise their attitude.

"The Arab world and the Palestinian leadership have to take another look at what's possible and what needs to be done and how best to create a future for those refugees," he said. "Rather than allow people to continue dreaming an unattainable dream, replace it with a dream that can" come to life. □

**Israeli film wins silver**

JERUSALEM (JTA) — An Israeli movie won second prize at Greece's biggest film festival. "Late Wedding" tells the story of an arranged marriage in an immigrant family from the former Soviet republic of Georgia.

The film won the prize Monday at the 42nd Thessaloniki Film Festival.

The film swept the Israeli Oscars last week, winning all of the top awards. □