



Daily News Bulletin

Vol. 80, No. 4

Monday, January 7, 2002

85th Year

TOP NEWS IN BRIEF

Israel displays captured ship

Israel flew foreign diplomats and military attaches to Eilat to view a weapons-laden ship it captured last week.

Speaking in front of the ship Sunday, Prime Minister Ariel Sharon accused Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat of issuing the order to purchase the arms "to bring about a regional deterioration which would lead to war."

In another development, U.S. envoy Anthony Zinni met with Israeli and Palestinian security officials. Zinni, who planned to return home Monday, is trying to get the two sides to adopt a cease-fire deal drafted last year by CIA Director George Tenet. **[Page 3]**

Iraqi paper blasts Lieberman

An official Iraqi newspaper called Sen. Joseph Lieberman (D-Conn.) an "arrogant Jew." In a front page editorial Sunday, Al-Thawra, the newspaper of the ruling Ba'ath Party, said Lieberman is "inciting the American administration" against Iraq while also "declaring insolently his support for the Zionist entity."

Lieberman and Sen. John McCain (R-Ariz.) recently signed a letter to President Bush urging him to make Iraq the next target in the U.S.-led war on terrorism.

P.A. says it makes arrests

Palestinian security forces arrested six Islamic Jihad members suspected of planning a terrorist attack inside Israel.

The arrests were made Sunday near the West Bank city of Jenin. Palestinian officials said Ali Saf-fouri, who is on Israel's most-wanted list, was among those arrested.

Five children die in Gaza fire

Five Palestinian children were killed when a fire broke out in their family's tent in the Gaza Strip. Sunday's fire started while the family slept, when a candle tipped over and ignited a bottle of cooking oil. The mother and a sixth child were severely burned and are reported in critical condition. The father lost the use of his legs.

Palestinian security sources said the family had lived in the Khan Yunis refugee camp until last month, but had to move when their house was damaged by Israeli shelling.

PROFILE

In the male world of philanthropy, Lynn Schusterman speaks her mind

By Julie Wiener

NEW YORK (JTA) — When Lynn Schusterman was fixing up her vacation home in Israel a few years ago, she found herself butting heads with a male contractor who didn't want to take orders from a woman.

"I said to him, 'You don't have to listen to me, and I don't have to sign your check,'" she recalled recently, over a breakfast of oatmeal and fresh fruit at an elegant Manhattan hotel. "That turned things around."

A year after her husband, Charles Schusterman, died from leukemia-related complications, Schusterman is still using her checkbook — and her leadership — to make her voice heard in a predominantly man's world.

As head of the Tulsa, Okla.-based Charles and Lynn Schusterman Family Foundation — one of North America's largest Jewish family foundations — Schusterman is one of the only female leaders in the high-powered world of Jewish mega-philanthropy.

The foundation, which in the past five years has given away almost \$35 million to Jewish causes, has been one of the leading players in recent efforts to promote Jewish identity and educational projects.

It is a founding partner of two multimillion dollar projects: the Partnership for Excellence in Jewish Education, which supports Jewish day schools, and Synagogue Transformation and Renewal, known as STAR. The foundation is also one of 14 groups or individuals that donated \$5 million to Birthright Israel, which sends young Jews on free 10-day trips to Israel.

It has also been a major funder of Hillel: The Foundation for Jewish Campus Life, the Jewish Outreach Institute, the Reform movement's World Union for Progressive Judaism and a range of other Jewish causes in North America, Israel and the former Soviet Union.

The foundation also is a major presence funding secular causes in Tulsa.

Since her husband's death on Dec. 30, 2000, Schusterman has continued support for ongoing projects, but has also overseen several key changes, including:

- providing start-up funds to enable the financially struggling B'nai B'rith Youth Organization to become an independent nonprofit;
- creating a Washington satellite office for the foundation;
- joining Emet, a partnership focused on improving Israel's image in the media;
- joining a partnership focused on Jewish early childhood education; and
- issuing an annual report for the first time.

In many of her speeches and appearances in the past year, Schusterman has spoken of her husband, and how she sees her work as a continuation of their partnership.

"I do feel that through me, our children and all the people we touch, Charlie will survive," she said in the interview.

Petite and soft-spoken, she is also known for being strong-willed and is a self-described "type A personality" who as a child went by the nickname "fireball."

Schusterman was active in the foundation before her husband's death, particularly because his medical condition limited his ability to travel.

But he was the foundation president and the figure most closely associated with the foundation.

Schusterman is not the only woman replacing Charles Schusterman at the top levels of power. The couple's daughter, Stacy, recently became CEO of the family business,

MIDEAST FOCUS

Israelis draft vision statement

A prominent group of Israelis drafted a vision statement of what they believe should be the character and aims of the state of Israel.

The "Kinneret Covenant" was produced by some 60 people in an effort to forge a statement encompassing the Jewish and democratic values of the State of Israel.

Religious and secular participants came from all sectors of society, including business, politics, military and academia.

They include the head of the National Security Council, Uzi Dayan; Peace Now founder Yuli Tamir; and the granddaughter of the late Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, Noa Ben Artzi.

One critic of the document, civil rights activist and former legislator Shulamit Aloni, told the Israeli daily Ha'aretz the initiative restates what is already in Israel's Declaration of Independence.

El Al jet lands after engine fire

A London-bound El Al flight landed safely after an engine fire.

The fire broke out in one of the plane's four engines about 10 minutes after takeoff Sunday from Tel Aviv.

The plane, carrying 417 passengers, turned around and landed safely at Israel's Ben-Gurion Airport.

Israeli wins tennis title

An Israeli female tennis player won her first tournament on the women's tour.

Anna Smashnova, 25, defeated Tatyana Panova of Russia in straight sets in the New Zealand tournament.

Smashnova, ranked 88th in the world, defeated heartthrob Anna Kournikova in the semifinals last Friday.



Daily News Bulletin

Ivan Michael Schaeffer, *President*

Mark J. Joffe, *Executive Editor and Publisher*

Lisa Hostein, *Editor*

Michael S. Arnold, *Managing Editor*

Lenore A. Silverstein, *Business Manager*

Paula Simmonds, *Marketing and Development Director*

JTA DAILY NEWS BULLETIN is published five days a week, except holidays, by the Jewish Telegraphic Agency Inc., 330 Seventh Ave., New York, N.Y. 10001-5010. For information about how to subscribe by e-mail, fax or regular mail, call (212) 643-1890, or visit our Web site at www.jta.org.
© JTA Reproduction only by previous arrangement.

Samson Resources, an oil drilling company with extensive real estate holdings.

The Schustermans married in 1962, despite the fact that Charles — caught up in work at an oil well — was more than three hours late for their first date.

Charles' Jewish background was stronger than that of Lynn, who grew up in a German Jewish household in Kansas City that belonged to a Reform temple, but also celebrated Christmas and Easter.

But both were inspired by a 1977 family trip to Israel that Lynn said "was totally my Birthright trip," which has been credited with getting assimilated young Jews interested in Judaism.

"I felt if I didn't get involved, the Holocaust could happen again," she said.

In 1983, Charles, who was then 47, was diagnosed with chronic myelogenous leukemia. He was told he had less than three years to live, but an experimental treatment enabled him to outlive the prediction by 15 years.

Soon after his diagnosis, the couple created the foundation, whose mission is to support programs "that seek to enrich and expand Jewish communities in the United States, Israel and the former Soviet Union," as well social, educational and cultural groups in Tulsa.

"I said to him at the time, I don't want to do this in your memory, I want to do it with you," Lynn Schusterman said.

Living with the disease was challenging — "there were times I got hysterical and cried," she said — but also helped keep the couple focused on their philanthropic goals.

"You either go to bed and lift the covers over your head or you live life, and we totally lived it," she said.

Schusterman said she was further inspired when they visited Holocaust survivors who "went on to have productive lives."

"I felt if they could do that, I could cope with this," she said.

Schusterman has not been oblivious to her role as a pioneer in a philanthropic world she describes as "mainly dominated by men."

She is quick to cite studies showing low numbers of women on Jewish organizational boards and in top Jewish professional positions. She criticizes the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations for only having had one woman chair when "I can think of half a dozen capable women who could have done the job."

Since Schusterman took the helm of the foundation, "there's been some testing" by men who expected her to be a "pushover" she said, but she declined to speak on the record about specifics.

She is also aware of her role as a spokeswoman for another minority in the corridors of American Jewish power: Jews from small communities like Tulsa.

"People in New York sometimes can't see beyond New York," she said. "It's vitally important that people understand that there are Jews out there, that we need to be part of the Jewish world."

So far, Schusterman seems to be holding her own, earning praise and respect from the mega-philanthropists.

Michael Steinhardt, who has partnered with the Schustermans on several major projects, said Schusterman is "well-respected and uniformly liked" and credits Schusterman with "basically singlehandedly saving BBYO."

"She's not afraid of new challenges and not afraid to take risks, to be at the forefront in this enterprise philanthropy mentality where you're doing things that are speculative and require important judgments, and where you don't have a pre-set established organization to help you," he said.

Schusterman is "still not as totally sure of herself as she might be, but certainly more sure of herself than she was a year ago," Steinhardt said.

At a recent meeting, Steinhardt said, Schusterman was forceful in presenting a view that many others opposed: that small Jewish day schools be encouraged to admit some non-Jewish students as a way of increasing tuition revenues and building a critical mass of students.

Marlene Post, North American chairwoman of Birthright and the immediate past president of Hadassah: The Women's Zionist Organization of America, said she does not think the fact that Schusterman is "a woman in a man's world is an issue."

"She has a good team that works with her, and she's a hands-on person," Post said. "She doesn't just give money away." □

JEWISH WORLD

Israel, Palestinians trade charges after arms are seized on high seas

By Naomi Segal

JERUSALEM (JTA) — Israel's capture of a weapons-laden ship it says was bound for the Gaza Strip has dealt a new blow to its already-frayed relations with the Palestinian Authority.

Just the same, security officials from the two sides discussed a truce with the U.S. envoy to the Middle East, Anthony Zinni.

Zinni, who was slated to return home Monday, tried to get the two sides to adopt a cease-fire deal drafted last year by CIA Director George Tenet.

After meeting with Zinni earlier Sunday, Foreign Minister Shimon Peres said cease-fire efforts with the Palestinians will continue, despite the Palestinian Authority's attempt to smuggle arms into the region. Palestinian officials denied any involvement in the incident, which Peres said had damaged the Palestinian Authority's credibility.

In Washington last Friday, the U.S. State Department condemned "any attempt to smuggle weapons" into the area because providing weapons to militants "escalates the conflict."

During his meeting with the security officials, Zinni got the two sides to use an agreement reached by Peres and Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat at a meeting several months ago at the Gaza airport as the basis for future cease-fire talks.

During that meeting, Peres and Arafat outlined specific steps the two sides would take for implementing the Tenet plan.

The steps included a call for Israel to lift its blockade on population centers, and for the Palestinian Authority to clamp down on terrorists.

But it remained unclear whether the two sides would be able to make any progress toward a cease-fire following Israel's capture of the Palestinian-owned ship, the *Karine-A*. On Sunday, Israel flew foreign diplomats and military attaches to Eilat to view the ship.

Speaking in front of the ship Sunday, Prime Minister Ariel Sharon accused Arafat of issuing the order to purchase the arms "to bring about a regional deterioration which would lead to war."

On Jan. 3, Israeli commandos captured the ship in international waters in the Red Sea, about 300 miles from Eilat. The ship's cargo included Iranian-made weapons, including rockets, missiles, mortars and mines.

Calling Arafat a "bitter enemy" of Israel, Sharon said Sunday that the Palestinian leader had made a "strategic decision" to align himself with terrorists.

"The Palestinian Authority is a central part in the international terror network, with Iran at its center," Sharon said.

Despite the repeated denials from Palestinian officials, the Israel Defense Force chief of staff, Lt. Gen. Shaul Mofaz, said the Palestinian link to the boat was "unequivocal and undeniable." Israeli officials said the captured crew of the *Karine-A* included several senior Palestinian Authority naval officers, including the captain.

Mofaz said the official had confirmed that the Palestinian Authority was behind the smuggling attempt. Mofaz also said the weapons were headed to militants in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. The rockets and mortars included in the shipment would have posed a direct threat to Israeli cities and towns, he added.

Speaking at Sunday's weekly Cabinet meeting, Mofaz said the government should reassess its policy toward the Palestinians in light of the weapons seizure.

For their part, Palestinian officials charged that Israel was trying to make political hay out of the weapons shipment and scuttle Zinni's second mission to the region.

As Israelis and Palestinians traded charges and countercharges, U.S. officials painted an optimistic picture of the Zinni mission.

In a statement issued by the U.S. Consulate in Jerusalem, the officials said Zinni had started to lay the foundation needed to implement a cease-fire. "It is clear that, while serious challenges remain, there are real opportunities for progress," the statement said.

It gave no time frame for the possible implementation of a truce, but said security talks between the two sides would continue after Zinni left the region.

The statement added that Zinni "will return to the region in the near future to assess what the parties have been able to accomplish." □

Big dollars urged for education

A new report calls for an investment of more than \$2.5 billion in Jewish education. "Talking Dollars and Sense About Jewish Education" by Jewish Theological Seminary Provost Jack Wertheimer, estimates that improving Jewish day schools and congregational schools in North America is a multibillion-dollar endeavor.

Wertheimer's report, sponsored by the Avi Chai Foundation and the American Jewish Committee, factors in plans to dramatically increase enrollment in Jewish day schools, build new facilities and recruit and train teachers.

It also notes the need for significantly more investment in Jewish early childhood programs, camping and youth work. "The needs of the field are vast," the report says.

NYU to train Jewish professionals

New York University is offering a new program to train Jewish communal professionals.

The university's school of public service and department of Hebrew and Judaic studies are joining forces for the program, which will offer two degrees: a master's of public administration, with a focus in nonprofit management, and a master's of Judaic studies.

Neo-Nazi released, rearrested

A Russian who had been jailed for allegedly bombing a Latvian synagogue in 1998 was released from jail.

Dimitri Mashkov, who is allegedly a member of a neo-Nazi group, was then rearrested on suspicion he was involved in murdering a judge. The bombing case against Mashkov collapsed after witnesses failed to identify him in police photos, according to his lawyer.

Journalists urged to stop hate

Moldovan journalists should stop contributing to publications that foment anti-Semitism and racism, human rights activists say.

The comments came during a meeting of the Helsinki Citizens Assembly of Moldova late last month in Kishinev, the capital of the former Soviet republic.

Shalom, bloke

A Jewish radio station has hit London's airwaves. Shalom FM went live Sunday after being granted a one-month license from Britain's Radio Authority. The all-Jewish radio station is airing news, music, religious content, interviews and listener call-in shows.

"Since the events of Sept. 11 and the current problems in the Middle East, it is even more important that the Jewish community makes its views known," said the station's founder, Richard Ford.

AROUND THE JEWISH WORLD

Biking trip offers Birthright folks new view of Israel, plus a workout*By Jessica Steinberg*

JERUSALEM (JTA) — With helmets and gloves strapped on, water bottles filled, the 40 cyclists on a Birthright Israel trip put their bikes in first gear and set out on the 18-mile ascent to Jerusalem.

They rode unpaved, gravelly roads past cypress and olive trees, stopping to pick and gnaw on pieces of carob. Muscles burning and breath coming in short bursts, they climbed steep hills, with some opting to walk their bikes up instead.

At the end, they were elated to have finished the ride.

"It was incredible," said Loren Freedman, 21, a student at the University of California at Santa Barbara. "I love riding a bike, and exercise really clears my mind, allows me to really see and learn about this place."

That's how most participants on Birthright Israel By Bike! Challenge feel about this program, chosen from among 30 different options offered by Birthright, which offers free, 10-day trips to Israel for Jews ages 18 to 26.

These are tourists who don't want to travel around Israel by bus, even if it is their first time seeing the Western Wall, climbing Masada or floating on the Dead Sea.

"I really didn't want to sit on a bus for 10 days," said Noah Spector, 21, from Ottawa, Canada, who runs a mountain biking program at a summer camp.

"But I always wanted to come to Israel, so a bike trip was an added bonus."

Touring Israel off the beaten track is clearly a different type of tourism.

Israel By Bike! was created by Avi Green, a 25-year-old entrepreneur living in Chicago.

A lover of cycling and the Middle East, he proposed the mountain biking trip to Israel Experience Educational Initiatives, an organization that creates several specialized programs for Birthright.

The plan was to offer an eco-adventure for young Jews who wanted to get a glimpse of Israel, but not in the standard way.

The participants spend five of their 10 days cycling around the country, as well as hiking and rappelling.

Along the way, they see the standard Birthright sites, including the Western Wall, Masada, Yad Vashem, the Knesset and the Supreme Court.

"We did some pretty inventive marketing," said Green, who works as a business consultant. "We even placed an ad in Outdoor Magazine."

During the initial registration, 296 people planned to participate in the bike trip this winter.

When it came time to pay the \$200 registration fee, the numbers fell to about 240, Green said.

Later, when a series of suicide bombings in early December claimed 26 victims in Jerusalem and Haifa, the number of participants dropped to 110.

While the security situation scared away many prospective participants, Birthright officials are still pleased that 6,000 Jews will have participated in this winter's programs, some 3,500 of them from North America.

"Considering the situation, we're not doing too badly," a

Birthright spokesman said. Some 24,000 youth have gone on Birthright trips since the program began in late 1999, 14,000 of them in 2001.

Birthright officials are hoping that 18,000 will participate in 2002.

According to initial figures gathered in 1998, the five-year plan estimated a total of 93,887 participants through 2004.

Despite some apprehensions about the security situation, 37 participants for the first leg of Israel By Bike! — the rest will come in January and February — boarded a plane for Israel, some with bicycle seats and pedals tucked in their suitcases.

Some of this week's participants were serious cyclists, taking part in races and rides around the world.

Others just looked the part, including New Yorker Moshe Rubinstein, who was wearing a red-and-white polka dot spandex biking shirt and shorts that he purchased from auction Web site eBay.com.

"Spandex is the big joke in the group," said Green, referring to the shiny, stretchy fabric often worn by serious runners and cyclists to absorb sweat.

Only a few participants actually shipped their own bicycles; most just brought some creature comforts, as well as helmets, gloves, pedals and comfortable biking gear.

There also were more than a few beginners, whose only experience with cycling was down the paved streets of their hometowns and cities.

Yelena Sukhodrev, a Brooklyn College student, rides a bicycle regularly, but usually down Ocean Parkway. She kept a slow but steady pace at the back of the slower group during the Jerusalem ride.

Natasha Goets, a Chicago native, was surprised at how hard it was to log six miles on unpaved tracks, compared to her usual 12-mile circuit at the University of Illinois. She, too, took it slow on the downhills.

Others put in some time training before the trip.

Laura Kaplan, 25, of Fairfax, Va., took spinning classes for three months, hoping the intensive exercise from hopping on and off a stationary bicycle would help.

It helped, she said, munching on canned stuffed grape leaves after finishing a day's five-hour ride. She's also quite satisfied with the group.

"This was my top choice and it's an awesome group," Kaplan said.

"I just want to talk to folks, understand the politics and enjoy the people I'm with."

The mix of ages and backgrounds on the biking trip was unusual for a Birthright group, Green said.

About half are in college, while the other half fall between the ages of 22 and 26.

Rubinstein, 24, a Lubavitch Jew from Brooklyn's Crown Heights isn't a stereotypical eco-applicant for the bike trip.

But Rubinstein is the right age, and had never attended a peer group trip to Israel, even though he has been to the Jewish state before.

"I felt I had to come back at this time to give strength to Israel as things escalate," said Rubinstein, who has been traveling the world since attending rabbinic college in Australia.

"I was kind of apprehensive to be the religious Jew in the group, but it's been great to be with these people," he said. "There are no cliques here; we're all individuals. I don't feel like I'm taking anyone's seat." □