



# Daily News Bulletin

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## TOP NEWS IN BRIEF

### Crown Heights ruling overturned

The conviction of two men for their role in the death of Chasidic Jew in Crown Heights in 1991 was overturned.

The U.S. Second Circuit Court of Appeals found Monday that the defendants, Lemrick Nelson Jr. and Charles Price, did not receive a fair trial because the judge manipulated the jury selection process when attempting to find a racially and religiously balanced jury.

A new trial has been ordered for the two on federal charges of violating the civil rights of Yankel Rosenbaum, who was killed during riots between blacks and Jews in the Brooklyn neighborhood.

Nelson earlier was acquitted of murder in state court.

### Arms ship captain speaks out

The jailed captain of a captured weapons ship said he had acted on orders of a Palestinian Authority official in Greece.

In an interview with Israeli television stations from his jail cell, Omar Acawi said he knew the cargo contained arms intended for the Palestinian Authority. Yasser Arafat and other P.A. officials have denied any link to the ship, which Israeli commandos captured last week carrying 50 tons of weapons.

### Paris synagogue attacked

Assailants threw gasoline bombs and stones at a synagogue in suburban Paris.

No one was injured, but the synagogue sustained minor damage in the attack, which took place Saturday in the Paris suburb of Goussainville, police said.

French President Jacques Chirac condemned a spate of recent attacks on synagogues and said he hoped the perpetrators would "be punished as necessary."

The latest incident took place a week after assailants tossed gasoline bombs at a Jewish school in the southeastern Paris suburb of Creteil, setting a classroom on fire.

### Mr. Peres goes to India

Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres arrived Monday in India. During the three-day visit, Peres is scheduled to meet with India's president, foreign minister and defense minister. [Page 4]

## BEHIND THE HEADLINES

### After scholars snafu, Vatican seeks more ties to world Jewry

By Ruth E. Gruber

ROME (JTA) — The wartime record of Pope Pius XII, the need to open the Vatican's secret archives and other unresolved Holocaust issues remain key obstacles in Vatican-Jewish dialogue.

But Jewish and Catholic experts alike say these issues should not hold back a process that otherwise is unfolding in a positive way.

"Jewish-Catholic relations have never been so good," David Rosen, the American Jewish Committee's international director for interreligious affairs, told JTA from his Jerusalem office.

"In that context, issues such as Pius XII" should be "seen as what they are, fleeting clouds over a positive horizon," he said. "Though obviously, for those caught in a thunderstorm under those clouds, the clouds are all they see."

In recent months, in fact, thunderstorms over Pius XII brought relations between the Vatican and its traditional primary Jewish partner, the International Jewish Committee for Interreligious Consultations, to their lowest point in years.

Pope John Paul II has long planned to beatify Pius XII, a step toward making him a saint.

But some Jews accuse Pius of virtual complicity with the Nazi regime because of his public silence in the face of Nazi genocide against the Jews.

A Jewish-Catholic team of scholars set up by the Vatican and IJCIC in 1999 to study the Holocaust role of the Vatican and Pius XII foundered last year amid acrimonious attacks from both sides after the team was denied full access to the Holy See's wartime archives.

The bitter rupture, writes IJCIC Chairman Seymour Reich in the current issue of Congress Monthly magazine, "threatens to derail the Catholic-Jewish dialogue.

"For those of us on both sides who have invested years in an effort to repair the historic breach between the church and the Jewish people, the current roadblock to continuing dialogue is disconcerting and disheartening," he writes.

But Reich, too, recognizes that Jewish-Catholic dialogue is increasingly multifaceted and encompasses a much broader agenda.

"Aside from the issues of Pius XII and the archives, Catholic-Jewish relations are on a high plane," he told JTA.

"These issues are not going to go away," he added. "They have to be addressed, but that is not to take away from the need to address positive aspects. Important as these issues are, dialogue cannot be held hostage to them."

Against this background, the Vatican is actively seeking to develop diversified avenues of contact that, at least on certain matters, may bypass IJCIC, an umbrella body of several Jewish organizations plus religious representatives of Orthodox, Conservative and Reform Judaism.

Cardinal Walter Kasper, the chief Vatican representative to the Jewish community, "does not see IJCIC as an exclusive partner or as a major partner," Rosen said. "He recognizes that the Jewish community is diverse and that there needs to be relations with different interests."

Already, for example, the Vatican has opened an interfaith exploration of theological issues with a new U.S.-based Jewish group set up for this purpose, the Rabbinical Committee for Interreligious Dialogue.

The Vatican long has pushed for such contacts, but opposition from IJCIC's

## MIDEAST FOCUS

### U.S. seeks more info on ship

The United States wants more information before determining whether the Palestinian Authority was behind an arms-laden ship seized by Israel.

"Beyond knowing the facts of this particular matter, we need to see steps by the Palestinian Authority to see that this threat is eliminated and that the kind of threat that these terrorist groups represent be brought to a close," State Department spokesman Richard Boucher said Monday.

Boucher also commended Israel's action.

### E.U. official meets both sides

The European Union's top foreign policy official held separate talks Monday with Israeli and Palestinian officials.

Javier Solana held the meetings in an effort to maintain momentum for a cease-fire after the U.S. envoy to the Middle East, Anthony Zinni, returned to Washington.

### Palestinian violence waning

Palestinian violence dropped steadily in recent days, Israeli security sources said. At the same time, warnings of possible terrorist attacks remain in effect, the sources said.

Only one shooting incident in the West Bank and two in the Gaza Strip were recorded during the past 24 hours, Israel Radio reported Monday.

The radio quoted Israeli security sources as saying most of the roadblocks closing off Palestinian-ruled areas had been removed, with the exception of Ramallah and Nablus. But Palestinian officials said the closures and travel restrictions were still in place.

### Snow blankets Jerusalem

The western entrance to Jerusalem was closed to traffic Monday because of snow. Heavy snow was expected to continue falling on Jerusalem.

Orthodox members prevents the group from engaging in extensive theological dialogue.

Also, Kasper has let it be known that he will look for other experts to continue the work of the failed scholars committee, without IJCIC's collaboration. He also made clear he wants to foster closer, direct contacts with Jews in Israel.

"The Vatican wishes to continue dialogue, but Kasper rightly draws the conclusion that the framework is not good. He wants to find a new framework," an Israeli source said.

"Over the years, official dialogue with IJCIC had mainly become dialogue with American Jews," he added. "Israelis were part of IJCIC, but their voice was weak. But how valid can such dialogue be if Israeli Jews, who make up 40 percent of the world's Jewish population, are not involved?"

A German theologian, Kasper was appointed head of the Vatican's Commission for Religious Relations with the Jews last March, replacing Cardinal Edward Cassidy, who retired after more than a decade in the post.

He laid out his priorities in November in a major policy speech on the "foundations, progress, difficulties and perspectives" of Jewish-Christian dialogue. Some observers said it was significant that he gave the speech during a visit to Jerusalem undertaken at the invitation of the Israeli government and with what one source called "the blessing" of the Chief Rabbinate.

"We may not and we cannot forget the horrors of the Holocaust; we must remember them as a warning for the future," Kasper said.

But "our dialogue should not be merely past-oriented, but future-oriented," he added. "Our dialogue should more and more become a contribution for the solution of today's and tomorrow's spiritual and ethical problems and challenges."

In his address, Kasper only mentioned IJCIC once.

But he dwelt at length on Dabru Emet — Speak the Truth — a Jewish theological statement on Christians and Christianity published in September 2000, which senior Catholics have pointed to as a new basis for future discussions.

Formulated by a group of Jewish scholars, Dabru Emet was signed by scores of Jewish scholars and rabbis from all denominations. It lists eight points on which Jews and Christians find common ground and can build further dialogue.

It also called on Jews to relinquish their fear and mistrust of Christianity and "learn about the efforts of Christians to honor Judaism."

In a response to Kasper, Rabbi Ron Kronish, director of the Interreligious Coordinating Council in Israel, called Dabru Emet a "revolutionary statement" that could foster "a new era of reciprocity" in Jewish-Catholic dialogue. This, he said, would inevitably embrace "theological territory."

"In the past, the dialogue was all too often asymmetrical, based on our very asymmetrical history," Kronish said.

"We Jews were continually prodding the Catholics to denounce anti-Semitism, which they have now done countless times; to recognize the State of Israel, which was done formally at the end of 1993; and to issue a statement on the Shoah, which was done in March of 1998," he said.

Reich told JTA that IJCIC "has no problem if the Vatican wants more outlets."

In fact, he noted, many of the individual groups taking part in other contacts with the Vatican — including Kronish's Interreligious Coordinating Council and the American Jewish Committee — are members of IJCIC.

"IJCIC is alive and well and engaged in dialogue, not just with the Catholics, but with other denominations," he said.

"The value of IJCIC is that it is a world body," the "most broadly representative of any group dealing with Jewish interests in this area." □

### Ukrainian Jews praised

MOSCOW (JTA) — The Jewish contribution to life in a Ukrainian city was praised at a recent ceremony.

The comments by the mayor of Dnepropetrovsk came during an event marking the city's 225th anniversary.

Among those honored by the mayor was a leading Ukrainian rabbi, Shmuel Kaminetsky. □



## Daily News Bulletin

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## JEWISH WORLD

### Russian nuclear transfers eyed

U.S. and Israeli officials are slated to discuss efforts to prevent Russian transfers of nuclear technology to Iran.

According to the Israeli daily Ha'aretz, an American delegation will visit the Jewish state next week for the talks.

The U.S. team will be headed by John Bolton, undersecretary of state for arms control and international security affairs, who is viewed as a good friend of Israel in the Bush administration.

The officials last met a few weeks ago in the United States.

### Aid for French, S. African olim

Israel approved enhanced absorption benefits for new immigrants from France and South Africa.

Immigrants from these countries who arrive during the next year will be awarded the same absorption benefits as olim from the former Soviet Union and other countries.

Immigrants from South Africa will also receive a special \$10,000 housing acquisition assistance and \$1,400 stipend from the Jewish Agency for Israel.

At its board meeting in June, the Jewish Agency decided to focus aliyah efforts on France, South Africa and Argentina.

The Israeli government and Jewish Agency recently increased benefits to Argentine immigrants in the wake of the economic and political crisis there.

### Israel Bonds sales up

Sales of Israel Bonds increased last year.

The almost \$1.1 billion in 2001 sales represented a 21 percent jump in sales of bonds and other securities over 2000 sales.

Israel Bonds is an international organization offering securities issued by the Israeli government.

The sales jump can be attributed to an increased desire to stand by Israel in a year marred by the Palestinian intifada and the Sept 11 terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center, said a spokesman for Israel Bonds, Raphael Rothstein.

Many people also saw the bonds as a safe investment during a down year in the stock market, he added.

### Swedish neo-Nazi sentenced

A Swedish neo-Nazi who published an anti-Semitic booklet was sentenced last Friday to six months in jail for violating Sweden's hate speech law.

A Swedish court said the booklet, titled "The Jewish Question," constituted "agitation against an ethnic group."

The publisher, Fredrik Sandberg, 25, had faced up to two years in prison.

## Teacher gets to go back to school after penalty for Sept. 11 remarks

By Tom Tugend

LOS ANGELES (JTA) — A college instructor in California will return to his teaching position later this month after he was barred from campus over a confrontation with Muslim students in his class.

The four-month-long suspension of political science instructor Ken Hearlson from his position at Orange Coast College has triggered a national debate about free speech in higher education, particularly in the aftermath of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

A Sept. 18 classroom discussion on the World Trade Center attacks, and their comparison to suicide bombings in Israel, set off the furor at the community college in Costa Mesa, Calif.

Hearlson, a 57-year old Marine veteran who described himself to JTA as a "born-again Christian conservative" and "blue-collar professor," opened the evening class session with some provocative questions.

Why, he asked, have Muslim nations failed to uniformly condemn Osama bin Laden? Why do leading Muslim spokesmen deny the Holocaust and complain that the Nazis had not killed enough Jews?

Hearlson also criticized a flyer circulated on campus and signed by "Hizb-Ul-Haq (Party of Truth)" that was headed "The Reality of Zionism" and showed a swastika superimposed on a Star of David.

Four Muslim students in the class complained to the college that during the class, Hearlson pointed a finger at one of them, saying, "You drove two planes into the World Trade Center," "You killed 5,000 people" and "You are a terrorist."

Two days after the class, Hearlson was placed on paid administrative leave and barred from the campus where he has taught for 18 years as a tenured instructor.

Following the suspension, the college district appointed an independent counsel, Geraldine Jaffe, to investigate the matter.

After interviewing 25 witnesses and listening to audiotapes of the class session, Jaffe concluded that "most of the allegations" by the Muslim students "are unsubstantiated."

College President Margaret Gratton then lifted Hearlson's suspension, effective at the start of the spring semester, but also sent a confidential letter to the instructor that he described as a "reprimand."

Left unresolved was the question of a teacher's freedom of speech in the classroom. This issue has made the case somewhat of a cause celebre among academics and teachers unions across the country.

The issue of due process and to the extent to which political sensitivities are propelling college administrators to abridge free expression also are at stake.

"In this politically correct environment, innocence is no longer a sufficient defense," Thor Halvorssen, executive director of the Foundation for Individual Rights in Education, told the Los Angeles Times. "They reprimand a man who they themselves declared was innocent, and that's unspeakable."

In an interview with JTA, Hearlson said that the letter of reprimand "puts me in a box. I can't say anything that might offend any ethnicity or religion."

He makes no bones that as a member of the Calvary Chapel, a Protestant church "that you might call fundamentalist" and which sends large groups of pilgrims to Israel, he is a great believer in the Jewish state. "We know more about the Hebrew Bible than many of our Jewish students," he said.

He faults the college administration for "looking the other way" during anti-Jewish rallies on campus and taking no action when a rabbi trying to address students was shouted down by Muslim students.

"These Muslim students can say what they want in their hate rallies, that's freedom of speech, but when I speak up, I'm suspended," Hearlson added.

Hearlson said he has received death threats but has been heartened by the support of colleagues and of 348 students who signed a petition on his behalf.

He said he also appreciated the advice and support of the Orange County chapter of the Anti-Defamation League, and plans to invite a speaker from the Simon Wiesenthal Center when he is finally allowed back into his classroom. □

**BEHIND THE HEADLINES****Peres visit highlights growing ties between Israel and new ally India***By Gil Sedan*

JERUSALEM (JTA) — The official communique was rather dull: Foreign Minister Shimon Peres was on his way to India for a three-day-visit.

Just another diplomatic trip? Hardly.

This week's visit is part of a fast-developing romance between the tiny Middle Eastern nation and India, the world's largest democracy with more than a billion people.

The strategic alliance could be compared only to Israel's strong ties with Turkey — in that both India and Turkey lie outside the orbit of Israel's traditional Western friends.

The Peres visit came following "a joint security strategic dialogue" held last September, when Maj. Gen. Uzi Dayan, head of Israel's National Security Council, visited India for talks with his Indian counterpart, Barjash Msheira.

The official purpose of Peres' visit to India was "political and economic" talks.

But it also was a show of support as India is engaged in a standoff with Pakistan over Kashmir.

Both Israel and India have a common nemesis in Islamic terrorism.

Like Israel has in its dealings with the Palestinian Authority, India recently invoked President Bush's strong stand against sponsors of terrorism when it threatened Pakistan over a terror attack at the Indian Parliament allegedly backed by Pakistani militant groups.

India's prime minister, Atal Behari Vajpayee, sounded as if he had adopted Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's comments on the Palestinian leader when he said that he had "had enough of symbolic gestures from Pakistan" and expected "a halt to terrorist acts against India."

However, there is much more to the relations between Israel and India than the need to fight Islamic terrorism.

The strategic alliance between the two countries — both considered members of the exclusive international nuclear club — is based predominantly on strong military ties.

India learned from the Jewish state ways to defend its long border with Pakistan, as well as how to develop highly sophisticated weapons.

India also seeks to learn from Israel's prowess in counterterrorism, as well as its expertise in night warfare and air surveillance.

Indian newspaper reports say Israel has become India's second-largest defense partner after Russia.

Peres was expected to discuss the sale of three Phalcon early warning aircraft.

The deal was stalled until recently because of American sanctions, as the United States funded the development of the radar devices on the planes.

However, those sanctions were lifted recently and the deal seems imminent.

Whereas the United States prevented Israel's sale of the Phalcon system to China — because of the U.S. commitment to the security of Taiwan — it is understood that America will not block the sale of Israeli-made Phalcons to India.

According to Israeli and Indian media reports, a contract

already has been signed between Israel Aircraft Industries and the Indian Defense Ministry for \$2 billion, according to which Israel will provide India with advanced military equipment and other advanced products.

According to those reports, Israel will sell India ground-to-ground Barak missiles for \$280 million, pilotless planes for \$300 million and a radar system for \$250 million.

Israeli experts also will modernize other parts of the Indian army.

They reportedly will renovate hundreds of Mig 21 and Mig 29 planes, Sukhoi helicopters and Russian-made T-72 tanks.

The two countries may also cooperate in developing an integrated anti-ballistic missile system, designed to destroy incoming ballistic missiles.

India and Israel also are looking into the possibility of integrating the Greenpine Radar, which is part of Israel's Arrow missile, with India's Rajendra Army Radar system.

Relations between the two countries have improved, particularly in the past two years.

In March 2000, Jaswant Singh became the first Indian foreign minister to visit Israel. Following the visit, the two countries set up a joint anti-terror commission.

Israel hopes its special relations with India will give it greater leverage in Southeast Asia, as it fears that Pakistan could transfer nuclear weapons technology to the Arab world.

Pakistan blamed Israel in the past for allegedly cooperating in Indian nuclear tests, charges Israel denied. However, when India detonated nuclear weapons three years ago, Israel refrained from joining the worldwide condemnation of the tests.

At a recent strategic dialogue between Israeli and Indian experts at the Begin-Sadat Center for Strategic Studies at Bar-Ilan University, Jasiit Singh, director of the Indian Institute for Defense Studies, said, "It was a mistake not to develop better relations with Israel much sooner."

Economic ties also have strengthened considerably. When full diplomatic relations were established 10 years ago, the volume of mutual trade did not exceed \$200 million. Today it stands at \$1 billion, not including military transactions.

It took a long time for India to warm up to Israel. In the pre-1948 period, Gandhi, Nehru and the Indian National Congress opposed the creation of a "Jewish National Home" in Palestine.

India did not subscribe to the partition plan for Palestine, and it voted against the admission of Israel into the United Nations in May 1949.

India recognized Israel in 1950, but — always keen to maintain good relations with the Arab world — waited until 1992 to establish full diplomatic relations.

New Delhi has stressed time and again that its growing relationship with Israel will not jeopardize its traditional friendship with the Arab world.

Although India continues to be an ardent backer of the Palestinian cause, its coolness toward Israel had much to do with its dependence on Arab oil, analysts said.

As a major importer of hydrocarbons from the Middle East, and with millions of Indians working in the oil-rich nations there, India had practical considerations in mind.

Much to Israel's dismay, India still votes against Israel in international forums. In all but one of the 19 anti-Israel resolutions in the United Nations in the past year, India voted against Israel.

The only exception was a vote on nuclear proliferation in the Middle East. Not surprisingly, India abstained. □