



Daily News Bulletin

Vol. 80, No. 38

Tuesday, February 26, 2002

85th Year

TOP NEWS IN BRIEF

Palestinians kill 2 Israelis

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In another incident, two Palestinian terrorists wounded at least 10 Israelis when they opened fire Monday in northern Jerusalem. [Page 3]

Anti-Israel move expected at U.N.

Israel is bracing for an anti-Israel resolution at the U.N. Security Council. A draft of the resolution initiated by the Palestinians calls for a Security Council mission to the region, an international monitoring mechanism and for Israel to abide by rules regarding the protection of civilians in times of war.

Israel is meeting with representatives of other countries to express its opposition to international mediation, which they say would reward Palestinian terror. An American official said the United States is likely to veto "whatever resolution is put forward" and has told Council members that only direct engagement with the parties on the ground, not resolutions, will help solve the conflict.

Supreme Court refuses case

The U.S. Supreme Court refused to hear a case about whether the Ten Commandments may be displayed on government grounds.

The court did not comment when it refused Monday to hear an appeal from Indiana Gov. Frank O'Bannon, who wanted to erect a 7-foot stone monument on the statehouse grounds in Indianapolis.

Vandals hit two Paris stores

Anti-Semitic vandals painted large yellow Stars of David on the windows of a Jewish-owned toy store and a kosher butcher shop in Paris. The stars, which appeared last Friday in an affluent Paris neighborhood near the Eiffel Tower, resembled those used by the Nazis in the 1930s to designate Jewish-owned businesses.

A B'nai Brith spokesperson called the vandalism at the toy store the more "worrisome" of the two incidents, because, unlike the one at the kosher butcher's, there was "no indication that it was owned by a member of the Jewish community."

This was the third such incident in France in February.

Jewish Agency looks at Argentina, asks world Jewry for financial help

By Jessica Steinberg

JERUSALEM (JTA) — As the Israeli government and the Jewish Agency for Israel reach out to Argentine Jews in distress, world Jewish leaders are being asked to foot the bill.

It isn't just food packages or community relief they'll be providing. The way the government of Israel sees it, the Argentine crisis is an opportunity for mass immigration, a quantitative and qualitative increase in the Israeli population.

"The crisis seems to be the key that JAFI was looking for," said Alan Shulman, co-chair of the aliyah and absorption committee.

The Jewish Agency for Israel approved a \$140 million budget for Argentine Jews who immigrate to Israel.

The money is based on the possibility of 20,000 Argentine Jews moving to Israel during the next few years.

The decision came during a meeting in Jerusalem this week of the Jewish Agency's Board of Governors.

Some 200,000 Jews live in Argentina, 80 percent of them in Buenos Aires.

Around 20,000 Jewish families are on welfare and need assistance after one of Latin America's largest economies collapsed this winter, leading to a painful currency devaluation. Many of the Jews in need have cars, apartments, clothing — all the trappings of an average middle-class lifestyle. But they've lost their jobs and can't afford to put food on the table.

It's up to the Jewish Agency's lay leaders to convince their communities that their donations should go to Argentina. Most of the money will help those Argentine Jews who want to move to Israel.

For the agency's professionals, the aliyah effort makes sense.

"The government of Israel has said the Jewish people have to provide assistance to those who want to come on aliyah," said Mike Rosenberg, director general of the Jewish Agency's immigration and absorption department. "First we're going to do it, and then we'll get the money. That's the only way."

Some 3,000 to 5,000 Argentine Jews are expected to make aliyah this year. The cost of an aliyah package for a family of four — which includes airline tickets, shipping household goods, housing and Hebrew ulpan — is around \$28,000, or \$7,000 per immigrant.

Fund raising in North America falls mainly to the United Jewish Communities, and to Keren Hayesod in other parts of the world.

The UJC already is embarking on the Argentine fund-raising effort as part of its Israel Now campaign. The Board of Governors also allocated an extra \$2 million to the aliyah department for added expenses "on the ground in Argentina," Rosenberg added.

Lay leaders, however, are going to have to figure out how and where to raise that kind of cash.

"It's more difficult to raise money for Argentina than it was for the former Soviet Union, because the FSU was seen as the enemy and the Russian Jews were being persecuted," said Philip Meltzer, a Board of Governors member and president of ARZA/World Union, the Zionist organization of the Reform movement in North America. "There's no rallying cry for Argentina."

Yet the situation facing Argentina's Jews became clear to Jewish Agency leaders after spending a day visiting new immigrants in the Negev.

The group met with Patricia Levi, a single mother of five who moved from Buenos

MIDEAST FOCUS

Israel explores Saudi initiative

Ariel Sharon is trying to arrange a meeting with Saudi officials to discuss Crown Prince Abdullah's peace initiative. The Israeli prime minister has asked U.S. officials to help arrange the meeting, according to the Jerusalem Post.

The plan, which Abdullah outlined in a recent interview with New York Times journalist Thomas Friedman, calls for Israel to withdraw to the boundaries that existed before the 1967 Six-Day War in exchange for full diplomatic relations, normalized trade and security guarantees from Arab countries.

In another development, Israeli President Moshe Katsav invited the prince to come to Jerusalem to discuss the initiative.

Katsav also said Monday that he would travel to Saudi Arabia if invited.

Troops fire at VIP's car

Israel apologized after troops fired on a car carrying senior Palestinian official Ahmed Karia. Karia had informed Israeli authorities of his plans to leave Ramallah and travel past an Israeli roadblock on his way home.

When the car approached the position, however, reserve soldiers who didn't recognize the car opened fire after it failed to slow down.

No one was injured. The army said the troops had fired warning shots in the air and then held their fire when the car stopped.

Palestinian sources said several bullets hit the car, which was bulletproofed. Foreign Minister Shimon Peres later called Karia to apologize.

Israeli wounded in shooting

An Israeli youth was wounded Monday in a Palestinian drive-by shooting attack near Hebron. The youth, 16, sustained moderate wounds as he was traveling with his family to a Purim party.

Aires to Beersheba in December. "Israel offered the best possibilities for me and my children," she said through a translator. "All our needs are being taken care of here."

They also talked to Nahuel Waintrop, a curly-haired 16-year-old who has been in Israel for two months at the Ibim student village, a program designed to absorb students into Israel before their parents.

"It was very hard for my parents to let me go," said Waintrop, an only child. "But it was also very hard in Argentina, and I really feel like I have a future here."

The leaders — many of them North Americans — who visited the absorption centers asked immigrants what brought them to Israel and how they made their decision.

For Paola de Picciotto, a Jewish Agency board member from Sao Paulo, Brazil, it was an opportunity to speak to some fellow Latin Americans and put them at ease.

"We've seen a similar kind of situation in Brazil," said de Picciotto, who has worked with Keren Hayesod in San Paulo for 17 years. "People lose their dignity in these situations, and there has been a much stronger effect in Argentina."

The government wants to absorb as many of the 20,000 needy Argentine Jews as possible. A mass Argentine aliyah could be a crucial demographic boon for Israel. Recent demographic projections have shown that, in several decades, Arabs could outnumber Jews in Israel.

In 2001, about 1,500 Argentines moved to Israel, a 30 percent increase over the previous year.

With global Jewish population growth close to zero, the Israeli government is putting a priority on aliyah to increase the Jewish population and help meet Israel's demographic challenge.

At the same time, the agency is aware that most Argentine Jews aren't going to move to Israel. To that end, it also is investing in Argentine day schools, helping families who can't afford Jewish schooling for their children.

The Jewish Agency also is cooperating with the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee on its relief efforts in Buenos Aires, which include food vouchers for Argentine Jews.

The JDC has earmarked an estimated \$8.7 million in 2002 for Argentine relief efforts, but that could change if the situation worsens, said Amir Shaviv, the group's assistant executive vice president.

Rosenberg calls the food vouchers and assistance to Jewish education "crutches that don't promise a new future."

But everyone has their own mission, countered Caryn Rosen Adelman, who serves on the Jewish Agency's board development committee.

"If someone's hungry," she said, "you can't talk about where to go next."

Aliyah is where the agency is making a major effort. In addition to mobilizing all emissaries and local employees in Argentina to process immigrants, the Agency has sent short-term, emergency aliyah emissaries to serve as a reserve force for periods of two weeks to two months.

New offices are being set up wherever Jews reside in Argentina, including rural areas where some 45,000 Jews still live. Bureaucratic procedures for aliyah are being streamlined, with the goal of shortening the processing time for aliyah applications to one month.

"It's a push-and-pull kind of situation," Rosenberg said. "This isn't the time to cut back on budgets."

As the mission toured Argentina, Shulman once asked for a show of hands to see how many people support the Argentine aliyah effort.

Almost every hand went up.

"Of course, everyone believes that American Jewry has an obligation to world Jewry and the state of Israel," Meltzer said. "It's just not as easy a sell." □

Reservists sentenced for refusal to serve

NEW YORK (JTA) — Two Israeli reservists were sentenced to 28 days in jail for refusing to report for service in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The two were among a group of reserve officers and soldiers who signed a petition stating they would not fight in those areas.

They were sentenced by their brigade commanders, Israel Radio reported. □



Daily News Bulletin

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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.
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JEWISH WORLD

ADL settles 1993 lawsuit

The Anti-Defamation League settled a 9-year-old civil lawsuit against the organization. The ADL agreed last week to pay three remaining plaintiffs \$178,000 in a suit dating to 1993.

Originally filed by 19 plaintiffs, the suit had accused the ADL of illegally obtaining and disseminating the private records of the 19 people in order to blacklist them. The ADL continues to deny any wrongdoing.

Lyrics money to go to federation

The rights to the lyrics of one of America's great songwriters will pass to New York's Jewish federation. As a result of Lorenz Hart's bequest, the UJA-Federation of New York could receive as much as \$1 million a year, according to a federation official.

Hart, who collaborated with composer Richard Rogers, wrote hundreds of songs, including "My Funny Valentine" and "Lady Is a Tramp."

The money goes to the federation after the death of Hart's sister-in-law, who held the lyric rights in a trust. Hart died in 1943.

Arrest in Baltimore shul arsons

A teen-aged boy was arrested in Baltimore for allegedly setting fire to two area synagogues.

The largest fire, at the Etz Chaim Center on Feb. 2, caused several hundred thousand dollars in damages. Two smaller fires at Machzikei Torah Congregation on Feb. 6 caused about \$2,000 in damages.

Slovakia alters compensation law

Slovak legislators passed an amendment to the country's Holocaust-era compensation laws. The amendment approved Feb. 21 boosts the number of people entitled to receive money for having been deported to Nazi concentration camps during World War II.

Under the previous law, only people living in the territory of the wartime Slovak state could claim compensation.

Now Slovak citizens who lived in an area of southern Slovakia, annexed by Hungary just before the war, and in the wartime Protectorate of Bohemia and Moravia, are entitled to make a claim.

Ex-Nazi officer dies at 84

A former Nazi SS officer sentenced last year to 12 years in jail died Monday at 84. Julius Viel had been sentenced for killing seven Jewish prisoners in 1945 as they dug trenches in what is now the Czech Republic.

Suffering from lung cancer, Viel was recently released from a prison hospital after a court said he was too ill to be in custody.

Decision to restrict Arafat's travel soon followed by a rise in terrorism

By Naomi Segal

JERUSALEM (JTA) — As so often happens in the Middle East, hopes over the weekend that Israeli-Palestinian violence would abate were quickly dashed.

After holding joint security talks with their Israeli counterparts late last week, Palestinian officials refused on Sunday to participate in another set of talks to try to end the violence.

The officials were angered by Israel's decision not to allow Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat to leave Ramallah, his West Bank headquarters.

The officials warned that the Palestinian response would be more violence and bloodshed. A day later, Palestinian gunmen translated those threats into reality.

In one incident Monday, Palestinian terrorists shot dead two Israelis and wounded two others in an attack on motorists near Bethlehem.

The driver and front seat passenger were killed in a hail of automatic weapon fire. The wounded included a pregnant woman and a small girl.

The pregnant woman, who sustained moderate to serious injuries, was evacuated to a nearby hospital, where she gave birth.

In another attack, a Palestinian terrorist wounded at least 10 Israelis when he opened fire Monday in northern Jerusalem. At least two of the wounded were reported in serious condition after the attack at a bus stop in Jerusalem's Neveh Ya'akov neighborhood.

Police shot and wounded the gunman before overpowering him with the help of a passer-by. Police launched a search for the second gunman, but later concluded that the man had acted alone.

In a third incident Monday, Israeli troops shot and killed a 15-year-old Palestinian girl who approached a roadblock near Tulkarm with a knife.

According to her father, Noura Shalhoub left behind a suicide note saying she had "decided to send a message to the occupation that there is no safety on our soil for Jews." The note was signed "the living martyr."

Two other incidents this week also involved pregnant women.

On Monday, Israeli troops shot and killed a Palestinian man and lightly wounded his pregnant wife. Israel Radio said the troops opened fire when the man ignored orders to stop and drove through an Israeli army roadblock near Nablus.

In another incident Sunday at the same Nablus checkpoint, another pregnant Palestinian woman was wounded when soldiers opened fire on her car.

Both women later gave birth in local hospitals.

Observers attributed the renewed Palestinian terrorism to Israel's continued refusal to let Arafat leave Ramallah.

Following lengthy deliberations, Israel's Security Cabinet decided Sunday to pull back its tanks, which had encircled Arafat's Ramallah compound. The move was intended to give Arafat freedom of movement within Ramallah — but not beyond the West Bank city.

Arafat had been under virtual house arrest in his Ramallah office since December, when Israeli officials demanded he arrest those responsible for last October's assassination of Tourism Minister Rehavam Ze'evi.

Prime Minister Ariel Sharon convened the Security Cabinet on Sunday to discuss whether to lift the travel ban after the Palestinian Authority announced last week that it had arrested three suspects in the assassination.

Ultimately, Israel decided to leave in place some restrictions on Arafat's movements while another member of the assassination squad remains at large.

The decision came a day after Sen. Hillary Clinton (D-N.Y.), on a solidarity visit to Israel, blamed Arafat for failing to stop violence.

Speaking in Jerusalem on Saturday, Clinton declared that Arafat "has failed as a leader, and his inability or unwillingness to rein in forces of violence and terrorism demonstrates he is not ready or willing to be a leader."

Clinton was addressing the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations at the start of her 36-hour solidarity visit to Israel. □

Murdered journalist Daniel Pearl was gentle — and a son of Israelis

By Tom Tugend

LOS ANGELES (JTA) — Until the very last moment, the family of murdered journalist Daniel Pearl never lost hope that he would be released by his Pakistani kidnappers and return safely.

Dr. Judea Pearl, and his wife, Ruth, said in a statement that they simply could not believe that anyone could harm a son they described as “such a gentle soul” and as “the musician, the writer, the storyteller, the bridge builder.”

Elsewhere in their statement, Pearl's parents and his sisters, Tamara and Michelle, remembered their son and brother as a “walking sunshine of truth, humor, friendship and compassion.”

The family's unflagging hope was best illustrated in an e-mail message the father sent to members of a local Israeli choir on Feb. 21, only a few hours before the U.S. State Department confirmed the brutal slaying of the Wall Street Journal reporter.

After nearly a month of torturous waiting, Judea Pearl told fellow musicians of the LA-Shir choir, which he had founded, that “We have learned to cope with the ups and downs of the situation . . . We are confident that he will return to us and fairly soon. When that happens, we will all celebrate his homecoming event with Handel's ‘Hallelujah.’ ”

The family's grief has been shared by a circle of Daniel Pearl's close friends, many of whom date their friendship back to shared school days in the Los Angeles area. One old friend recalls participating in a Passover seder at the Pearl home, but apparently the family was not religiously observant.

“The Pearls are not affiliated with a synagogue, but they are deeply attached to their heritage and very cognizant of who they are,” said Gary Foster, the family spokesman.

Israeli newspapers reported that Daniel Pearl had celebrated his Bar Mitzvah at the Western Wall.

A San Fernando Valley rabbi who is also a practicing psychologist has been counseling the Pearl family during the past few weeks. A private memorial service at the family home in Encino is planned for the latter part of this week.

Some of Daniel Pearl's closest friends were fellow backpackers between 1978-1981 in the Explorer Post, a co-ed affiliate of the Boy Scouts of America. One was Rachel Knopoff, now a Manhattan Beach, Calif., physician, who remembers Pearl as “the greatest guy I have ever known. I had a huge crush on him, and so probably did most of the girls in the troop. He was the funniest, smartest, nicest guy I ever met.”

Attorney John Liebman served as adviser to the Explorer Post. “They were an extraordinary, highly motivated group of kids,” says Liebman, who recalls Pearl as “obviously highly intelligent, with a fine sense of humor and easy to get along with.”

Liebman's son, Scott, a lifelong friend of Pearl's, added a few more descriptive adjectives in a phone call from San Francisco — including “brilliant, funny, wry and sensitive.”

At Birmingham High in Van Nuys, Calif., whose current student body observed a minute of silence in honor of their slain alumnus, Pearl “was the teen-ager everyone wanted to be,” observed the Los Angeles Daily News.

“He was the smart, funny kid who was a cultural counterpoint to the mall-hopping, materialistic ‘Valley Girl’ world of the 1970s and early 1980s.”

Pearl grew up in a family that nourished the intellectual and

musical talents he was to display later on. After graduating from the Technion — Israel Institute of Technology in Haifa, Judea Pearl and his wife Ruth, an electrical engineer, moved to Princeton, N.J., for graduate studies and to work at a local research center.

Their son was born there in 1963.

In 1970, Judea Pearl joined the computer science faculty at UCLA, and in the following decades he earned a reputation as a leading researcher in the field of artificial intelligence.

He was elected to the elite National Academy of Engineering in 1995 “for developing the foundation for reasoning under uncertainty,” and earlier spent a sabbatical year at the Weizmann Institute of Science in Israel. Just before his son's abduction, Judea Pearl was notified of a \$10,000 award from the London School of Economics for a recent book on his path-breaking studies.

During the month following Pearl's kidnapping, there was deep concern that publication of his family's Israeli roots would further endanger his life.

Foster, the spokesman, and other representatives of Dow Jones, the Wall Street Journal's parent company, worked intensively behind the scenes in New York, Los Angeles and overseas to alert news organizations to the danger inherent in publishing the names of Pearl's parents, or their background.

“We were particularly anxious that networks reaching large international audiences, such as CNN and BBC, would not break the news,” Foster says.

In a remarkable display of professional restraint and solidarity, all media complied with the strictures.

Since the death announcement, major newspapers have reported, without elucidation, that the Pearl parents have remained Israeli citizens. The reality is a bit more complex.

Since Israeli citizenship can be lost only through a formal renunciation, almost all Israelis who move permanently to a different country automatically retain their original citizenship, even while assuming the citizenship of their new country.

Therefore, Judea and Ruth Pearl carry dual United States and Israeli citizenship, while their son, born in the United States, is solely an American citizen.

However, due to some bureaucratic quirk, Israel's Interior Ministry lists Daniel Pearl as an Israeli citizen, according to the Israeli daily Ha'aretz.

The paper reports that Judea Pearl has chided the Israeli media for reporting this information, fearing that it might adversely affect the investigation by Pakistani officials and the return of Pearl's body. □

A foundation has been established, primarily in support of Daniel Pearl's widow, Mariane, and their unborn first child, who is due in May. Contributions can be sent to the Daniel Pearl Family Foundation, care of The Wall Street Journal, P.O. Box 300, Princeton, N.J., 08543. Tributes to Pearl, and reprints of some of his articles can be found at the Web site of the South Asian Journalist Association, www.saja.org/pearl.html.

Israel to deploy Patriots

NEW YORK (JTA) — Israel plans to deploy Patriot missiles in the center of the country.

The missiles are capable of shooting down airliners and incoming surface-to-surface missiles. According to the latest issue of Air Force magazine, the Israeli air force recently conducted an exercise in which Patriot missiles shot down F-16 planes playing the role of passenger airliners kidnapped by terrorists. □