



# Daily News Bulletin

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85th Year

## TOP NEWS IN BRIEF

### UJC to launch Israel campaign

The North American federation system is set to launch an emergency campaign to raise hundreds of millions of dollars for Israel. The campaign is reminiscent of one undertaken during the 1973 Yom Kippur War, when Israel's survival was at stake.

The United Jewish Communities board is expected Sunday to approve the campaign for various Israel needs, including helping terror victims.

Most of the UJC's existing \$42.5 million campaign for Argentine Jews will be folded into the new campaign, with most of that money going to resettle Jews who immigrate to Israel as a result of Argentina's economic crisis. [Page 3]

### U.S.: No exile for Arafat

U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell dismissed Israeli suggestions that Yasser Arafat should be sent into exile. He spoke after Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon said he had told world leaders worried about Arafat's isolation that they could pluck him from Ramallah by helicopter.

However, the Israeli leader said Arafat's departure would have to be "a one-way ticket" and "he would not be able to return."

### At least 5 killed in fighting

Four Palestinian civilians and an Israeli soldier were killed in fighting Tuesday in Ramallah and Bethlehem. As Israel's Operation Protective Wall entered its fifth day, some 200 Palestinians surrendered after Israeli tanks and helicopters shelled the fortified headquarters of the West Bank security chief, Jibril Rajoub. Israeli officials charged that Rajoub was sheltering dozens of wanted terrorists at his compound near Ramallah.

In Bethlehem, Israeli helicopter gunships hovering over Manger Square exchanged fire with Palestinian gunmen near the Church of the Nativity, built where tradition says Jesus was born. There was also a heavy exchange of fire outside a convent.

**REMINDER:** Because of Passover, the JTA DAILY NEWS BULLETIN will not be published Thursday, April 4 and Friday, April 5.

## BEHIND THE HEADLINES

### Cloud hangs over Passover as U.S. Jews anguish over Israel

By Julie Wiener

NEW YORK (JTA) — The news of the Passover eve suicide bombing at a Netanya hotel had particular resonance for members of Congregation B'nai Israel in Jackson, Tenn., as they, like the terrorist victims, sat down for a large Passover seder at a hotel.

"The fact that someone had walked into a seder just sent shockwaves through us all," said Rabbi Margaret Meyer, spiritual leader of the small Reform temple that was having a communal seder.

"It was very, very hard to get that image out of our minds."

As American Jews sat down this year to celebrate the Jews' liberation from slavery in Egypt, the seemingly relentless spate of suicide bombings in Israel was — in the words of one rabbi — a "cloud" hanging overhead.

According to reports from rabbis across the country, many Jews found that the lines spoken every year — "Next year in Jerusalem" and "In every generation there are those that rise up against us" — had new meaning this time.

Rabbis said they spent the holidays attempting to comfort their congregants, while also calling for them to take action on Israel's behalf.

The suggested action took many different forms, from extra prayers and a resolve to take on more commandments to incorporating Israel's current situation into the discussion of slavery and liberation. Rabbis also encouraged political activism and support. Sinai Temple in Los Angeles launched a multimillion-dollar fund-raising campaign to aid Israeli victims of terror.

Rabbi Daniel Moscowitz, regional director of Chabad of Illinois and spiritual leader of Chabad of Northbrook in the Chicago suburbs, said he is encouraging his congregants "not to get burdened by the crisis, but rather to get strength from it."

"It's a sign that we all have to do more," he said. "We have to come together and be stronger."

At Temple Emanu-El of West Essex, a Reform congregation in Livingston, N.J., Rabbi Daniel Levin used his Shabbat sermon over the weekend to urge members to take political action.

Levin distributed flyers with concrete suggestions, such as attending a local solidarity rally on Israel's Independence Day, writing regularly to President Bush and other political leaders urging them to continue supporting Israel, and investing in Israel Bonds.

"We need to be able to look into our children's eyes at next year's seder, and in years to follow, and be able to tell them we did all we could to support our people in their time of need," he said in the sermon.

Rabbi Avis Miller, of Adas Israel Congregation, a large Conservative synagogue in Washington, said that in her sermon on the first day of Passover, she encouraged congregants to make their seder discussions more meaningful by relating the Haggadah text to Israel's current challenges.

She noted that Israel's Jews have their day-to-day freedom curtailed by terrorism.

"I talked about how mitzrayim" — the Hebrew word for Egypt — "means narrow, and I can't think of anything more constricting than not being able to go about your business," she said.

Whether Orthodox or Reform, left-wing or right, talk of Israel dominated conversations in shul and — in many cases — at seders across the country.

Among those who came to the second seder last week at his Orthodox congregation,

## MIDEAST FOCUS

### Jerusalem policeman dies

An Israeli policeman who blocked a suicide bombing Monday died of his wounds. The policeman stopped a suspicious car at a downtown Jerusalem roadblock. The car exploded, injuring the policeman and two pedestrians. The policeman died on his way to the hospital.

Police suspected the bomber planned to drive the car to a nearby strip of cafes and restaurants.

### 4 more die from wounds

Three more people died as a result of wounds they sustained in the March 27 suicide bombing at a seder in Netanya.

Israel Radio reported that the latest victims were Chana Rogen, 92, of Netanya; Ze'ev Veeder, 50, of Baka'ot; and Eltar Britvitz, 87, of Netanya. The total killed as a result of the "Passover Massacre" now stands at 25. In addition, Carlos Yerushalmi, 52, of Haifa, died from injuries he suffered in Sunday's bombing at a Haifa restaurant. His death brings to 15 the total killed in that attack.

### Papers prove P.A. link to terror

Documents found in Yasser Arafat's Ramallah headquarters show how closely the Palestinian Authority is tied to terrorism, Israeli officials charge. Among the documents found by the Israel Defense Force after seizing the Ramallah compound last Friday are requests from the Al-Aksa Brigades, the military wing of Arafat's Fatah movement, for money to finance its terror attacks.

Israeli officials cite one document — dated five days after the Sept. 11 terror attacks in the United States — asking for money to prepare bombs and buy guns and ammunition. The documents were found in the office of the Palestinian Authority's chief financial officer, Fouad Shoubaki, one of the key figures in the Karine A arms smuggling boat.



## Daily News Bulletin

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there "was a lot of confusion," said Moscowwitz of Chicago.

"People are not sure about strategy, what the end game is, what's the plan," Moscowwitz said.

"Our answer is we also have to look at the spiritual side of things and the unity of the Jewish people. When the rest of the world sees the Jewish people being united, that will help and sends a powerful message to Israel."

At Anshe Sholom B'nai Israel, an Orthodox synagogue in Chicago, Rabbi Asher Lopatin said many congregants began to feel a bit better as the Israeli army launched a new offensive aimed at rooting out Palestinian terrorists.

"In my shul, people really think that there's a military solution, that's the overwhelming consensus," Lopatin said. "We have a couple on the left, but the people who come every Shabbos and every morning feel there's a military solution. So they're relieved that Israel is going in."

Adas Israel's members run the political gamut — including many disheartened leftists, Miller said. "There's a frustration of what can we do. We don't know where to put our emotional eggs."

At Temple Emanu-El of West Essex, members have traditionally been supportive of the peace process in their support of Israel and are now feeling very discouraged, Levin said.

"If there were voices calling for moderation on the other side, there would be a much louder clamoring on our side to reciprocate," Levin said.

"Those of us with more progressive leanings have been silenced because we feel it's disingenuous to call for peace in this way when we don't hear calls for peace on the other side."

The mood at Sinai Temple in Los Angeles, where congregants pledged over \$700,000 for Israeli terror victims, stood in sharp contrast to last year, when the temple was rocked with heated debate over Rabbi David Wolpe's sermon suggesting that the Exodus had not literally occurred.

"This time, I said in some ways it would be nice if that's what we could talk about, but there's an emergency to be addressed, so this is what have to do this year," Wolpe said of the fund-raising campaign.

Wolpe said the campaign will be matched by the Magbit Foundation, an Iranian Jewish foundation in Beverly Hills, Calif., and added that he hopes other synagogues launch similar campaigns.

"I want rabbis to get up and say we can't impose peace, but our sisters and brothers are suffering and dying and we can help hospitals and trauma centers provide care for children who've been orphaned."

While offering comfort and inspiration, rabbis — many of whom have family or friends in Israel — were battling their own demons.

Emanu-El's Levin said he couldn't help but feel "almost a sense of survivor's guilt sitting down to my own seder here in New Jersey knowing there were so many sitting down to seder in Israel who were killed for that."

Lopatin said dealing with his own sense of grief is "surprisingly hard."

The suicide bombings "just put a cloud over Passover," he said.

Despite the sorrowful mood, many rabbis said they and their congregants tried to put thoughts of Israel aside for at least part of the holiday and just enjoy reconnecting with families.

"A lot of what went on at the kiddush Shabbat afternoon, with the macaroons and sponge cake, was looking at grandchildren rather than talking about the heavier issues," Miller said.

"I was juggling babies and preoccupied with them and it was a relief to be in community and it was a relief to be with family."

Lopatin said that while congregants spoke about Israel a lot in synagogue, most reported trying to put the situation aside for a few hours during their seders.

"I think people just really wanted to enjoy the holiday," he said.

Lopatin described himself — and tried to inspire congregants — with an image he saw on the news Sunday night of Israeli soldiers getting out of their tanks, putting on prayer shawls and praying. "Really the attitude I want to give people is — we're strong, we did have the Exodus, and we are going to survive. There will be setbacks but we will overcome."

□

## JEWISH WORLD

### Sparks fly at U.N. forum

A Palestinian official urged the United Nations' top human rights forum to condemn Israel for "massacres" against his people.

Nabil Ramlawi, the Palestinian ambassador to the U.N. in Geneva, drew a sharp rebuttal from Israeli Ambassador Ya'akov Levy, who said Palestinians are guilty of serious human rights violations, including deadly suicide bombings against Israeli targets. The two traded barbs Tuesday at the annual six-week session of the U.N. Commission on Human Rights.

At the meeting, the top U.N. human rights official, Mary Robinson, said international monitors should be dispatched to the West Bank and Gaza Strip to curb violence and human rights violations.

### Crackdown sought on hate

U.S. Jewish leaders called on the leaders of France, Belgium and other countries in which there have been attacks against Jewish institutions "to act decisively to capture those responsible."

The Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations issued a statement Tuesday saying, "These assaults have been tolerated far too long and led to the escalation in both the seriousness and frequency of the attacks." The statement added: "There can be no justification for the outrageous actions, the intensity of which has been likened to events in Europe in the 1930s." In recent days, there have been anti-Semitic attacks in France, Germany and Belgium.

### Clash at Paris airport

A group of Palestinians clashed with pro-Israel activists at Paris' Orly Airport. Police stepped in to break up the fight Tuesday in which the Palestinians chanted "Fascist Zionists" and "We are all Palestinians."

The pro-Israel activists were arrested. Police did not arrest members of the pro-Palestinian group, which was awaiting the arrival of a militant French farmer who had been deported from Israel for visiting Yasser Arafat and allegedly trying to smuggle wanted terrorists out of Arafat's besieged Ramallah office.

### Activist's family gets threats

The Brooklyn family of a Jewish activist who supports Yasser Arafat says it is getting death threats. The family of Adam Shapiro says it has gotten calls from people calling him a traitor, the "Jewish Taliban" and threatening to kill him and his family.

Shapiro, who was in Arafat's Ramallah headquarters last Friday when it was taken over by Israeli forces, has been an outspoken member of a pro-Palestinian group voicing sympathy for the Palestinian Authority president.

## American Jewry to launch emergency campaign for Israel

By Julie Wiener

NEW YORK (JTA) — In a campaign reminiscent of one undertaken during the 1973 Yom Kippur War, when Israel's survival was at stake, the North American federation system is hoping to raise hundreds of millions of dollars for Israel in the coming months.

Robert Schroyer, chair of the UJA Federation Campaign of the United Jewish Communities, said the situation in Israel now "may be even more drastic than things were in 1973.

"It's different because it's a different kind of conflict, but just as serious, if not more so," he said.

The UJC's board of trustees is expected to vote Monday to approve an emergency campaign for various needs as Israel engages in its war against terrorism.

The funds are expected to aid victims of terrorism, rebuilding infrastructure damaged in terrorist attacks, crisis management and other social services.

Most of the UJC's existing \$42.5 million campaign for Argentine Jews will be folded into the new campaign, dubbed Israel Emergency Campaign, with most of the money going to resettle Jews who immigrate to Israel as a result of Argentina's economic crisis.

The campaign will officially be launched with a special leadership mission to Israel leaving Monday. Another UJC mission will be leaving for Argentina at the same time.

The new campaign, unanimously approved by the UJC's top leadership, comes on the heels of a relentless spate of suicide bombings and in the midst of a major Israeli military initiative to root out Palestinian terrorists.

Officials say the Israel Emergency Campaign will be larger, more centralized and more forceful than UJC efforts on Israel's behalf that started earlier in the 18-month-old intifada. The previous effort, called Israel Now, has raised \$90 million since September, with each federation deciding independently whether to do extra fund raising for Israel and how to allocate it.

"The difference now is we're calling on every community to get with the program," said Stephen Hoffman, the UJC's CEO and president.

"We're no longer advising them, we're no longer saying it's a good idea. We're saying this is a must," he added.

UJC leaders are in ongoing meetings with officials at the Jewish Agency for Israel, the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee and Israel's Ministry of Finance to determine how the new dollars will be allocated, Hoffman said.

However, while national leaders are forcefully pushing for full participation and a centralized allocations approach, it is not yet clear whether every federation will agree to participate. In recent years, issues of "fair share" — or how much each federation is obligated to contribute for national and international needs — have been a major sticking point in the functioning of the UJC, which is an umbrella for more than 189 Jewish federations.

Hoffman said he does not expect federations to object to participating in the campaign. He also said he thinks their fund-raising goals will likely be exceeded.

As for collective decisions about how to spend the emergency money raised, Hoffman said, "At the end of the day, every community is always entitled to decide how it wishes to allocate funds, but we're going to give them some very compelling options." In addition to fund raising, the campaign will also include efforts to mobilize American Jews to advocate on behalf of Israel.

Hoffman compared the current crisis in Israel to the 1948 War of Independence in "how deeply thrust the war is into the Israeli civilian population."

"In the past, people go off to war, and you kiss your son or brother or husband goodbye and send them off to war. There was a general assumption that the home front was fairly safe."

Several major federations, including ones in Washington, New York, Boston and Detroit, have already intensified their fund-raising efforts for the Jewish state in the past few days. □

## NEWS ANALYSIS

## What to do about Yasser Arafat is Ariel Sharon's main dilemma

By Leslie Susser

JERUSALEM (JTA) — What to do about Yasser Arafat?

For months now Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon has been convinced that the main problem in Israel's relations with the Palestinians is Arafat, the president of the Palestinian Authority.

With virtually any other potential Palestinian leader, Sharon believes, he would be able to work out a cease-fire and make progress towards peace.

That's why in January he defined Arafat as "irrelevant," and why in March he made up his mind to expel him from the Palestinian territories.

In fact, when Sharon walked into the Cabinet meeting in late March that approved Israel's biggest military operation against Palestinian terror since the 1982 Lebanon War, he was determined to get approval for Arafat's expulsion as well. But when Sharon raised the idea of exile he was met by a chorus of dissent.

Defense Minister and Labor Party leader Benjamin Ben-Eliezer was furious that Sharon had not told him in advance that he planned to discuss the issue.

Moreover, Ben-Eliezer said, he was adamantly opposed to expelling Arafat, and Labor would leave the government if the step was approved.

The heads of Israel's various intelligence services backed Ben-Eliezer.

The coordinator of government activities in the West Bank, Amos Gilead, a former high-ranking intelligence official, said an exiled Arafat would stir up serious trouble for Israel abroad, particularly in Jordan and Egypt.

The compromise between the Likud and Labor ministers was the bizarre decision to "isolate" Arafat in his Ramallah compound.

If the aim was to bypass Arafat or pressure him into a cease-fire, so far it has failed: All it has done is win worldwide sympathy for the beleaguered Palestinian leader.

The Cabinet clash reflects a deep dilemma in the Israeli government over what to do about Arafat.

A minority school of thought, led by Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, holds that Arafat is the only Palestinian with the authority to push through a deal with Israel, and that the Israeli government has erred in trying to undermine his leadership.

The dominant school, to which both Sharon and Ben-Eliezer belong, maintains that Arafat has no intention of cutting a deal with Israel, and that a way must be found to bypass him. Where they differ is over how to do this.

The Sharon-Ben-Eliezer school was greatly strengthened by a series of damning intelligence reports that emerged late last year.

For example, according to Israeli military intelligence, the day before Arafat announced a cease-fire in mid-December, he convened a group of Palestinian intellectuals at the Casablanca Hotel in Ramallah and detailed a long-term strategy for the destruction of Israel.

Israeli intelligence also reported that on numerous occasions, after condemning Palestinian suicide attacks on camera for the world media, Arafat celebrated the bombers' "success" with his confidants, and made it plain that he would like to see more such attacks.

This shows, some intelligence officials argue, that Arafat is not

interested in a deal with Israel under any circumstances, and that he has embarked on a fight to the death with the Jewish state.

Others don't go quite that far: They say Arafat does want a peace deal, but only one imposed by the international community, so Arafat can say he was forced into it.

Sharon's aides say it makes no difference: Either way, there is no point in talking to Arafat.

Moreover, the aides say, the bottom line is that as long as Arafat is around, the Palestinians won't do a thing to fight terror. They argue that the Tanzim, which has been carrying out most of the suicide bombings, is part of Arafat's own Fatah organization, and would not act unless it had a "green light," whether explicit or implicit, from the president.

As long as Arafat gives the green light to terror, they say, Palestinian security chiefs like Mohammed Dahlan and Jibril Rajoub won't dare lift a finger against it.

Sharon is no longer prepared to tolerate Arafat's double game of condemning terror while encouraging the terrorists, or to allow the Palestinian leader to subvert every attempt to reach a cease-fire, including the latest mission by U.S. envoy Gen. Anthony Zinni in March.

The trouble is that Sharon doesn't have very good options. He feels he can't kill Arafat, because he promised the American administration that he wouldn't.

Sharon made the pledge in his first meeting as prime minister with President Bush in March 2000 — and, he says, the Americans have gotten him to repeat it in every high-level meeting since.

In addition, killing Arafat could inflame not only the Palestinian territories but the entire Middle East, and turn world opinion squarely against Israel.

Sharon can't isolate Arafat indefinitely because world public opinion also isn't likely to stand for that, and because he has promised to pull Israeli forces out of Palestinian towns and cities as soon as the current military operation is over.

He also can't expel Arafat unless the Israeli Cabinet relents — though he publicly stated Tuesday that he would offer Arafat a "one-way ticket" out of Ramallah into exile. Arafat rejected the idea outright.

In an attempt to simply circumvent Arafat, Sharon began meetings in February with other Palestinian leaders, including Ahmed Karia, known as Abu Alaa, the speaker of the Palestinian legislative council; Mahmoud Abbas, known as Abu Mazen, Arafat's deputy in the PLO; and Arafat's confidant and economic adviser, Mohammed Rashid.

But those figures very quickly — and publicly — made clear that the meetings had been sanctioned by Arafat, and that they would report back to him.

Sharon's ploy did nothing to weaken Arafat's hold on power.

Sharon's problem is this: If Arafat is not killed, expelled or replaced by alternative Palestinian leaders, and if he emerges unscathed from his isolation in Ramallah, he would win an enormous prestige-enhancing victory, and Sharon would have to eat humble pie.

So now Sharon has starting telling visitors, like E.U. official Javier Solana, that he can see the "isolated" Arafat on one condition: That he take the Palestinian leader with him into exile when he leaves the country.

If Solana or anyone else agrees, Sharon will worry about persuading the Cabinet. □

(Leslie Susser is the diplomatic correspondent for the Jerusalem Report.)