



# Daily News Bulletin

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85th Year

## TOP NEWS IN BRIEF

### Sharon suggests conference

Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon proposed the idea of a U.S.-hosted Middle East peace conference during his meeting Sunday with U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell.

Sharon said after the meeting that his proposal was acceptable to the United States.

A senior U.S. State Department official told Reuters that more discussions were necessary regarding timing, location and participants. [Page 4]

### Kiev synagogue attacked

About 50 youths attacked the central synagogue in Kiev, Ukraine, beating three people, hurling bottles and breaking windows. Among those injured in Saturday night's attack was the head of Kiev's yeshiva, Rabbi Tzvi Kaplan, who was knocked to the ground and beaten with stones.

The 13-year-old son of Kiev Chief Rabbi Moshe Azman and a security guard were also injured.

Azman said the mob marched down Kiev's main boulevard shouting "Kill the Jews!" before attacking the synagogue.

"I call this act a pogrom," Azman said. "It's a miracle that it was not worse."

The attack occurred after Saturday evening services, and many worshippers had already left the building.

"We didn't understand what was happening. All of a sudden, we saw a crowd running toward us with rocks," Azman's son, Jorik, told Russia's NTV television. Broken glass covered the floor of the synagogue Sunday, and police stood guard outside.

### Jewish tourists warned

The Simon Wiesenthal Center issued an advisory urging Jewish tourists to exercise "extreme caution" when visiting France and Belgium.

In its first action of the kind, the Center warned that in the past 18 months "there have been over 400 hate crimes against Jewish targets" in Paris and other French cities, including arson attacks against synagogues and beatings of Jewish pedestrians.

In Belgium, Jews "have been subjected to threats, intimidations and attacks, including a daylight assault on the chief rabbi of Brussels. Many religious Jews no longer feel safe wearing a skullcap in public," the advisory said.

## After three quiet years in U.S., Ambassador Ivry speaks out

By Matthew E. Berger

WASHINGTON (JTA) — Don't look for Israel's ambassador to the United States on television; you're not likely to find him.

Though Abba Eban and Yitzhak Rabin used the Washington posting as a stepping-stone to higher office in Jerusalem, David Ivry has led a relatively quiet existence in Washington for the three years he served as Israel's envoy to the United States.

There have been no television cameras and very few public speeches. That strategy — to avoid the spotlight rather than publicly fighting on Israel's behalf as terror attacks rocked Jerusalem — has drawn criticism both in Washington and internationally.

During one tiff between Israel and the United States, New York Times columnist Thomas Friedman rhetorically asked Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon whether there was an Israeli ambassador in Washington.

"Everyone liked Ivry," said one Jewish official, "but he wasn't visible."

Now, as he prepares to leave Washington to return to his homeland, Ivry is doing something he rarely did during his tenure — speaking out and defending himself, his style and the work his office has done in the past three years.

As Palestinian commentators on a small television in his office decry the latest Israeli incursions into the West Bank, Ivry explains why he does not join the public fight.

In heavily-accented English, Israel's former national security adviser and director general of the Defense Ministry says his quiet demeanor during the violent months was a strategic decision to gain favor with the Bush administration.

By not running to television cameras after each meeting at the State Department or the White House — as so many of his Israeli and Palestinian diplomatic colleagues do — he was able to gain the trust of the American decision makers, Ivry says.

"If I am going to have a meeting and I am not going to go to the media, we can go on a very deeper level of consultation, of assessment, of discussing what should be done," Ivry told JTA last week.

"What I learned here, and learned it quite fast, is that credibility and integrity are much more powerful factors in diplomacy than getting out to the media, speaking all kinds of mantras."

Ivry believes he was able to affect the Bush administration's views on many issues, thereby changing the national dialogue and influencing the American media.

"Before the spokesmen came out, we had some effect on what they were going to say, because we explained our position," Ivry said. "It could have been much more on the extreme side."

Ivry admits it may not have been enough for the American Jewish community, which wanted marching orders and a more public Israeli face for their conferences and conventions.

"They wanted to have very much a spokesman rather than an ambassador, not understanding the other part of an ambassador," he said.

The American Jewish official says that, by leaving it to others to represent Israel publicly, Ivry neglected a key function of his job.

"That may be fine in certain circumstances, but a spokesman can't be everywhere at once, and it's not the same thing as having someone with the stature of an ambassador" on television, said the official, who worked closely with the embassy. "Israel's image in part is formed by the actions of its ambassadors.

"I don't think anyone has a bad thing to say about him as a diplomat," the official

## MIDEAST FOCUS

### Israel ordered to turn over bodies

The Israeli army must hand over to Palestinian officials the bodies of Palestinians killed in the Jenin refugee camp. According to a ruling issued Sunday by Israel's High Court of Justice, the army cannot bury the remains of the Palestinians in unmarked graves.

Under the court's decision, Red Cross representatives would accompany Israeli military teams searching for bodies in the debris of the refugee camp, site of fierce fighting last week.

### Troops foil Gaza attack

Israeli troops foiled a terrorist attack on a Gaza settlement Saturday night. Soldiers fired at two armed Palestinians trying to infiltrate the settlement of Dugit, killing one of them, *Israel Radio reported*.

In other violence in the Gaza Strip, an Israeli border police officer, David Smirnoff, 22, of Ashdod, and a Palestinian worker were killed in a Palestinian shooting attack last Friday at the Erez Crossing into Israel. The gunman was shot and killed by Israeli security forces.

### Peres: Jenin was booby-trapped

Much of the destruction in the West Bank city of Jenin was the result of Palestinian booby-traps, according to Shimon Peres. Israel's foreign minister said Sunday that many buildings were demolished in Jenin because Palestinian terrorists had wired them with explosives. "There wasn't a house that wasn't booby-trapped," Peres said, "and there was no way to neutralize the danger without demolishing the structure."

In another development, Defense Minister Benjamin Ben-Eliezer said 23 Israeli soldiers died during the fighting in Jenin. He added that several dozen Palestinians — not hundreds, as Palestinian officials have claimed — were killed in last week's fighting at the camp.

continued, "but as an ambassador, I can't say he fulfilled what many might have wanted."

When Ivry was appointed to the position in 1999 by former Prime Minister Ehud Barak, the American Jewish community was one of the few groups he was dealing with.

Barak was talking directly to President Clinton and Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat. There was no real need for another intermediary, Ivry says.

But as the peace process failed and both Clinton and Barak left office, Ivry's role changed. Anticipating the victory of George W. Bush, Ivry says he courted some 20 senior Republicans, including Bush running mate Dick Cheney. His office's work, in his view, made for a smooth transition when the U.S. administration changed from Democrat to Republican and when Ariel Sharon's unity government replaced Barak's Labor government.

Ivry says he has had all the access he needed in this administration, and points to the Karine-A affair in early January as a sign of his office's influence on the Mideast agenda.

For the first week after Israeli soldiers captured the ship sailing from Iran to the Gaza Strip with 50 tons of weapons, it was not a hot topic of conversation.

But Ivry says he pushed the issue with the White House and State Department, explaining how the capture revealed Arafat's true intentions.

"The media here was not very supportive until the administration came out with their declaration" — which in effect blamed the Palestinian Authority for the shipment — "and we had to work with the administration directly to convince them about the strategic impact," he said. "Only then did the media come out with major support. It took us one week."

Ivry sees the Karine-A affair as a watershed event in his American tenure, ranking with the Camp David peace talks of July 2000 and the Sept. 11 terror attacks.

Ivry's last days in office have coincided with the most deadly Israeli-Palestinian fighting since the intifada began in September 2000, and he says he has been in contact with State Department and White House officials to defend Israeli military actions.

Some claim to see a rift in U.S.-Israeli relations in the past few weeks — when Sharon refused Bush's demand to withdraw Israeli troops from the West Bank immediately — but Ivry says the two countries are just quarreling over details.

"There is a risk for some more tension, but I don't think there is a break," he said. "The strategic common interests are really equal and identical in my opinion without hesitation."

Even if U.S. and Israeli viewpoints do diverge, it would not be new territory for Ivry. After all, as commander of the Israel Air Force in 1981, he led the mission to destroy Iraq's nuclear reactor, a mission condemned by the United States and most of the world.

It took a decade for the United States — specifically, then-Defense Secretary Cheney — to realize Israel's foresight, when Iraq's lack of nuclear capability made the 1991 Persian Gulf War easier for the American-led coalition.

Before Ivry even announced his intention to leave Washington, rumors already were circulating about who would replace him. With both Sharon and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres required to sign off on a replacement, the Washington posting has come to symbolize the tug of war within Israel's unity government.

Speculation has focused on Ephraim Halevy, the head of Israel's Mossad intelligence service, and Dore Gold, a Sharon adviser and former Israeli ambassador to the United Nations. Already a familiar face to American television audiences, Gold has been referred to in jest as the "anti-Ivry," as he would be expected to focus more on courting the media and presenting a more public face for Israel.

The controversy over choosing a successor has cast a shadow over his job for months, Ivry says, with people less interested in doing business with a lame duck.

Frustrated with the situation, Ivry announced several months ago that he would leave after this month's Israel Independence Day celebrations, whether or not a successor had been chosen.

Ivry will divulge little about his future options, saying he does not think it's proper to discuss future plans while still serving as ambassador. While shrugging off the idea of political office, he says people have approached him for public service positions in Israel. Alternatively, Ivry says, he may go into private industry — or even join the media. □



## Daily News Bulletin

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## JEWISH WORLD

### Lanner trial slated for June

The trial of a rabbi accused of sexually molesting scores of teen-agers over the years is slated to begin June 3. The trial of Rabbi Baruch Lanner will be held in Freehold, N.J., according to the New York Jewish Week. Lanner faces charges of sexually assaulting two teen-aged female students at the Hillel Yeshiva High School in Ocean Township, N.J., where he was principal.

If convicted, Lanner — who was for years a high-ranking professional with the Orthodox Union's National Conference of Synagogue Youth — could be sentenced to up to 40 years in jail, the paper reported.

### Court rules on Papon fine

France must pay half of the damages that Nazi collaborator Maurice Papon was ordered to pay to Holocaust victims.

A top French court ruled that the state shares blame with Papon, 91, for transporting Jews to death camps during the pro-Nazi Vichy regime.

Papon began serving a 10-year jail sentence in October 1999 after he was found guilty of helping deport some 1,500 Jews to Nazi death camps during World War II. He also was ordered to pay about \$630,000 in damages and court costs to victims and their families.

### Pro-Palestinian protesters nabbed

Police arrested 15 pro-Palestinian militants demonstrating outside the home of France's prime minister.

The demonstrators used firecrackers and bull horns early Sunday morning outside Lionel Jospin's house to "wake up" the French government to the plight of the Palestinian people and of Yasser Arafat, who remains confined to his Ramallah headquarters, according to protest organizers.

Pro-Palestinian demonstrations were held in a number of cities across France on Saturday, drawing hundreds of participants.

### Homage for Nazi victims

During a state visit to Italy this week, German President Johannes Rau will pay homage to hundreds of Italian victims of the Nazis.

Accompanied by Italian President Carlo Azeglio Ciampi on Wednesday, Rau will visit the village of Marzabotto, near Bologna, where at the end of September 1944 nearly 2,000 Italian civilians, including at least 189 children, were massacred by Nazi soldiers for allegedly harboring anti-fascist partisans.

In 1951, Austrian SS Maj. Walter Reder was sentenced to life in prison for the massacres and other war crimes, but he was freed in 1985 and returned to Austria.

## Israel-bashing overshadows U.N. conference on the elderly

By Hillel Landes

MADRID (JTA) — It may be getting old, but Israel-bashing at U.N. meetings doesn't let up even when the topic is as innocuous as aging.

One Arab speaker after another took the podium last week at the World Assembly on Aging in Madrid to accuse Israel of nearly every imaginable crime, under the pretense that elderly Palestinians were among the main victims of Israeli "aggression."

The broadsides drew applause from delegates and even sympathy from the meeting's chairpersons, despite a plea by the Israeli delegate not to allow a repeat of last year's U.N. World Conference Against Racism in South Africa, when Israel and Jews were vilified and Israel was accused of "racist practices."

"We must not permit this gathering — like so many other international conferences before it that sought to further important goals for all mankind — to be hijacked by those with a narrow and hostile political agenda," Herzl Inbar, Israel's ambassador to Spain, told the assembly in vain.

"Those who use this podium to attack Israel," he said, "should ask themselves what have their own countries done to further the needs of their aging populations as well as other parts of their society, instead of wasting their resources and energies on policies that are based on hatred and violence against Israel."

The Arab charge was led by the "moderate" Arab countries. Fayza Abounaga, Egypt's minister of state for foreign affairs, accused Israel of "attempts at genocide," and asked delegates to "to condemn what the elderly suffer at the hands of the Israeli army."

Hussein Majed, Jordan's ambassador to Spain, claimed elderly Palestinians "are subjected to the most horrendous forms of abuse" and called Israel's anti-terrorist military operations "unjustified genocide" and "a liquidation of human beings."

Palestinian speaker Soraia Barghouti maintained that elderly Palestinians suffer the most from Israeli attacks, and often die because military roadblocks prevent them from reaching hospitals.

She condemned what she called Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's "savage practices," and accused Israel of practicing "the worst kinds of war crimes and state terrorism."

"History has taught us that victory is inevitable, however long it takes," she said. "We will prevail!" she added, to loud applause.

In response to the Arabs' rhetorical attacks, Inbar pointed out that more than 50 of the 400 Israelis killed by Palestinian terrorists during the intifada have been older than 60.

In the last month alone, 25 elderly Israelis, including several Holocaust survivors, were murdered. Inbar named Ernest and Eva Weiss and Marianne Lehmann Zaoui, who lost their lives in the late March "Passover Massacre" suicide bombing "instead of enjoying their golden years with their families."

"How can anyone even begin to justify that?" Inbar asked.

Despite the Israel-bashing, Israeli delegation members said they did not consider walking out during the five-day conference, as the Israelis and Americans did at last summer's racism conference.

The "International Plan of Action on Aging," finalized by representatives from 160 nations as the meeting ended last Friday, contained no explicit mention of Israel.

Arab countries agreed to drop one of the references to "foreign occupation," though two others remained. □

## Sharon's approval rating rises

JERUSALEM (JTA) — Support for Prime Minister Ariel Sharon has soared since the Israeli incursion into the West Bank began.

According to a new opinion poll, 75 percent of Israelis support the military operation in the West Bank, and Sharon's approval rating has soared to 59 percent from 35 percent since the operations began, according to the daily Ma'ariv newspaper. □

## Powell's 'Mission Impossible' likely to fail, observers maintain

By Naomi Segal

JERUSALEM (JTA) — Given the Israeli and Palestinian positions, chances appear slim that U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell's peacekeeping mission will prove a success.

Political observers here attribute their low expectations from Powell's mission to the two key players and adversaries in the conflict: Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon and Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat.

For Sharon, Powell's efforts to reach a cease-fire and make progress on the diplomatic front run contrary to Sharon's desire to "finish-up" his military operation against the Palestinian terror infrastructure in the West Bank. In addition, these observers say, Sharon is not interested in seeing Arafat resurrected as a legitimate partner in a diplomatic dialogue.

Further lowering the chances of a diplomatic breakthrough, the Palestinians have said they are not interested in taking any conciliatory steps until Israel withdraws its troops from the West Bank.

The swell of international support Arafat is currently enjoying makes him even less inclined to offer any concessions, observers note.

During a meeting Sunday with Powell, Sharon proposed the idea of a U.S.-hosted Middle East peace conference. Sharon said after the meeting that his proposal was acceptable to the United States. A senior U.S. State Department official told Reuters that more discussions were necessary regarding timing, location and participants.

Sunday's meeting was the second Powell had with Sharon over the weekend. In both sets of discussions, Powell failed to secure a timetable from Sharon for the withdrawal of Israeli troops from Palestinian-controlled areas.

Following last Friday's talks with Sharon, Powell attempted to balance his understanding of Israel's need for security with the need to progress toward a cease-fire. "We do understand what terrorism is, and as we have responded to terrorism, we know that Israel has a right to respond to terrorism. The question is how do we get beyond just a response," Powell told reporters.

Sharon said at the time he hoped to wind up the Israeli operation soon, but that suicide bombers are "a danger to Israel and all of the free world."

Before meeting with Sharon on Sunday, Powell made little progress during a three-hour meeting with Arafat at the Palestinian leader's Ramallah headquarters.

Powell called the meeting "useful and constructive," but he indicated no progress toward a cease-fire.

That meeting was made possible after the Palestinian Authority president issued a statement condemning last Friday's suicide bombing in Jerusalem in which six people were killed and 75 injured.

"We strongly condemn all attacks targeting civilians from both sides, and especially the attack that took place against Israeli citizens yesterday in Jerusalem," Arafat said in Saturday's statement.

On Sunday, National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice said the United States is now waiting to see Arafat follow up on the statement with meaningful action.

Powell delivered "a very strong message to Chairman Arafat" that President Bush and other U.S. officials are "watching to make

certain that he follows up on some of the very positive statements" Arafat made Saturday, Rice said on NBC-TV's "Meet the Press."

Dampening hopes for a speedy move toward a cease-fire, Palestinian officials said Sunday that Arafat would carry through with a pledge to curb terror only after Israel ends its military operation in the West Bank.

"Once the Israelis complete their full withdrawal, we will, as Palestinians, carry out our obligations," Palestinian negotiator Saeb Erekat told CNN.

For its part, Israel has said it will end its military operation in the West Bank only after its forces have finished rounding up Palestinian terrorists.

At Sunday's weekly Cabinet meeting, Defense Minister Benjamin Ben-Eliezer said Israel had arrested some 1,200 suspected terrorists since launching its Operation Protective Wall on March 29 in an attempt to round up terrorists and collect illegal arms in Palestinian-controlled cities.

Adding to the Israeli demands, Ra'anana Gissin, a spokesman for Sharon, said after the Cabinet meeting that Israel would insist that Arafat turn over wanted terrorists alleged to be inside Arafat's Ramallah headquarters.

"Arafat is hosting terrorists who are wanted in Israel," Gissin told CNN, adding that the assassins of Israeli Cabinet minister Rehavam Ze'evi are among those taking refuge in Arafat's compound.

U.S. and Palestinian officials were slated to meet Monday to follow up on Powell's meeting with Arafat.

Also on Monday, Powell was scheduled to visit Lebanon and Syria to discuss the tensions along Israel's northern border, where Hezbollah gunmen have repeatedly fired on Israeli positions.

According to news reports of last Friday's meeting, Sharon reiterated to Powell his proposal for a long-term interim agreement, in which political progress could be made once a cease-fire is in place. To underscore the reason for his desire to remain in the West Bank until the Palestinian terror infrastructure is destroyed, Sharon showed Powell pictures of carnage from Palestinian terrorist attacks against Israel.

The secretary of state also got a chance to witness some of that carnage firsthand: Last Friday's suicide bombing in Jerusalem occurred as Powell was wrapping up talks in Jerusalem.

Powell was at the Knesset landing pad, about to board a helicopter. At the directive of Ben-Eliezer, the pilot flew over the attack site.

The female terrorist struck in Jerusalem's Mahane Yehuda market just hours after Powell met with Sharon. The bomber blew herself at a bus station outside a bakery as a bus pulled up.

Meanwhile, tensions remained high at Bethlehem's Church of the Nativity. On Sunday, Israeli troops shot a Palestinian gunman near the church. The army said the Palestinian, who later died of his wounds, was preparing to fire at soldiers.

Some 200 Palestinian gunmen are believed to be inside the church, which Christian tradition considers the spot where Jesus was born. Israel says the gunmen, who include known terrorists, are holding nuns and priests inside as hostages, but some of the clergy say they are there of their own volition.

In a standoff that has lasted some two weeks, Israeli forces have surrounded the church, but will not attack it because of the expected international fall-out.

Israeli officials said Sunday the army will continue the siege until the gunmen surrender or go into "permanent exile."

The Palestinian side rejected the demand. □