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85th Year

TOP NEWS IN BRIEF

Anti-Nusseibeh action blasted

The White House criticized Israel's decision to close the offices of the top Palestinian official in Jerusalem.

In a statement issued Wednesday, the Bush administration said the action taken Tuesday against Sari Nusseibeh, considered a moderate among Palestinian officials, was "a troubling event." The action "does not contribute to the fight against terror," the statement added.

Venice Ghetto goes on alert

Jewish sites in Venice went on high alert following warnings of a possible Al-Qaida terror attack.

As part of heightened security measures, officials from the city's special anti-terrorism unit patrolled the Jewish Ghetto, Reuters reported.

Israel to try Barghouti

Israel plans to put Palestinian leader Marwan Barghouti on trial. Barghouti, the leader of Palestinian militias in the West Bank, will be charged with abetting numerous attacks on Israelis, an Israeli justice official said Thursday.

Barghouti was arrested by Israeli troops in mid-April, but has not been charged.

Four other Palestinians arrested during Israel's anti-terror military operations in the West Bank will be tried alongside Barghouti in a civilian court, the official added.

Amnesty blasts suicide attacks

A report by Amnesty International calls Palestinian terror attacks on Israeli civilians "crimes against humanity."

None of the Israeli military's actions in the West Bank and Gaza Strip justify Palestinian attacks on Israeli civilians, the report added.

Beer thrown at Peres

A glass of beer was thrown at Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres during a visit to Copenhagen. Witnesses said a young man speaking Arabic was detained in the vicinity immediately after, Army Radio reported.

Peres was in Copenhagen for talks with leaders of Denmark, which currently holds the rotating E.U. presidency.

Israeli camp children reap fruits of UJC emergency campaign

By Jessica Steinberg

JERUSALEM (JTA) — Twenty squirming 6- and 7-year-olds pile into the center of the classroom, listening attentively to their day camp counselor as she explains how to make a recycled newspaper art project.

As they sit cross-legged on the floor, ripping up newspaper that would later be mixed with a clay-like glue and then molded into primary colored art, Ellen Waghelstein plunks herself down amid three giggling girls to help.

Tal, Chen and Rivka end up spending more time teaching Waghelstein the words to a popular Hebrew song.

In turn, she teaches them how to say bug juice, the red-colored juice popular at many American camps.

Waghelstein, from Rockville, Md., along with a busload of United Jewish Communities colleagues, was visiting the community center day camp in Baka, a Jerusalem neighborhood.

The day camp is one of many that has been funded by a \$25 million grant from the Israel Emergency Campaign, which was launched by UJC and federations across North America in response to the ongoing terror in Israel.

The campaign has already raised nearly \$300 million to offset security, medical, child welfare and other humanitarian needs in Israel.

The funding is being administered by a committee of representatives from the UJC, the Jewish Agency for Israel, the Israeli government and the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee. This summer, the \$25 million is supporting a three-week countrywide camp program. The camps are seen as a way of providing safe recreational activities for Israeli children.

As part of the Jewish organizational collaborative effort, the JDC, along with Israel's Education Ministry and the Union of Local Authorities, is administering the day camp programs.

Out of the \$25 million, \$20 million enabled 230,000 Israeli children from grades one through six to attend camp.

The camps are located in low-income areas that have been particularly vulnerable to terror attacks, including areas in Jerusalem, Afula, Hadera, Netanya and Kfar Saba.

The remaining \$5 million is being used for special summer programs for special needs children and youth at risk, and will reach 35,000 youngsters throughout the country.

From the \$20 million, \$18 million was slated for camps around Israel, while the remaining \$2 million was set aside for Jerusalem, as stipulated by the UJA-Federation of New York, which is Jerusalem's sister city.

For Shula Ohayoun, a single mother of four from Baka with two girls in the day camp, the UJC grant was a lifesaver.

"I don't know what I would have done this summer," said Ohayoun, who has two older sons, one of whom will enter the army this fall.

"With the camp, they're going to the pool, the monkey park, on hikes. These are treats I wouldn't have been able to afford."

The day camp, which runs from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. for most of the children, includes four trips to a local pool, several all-day outings, and the usual routine of sports, arts and crafts and other activities. At the Baka camp, which is held in a small, local elementary school surrounded by painted cement yards, the children are divided into groups of 20 to 25, with two counselors, explained Amos Lev-Ran, the day camp

MIDEAST FOCUS

Army chief opposes expulsion

Israel's new army chief reportedly opposes expelling Yasser Arafat.

Lt. Gen. Moshe Ya'alon said in a closed meeting with senior military officers that such a move would be a mistake because it would restore Arafat's legitimacy, according to the Israeli daily *Ma'ariv*.

Dispute over security fence

Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert called for including Rachel's Tomb within a security fence surrounding Jerusalem.

Israeli army officials argued against the proposal, saying the shrine is in a densely populated area near Bethlehem and including it within the fence would require the demolition of dozens of Palestinian buildings, according to Israeli media reports. The security fence is currently planned to pass by an army checkpoint at the southern boundary of Jerusalem, about 200 yards north of the shrine.

Woman: I helped bomber

A Palestinian woman confessed to her involvement in a terror attack. Lailah Buchari, 26, confessed to Israeli interrogators that she had helped another woman carry out a suicide attack in late February at a roadblock in which three police officers were injured, according to the *Jerusalem Post*.

Report: Assad aide seeks post

A former adviser to Syrian President Hafez Assad reportedly wants to become the next U.N. high commissioner for human rights.

Syrian law professor George Jabbour sent a letter to U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan this week in which he expressed interest in succeeding Mary Robinson, whose term as commissioner ends in September, according to the *Jerusalem Post*, which cited the *Beirut Daily Star* newspaper.



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director. In addition to the 200,000-plus children enrolled in the camps, another 12,000 Israeli youth between the ages of 12 and 18 are involved in the day camps as staff and counselors.

While Baka is a mostly middle- to upper-middle-class neighborhood with families that can well afford day camp, there are pockets of lower-income families in the community, said Yehiel Levy, the director of the local community center.

A significant number of the campers come from Givat Hamatos, a rundown area close to Baka that is home to many poor Ethiopian and Russian immigrants.

There are usually 70 to 80 children enrolled in the Baka day camp each summer, with another 50 pre-schoolers in the nearby day care program. This year, there are 170 kids in the day camp, and 70 children in the nearby day care center.

"The money you gave us gives us the opportunity to bring kids to camp," Levy told the visiting UJC delegation. "And for that, we thank you."

Given the large sums of tax-exempt donations being made, the organizations are working to make sure that the money is being put to work quickly and efficiently.

"The money you spend on summer camps goes to the right people at the right time," Nachman Shai, director general of UJC Israel, told the group of UJC leaders.

An additional \$5 million has been raised by the emergency campaign for the Fund to Aid Victims of Terror. More than \$1.5 million was distributed by the fund over the last four months to 155 terror victims and their families.

Whenever the State of Israel can't cover certain expenses or needs, the fund, which is administered by the Jewish Agency, steps in to help out with living expenses, counseling, medical needs and armored vehicles. Each week, a committee allocates \$300,000 to families and family members of terror victims, officials said.

Sitting in a classroom at Kiryat Moriah, an all-purpose educational campus in Jerusalem, the mission participants heard from Shoshana Gottlieb, 49, who was shot while riding home from work last February.

Now paralyzed from the neck down, Gottlieb has returned to work, but was having problems reaching her third-floor apartment whenever the elevator wasn't working.

A grant helped purchase a three-wheel device that takes her wheelchair up the stairs to her apartment.

For Eitan Edry, 22, whose father, Yehuda, an intelligence officer, was shot in the line of duty, the fund helped his mother refinance the mortgage on the new home that his father had built for the family of six children.

"The needs are substantial," said Ethan Budin, chairman of the Young Leadership of the Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Chicago. "This situation speaks to the community. We need to continue to support Israel." □

Judge rules that ex-Nazi guard, living in U.S., should be deported

By Max Heuer

NEW YORK (JTA) — A U.S. immigration judge has ordered the deportation of a Missouri man who served as a guard at the Sachsenhausen concentration camp.

Michael Negele, 81, was ordered deported to Romania after the U.S. Justice Department's Nazi-hunting unit, the Office of Special Investigations, proved that he had participated in Nazi-sponsored acts of persecution.

Negele entered the United States in 1950 and became a citizen in 1955.

He served from November 1943 through June 1944 as an armed SS Death's Head Battalion guard at Sachsenhausen, which is near Berlin.

He also served as a guard of prisoners at the Theresienstadt Ghetto near Prague, which served as a way station for the Auschwitz and Treblinka death camps.

Some 10,000 prisoners died at Theresienstadt, while thousands more passed through on the way to their deaths.

Negele specialized in the use of a guard dog — he admitted to the court he used a German shepherd trained to attack prisoners who attempted to escape.

The recent decision, however, is only a piece in the final puzzle of justice.

Jill Stillman, a spokesperson for the Department of Justice, said Negele's departure to Romania is "not automatic. He has a chance to appeal." □

JEWISH WORLD

Germany may pay Jewish family

Germany may soon settle with descendants of a Jewish businessman who was forced to sell his property for a song by the Nazis. Germany's Finance Ministry says it wants a settlement with the Claims Conference, which handles Holocaust-related restitution cases, on the property expropriated from the Wertheim family in the 1930s.

The property is currently valued at \$250 million. A separate case is pending in a Manhattan court against KarstadtQuelle, a retail giant that sits on land owned by the family until 1951.

Note on mission expected

The New York City Council is considering a resolution calling on the United States to shut down the Palestinian mission in New York. After a six-hour hearing Tuesday, council officials said a vote will occur at the next hearing, which is not yet scheduled.

The resolution calls on the United States to declare the Palestinian Authority a terrorist organization and shut down its offices in New York. Jewish activists who have lobbied intensively for the resolution testified at Tuesday's hearing.

'G.I. bill' for Israeli soldiers

A Chicago couple launched a scholarship project for Israeli soldiers. Al and Pat Frank are underwriting four-year tuition scholarships for 200 Israeli men and women who have completed their service in Israel's army.

The program, which will cost a total of \$16,000 per student, is being conducted under the auspices of the Chicago chapter of the Friends of the Israeli Defense Forces. The Franks are enlisting other businessmen to join the effort, which they say they hope will continue annually.

Norway group wants Israelis tried

The youth group affiliated with Norway's Labor Party reportedly wants Israeli leaders tried for war crimes in Norway.

Labor officials, however, did not support the youth group's complaint. Legal experts said it is unlikely that Norwegian law would allow such a trial.

Seeds of Peace founder dies at 59

John Wallach, the founder of Seeds of Peace, died Wednesday of lung cancer at 59.

In 1993, Wallach proposed to then-Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres that the group be created to bring Israeli, Palestinian and Egyptian youths together on neutral soil in the United States. Each summer since then, hundreds of Israeli and Arab teen-agers have gathered in the woods of Maine in an effort to increase mutual understanding.

Two-year investigation confirms role played by Poles in wartime massacre

By Ruth E. Gruber

ROME (JTA) — Local Poles, not Nazi occupiers, carried out a 1941 massacre Jews in the Polish village of Jedwabne, according to the findings of a two-year probe.

The long-awaited announcement from Poland's Institute of National Memory came on the eve of the 61st anniversary of the massacre, in which as many as 1,600 Jews were burned to death in a barn on July 10, 1941.

For decades, the slaughter had been attributed to the Nazis.

But in 2000, "Neighbors," a book called by Polish-American scholar Jan Gross, revealed that the massacre was carried out by local Poles. A subsequent documentary film and on-site research reached a similar conclusion.

The revelations sparked a widespread and wrenching debate about Poland's role — and the role of individual Poles — in the Holocaust.

The revelations also prompted the institute's investigation.

The institute said the nearly 100 people it questioned, one-third of whom claimed to have witnessed the massacre, gave contradictory testimony.

But Radoslaw Ignatiew, the prosecutor who conducted the investigation, said that while Germans were present at the massacre, witness testimony and forensic evidence including bullets and bones from mass graves showed that "Polish residents of Jedwabne and surroundings, men numbering at least 40," committed the crime.

"The Germans helped bring Jews to the town market square, but that was the extent of their active role," he said.

He added, however, that the figure of 1,600 Jews killed in the massacre seemed "highly improbable" and that the number of fatalities was probably lower.

He also said that the institute, which is charged with investigating and prosecuting perpetrators of Nazi- and Communist-era crimes, would not file charges against anyone for the massacre.

In 1949, 12 Poles were convicted by a communist court of aiding Germans in carrying out the slaughter.

"Generally speaking, the results of the investigation add little to what was already known," Stanislaw Krajewski, the Warsaw consultant of the American Jewish Committee, told JTA. "They confirm the overall picture presented by Jan Gross.

"I believe that we will never find out the number of victims at Jedwabne," he added. "It is clear, however, that the overwhelming majority of Jews who were then in the village were murdered, either in the barn or somewhere else.

"It is also clear that the local Poles were the murderers, though it is difficult to say how many were actively involved," he said. "It is also certain that the German presence was a key factor."

One year ago, on the 60th anniversary of the massacre, Polish President Alexander Kwasniewski apologized for the massacre and begged forgiveness from the victims and their families during a ceremony in Jedwabne.

Joined by Jewish leaders, relatives of Jedwabne victims and government officials, Kwasniewski walked from the town center to the site of the barn, where a monument to the victims was unveiled. □

Who betrayed Anne Frank?

NEW YORK (JTA) — Dutch officials are re-examining the case of Anne Frank to determine who betrayed her hiding place to the Nazis.

Two new theories suggest the betrayer of the teen-ager, whose diary has become a standard of Holocaust studies, was either a business associate of Frank's father or a cleaning woman.

For years, Dutch police suspected the person who made the call describing Frank's hiding place was a warehouse worker.

The Netherlands Institute for War Documentation, publishers of the authoritative text of Frank's diary, said it would conduct an inquiry into the theories, checking police files and the national archives. □

BEHIND THE HEADLINES**Determined settlers see outposts as obstacles to war, not to peace**

By Tzvi Ben Gedalyahu

JERUSALEM (JTA) — They are young, determined, stubborn and self-styled pioneering Zionists, living in trailers on isolated West Bank hills.

The Israeli left calls them obstacles to peace. They call themselves obstacles to war.

"Yes, I am crazy," says Ayal Hanneman, a husband and father of five in the Yair outpost in the southern Hebron mountains.

"Abraham was crazy. God told him to sacrifice his only son, and he started to do so because he believed in God. So I am doing what Abraham would do today, settling the land."

The Yair outpost is one of 20 tiny communities that Israeli settlers have set up in the past year and that Defense Minister Benjamin Ben-Eliezer has ordered dismantled.

The Yesha council of settlers and Ben-Eliezer reached a compromise last week to dismantle 10 of the outposts immediately, following Labor Party accusations that they were purposefully trying to aggravate Arab neighbors by settling nearby.

Critics also claim the settlements are illegal.

Tzachi Shevach, 26, moved with two other young men a year ago to the Asa-El outpost adjacent to the Yatir Forest.

"I always wanted to move to a place like this. It is a place I can build," says Shevach, who grew up in a moshav near Netanya.

"I like the quiet and the view. In the beginning, we lived under the water tower until the trailers came."

The Southern Hebron Hills regional council provides the residents with a generator and water.

The Asa-El settlers are not Orthodox. "I was educated with Zionism and settlement," Shevach says.

"Every outpost means continuous communities. These places strengthen security also within the Green Line," he says, referring to the pre-1967 border between Israel and the West Bank.

The Yesha regional council publicly has claimed victory in the compromise to evacuate the outposts, most of them unpopulated or only on the drawing boards.

A spokesman for the defense minister told JTA that all of the outposts will be evacuated, but gave no timetable.

He refused to comment on whether the outposts are obstacles to peace or to war, saying that the defense minister "does not relate to the issue from a political standpoint."

The spokesman said Ben-Eliezer's opposition to the outposts is based on military considerations and that evacuation prevents danger to the settlers.

The residents of Asa-El has refused to let the army send soldiers to guard them, in contrast to other places where settlers' presence demands more army manpower.

Three soldiers are stationed at the Yair outpost, for example, where Hanneman lives along with another two families.

But at Asa-El, Shevach says, "All of us were soldiers. We are independent and take care of ourselves. There is always one person here. We are not afraid but not apathetic."

"We know where we are. And we are growing. A young couple is scheduled to move here next week."

Anar Apirion, 23, lives with five other young men and one woman, all Orthodox, on the Avigail outpost between Hebron and

Arad. Apirion, who grew up in the Kedumim settlement in the West Bank area known as Shomron, notes that his hometown was once a tiny outpost, but now has 700 families.

"I feel I am doing something and strengthening the land," he says. "Every place in Israel is dangerous, and we are making it safer. "I love the quiet," he adds, looking out on the barren and windy vista southeast of Hebron.

He says he is not taking away land from the Arabs. "They can live on their lands but under our government. We are on government land."

The community grows wheat and raises goats and chickens. They also make and deliver pizza to the local communities and soldiers. Several of them also work nearby.

There are two trailers for the men.

The woman, Adi Lemberger, 22, from Efrat, lives in an old bus converted to a trailer.

"I came here by coincidence, visiting friends. I fell in love with the place," says Lemberger, whose family emigrated from the United States. She, like her friends, doesn't think the outposts are against the law.

Ben-Eliezer's spokesman said the outposts are illegal in the sense that the government has not authorized them.

"I am not a criminal," Apirion says. "It is not against the law for a Jew to live where he wants to in Israel."

Despite their commitment, the outpost residents say they wouldn't confront the army if Ben-Eliezer evacuates them.

"I don't believe it will happen," says Apirion. "I wouldn't help them, but I wouldn't argue with a soldier."

Besides, the settlers believe that time is on their side.

Despite Ben-Eliezer's promise, which was made just before a Labor Party convention, they believe they have de facto status, exactly like the original settlements like Ofra in the West Bank.

That, too, started as a lonely outpost with four families without government authorization. Today it has 600 families.

Shevach says there have been no incidents with Arabs since he and his friends moved to Asa-El last year. "Before we came, the Arabs threw stones at cars. Since we have been here, nothing has happened because we can see everything from the hill," he says. "Our presence prevents problems." □

Swiss president retreats on vow

BERN (JTA) — The president of Switzerland has backtracked on a vow to help Holocaust survivors made by a predecessor.

In an interview this week, Swiss President Kaspar Villiger said it would not be legally possible to make payments to survivors or Jewish groups from a \$5 billion foundation to help victims of genocide, war and natural disasters.

In March 1997, then-President Arnold Koller proposed the creation of the foundation during a speech to Parliament, saying it should be used to help the "victims of poverty and catastrophes," including victims of the Holocaust.

To create the foundation, the Swiss National Bank was to sell off some \$5 billion of its gold reserves. Interest and other investment income from the proceeds of that sale would generate some \$200 million annually to support humanitarian causes, Koller said at the time.

Under Swiss law, the foundation had to be approved by a national referendum, but the vote was repeatedly postponed. A referendum is now slated to be held this fall. □