



# Daily News Bulletin

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85th Year

## TOP NEWS IN BRIEF

### Israeli dies after ambush

An Israeli died Wednesday of wounds he sustained a day earlier in a Palestinian ambush near Hebron.

Oded Volak, 51, of Modi'in, had suffered gunshot wounds to the head.

Three other Israelis were wounded in the attack and remain hospitalized, according to the Jerusalem Post.

### 2 Palestinians killed in Gaza

Israeli soldiers killed two Palestinians and wounded 18 others Wednesday during clashes at a Palestinian refugee camp in the Gaza Strip. Israel said the soldiers opened fire after Palestinian gunmen opened fire from Rafah, in southern Gaza. Palestinian sources said one of the dead was a 20-year-old man and the other was 17.

In another development, Israeli soldiers and tanks entered Palestinian-controlled areas in northern Gaza, according to Israel's Itim news agency.

Three wanted Palestinians were arrested, the report said.

### Students sue Univ. of Michigan

Two students sued the University of Michigan for hosting a Palestinian solidarity conference.

The lawsuit, filed Tuesday, is intended to force the university to cancel the conference, slated for this weekend, on the grounds that it "violates free speech by inciting hatred against Americans and Jews," according to one of the plaintiffs, Rick Dorfman. [Page 1]

### Israel dismantles settler outposts

Israeli soldiers dismantled three uninhabited settler outposts in the West Bank.

Wednesday's move came after Defense Minister Benjamin Ben-Eliezer pledged to remove all illegal enclaves, including populated ones.

The head of the army's Central Command on Wednesday presented settler leaders with a list of some 24 outposts due to be dismantled within a week, Israel Radio reported.

Ben-Eliezer's detractors allege that his stance on the outposts was taken in an effort to win votes from the dovish wing of the party as he fights for re-election as Labor Party leader in November.

## BEHIND THE HEADLINES

### Activists gear up for showdown at Michigan divestment meeting

By Rachel Pomerance

NEW YORK (JTA) — The anti-Israel divestment movement could enter a critical phase this weekend when Palestinian students from across the country gather at the University of Michigan.

The gathering, the Second National Student Conference on the Palestine Solidarity Movement, is sponsored by a pro-Palestinian campus group, Students Allied for Freedom and Equality.

Among other topics, the conference is calling on universities to divest their holdings in companies that do business with the Jewish state.

With divestment under scrutiny following criticism from Harvard University's president, Jewish activists hope the spotlight on the conference — and the counter-activities Jewish groups are planning — spells the beginning of the end of the divestment movement.

"When we defeat it at" the University of Michigan, "it's going to be pretty clear that it's not welcome" on any university in the United States, said Benjamin Berger, Hillel's staff coordinator for pro-Israel groups at the University of Michigan.

Hillel, which has been working closely with mainstream Jewish groups on campus, is promoting its own pro-Israel agenda as a counterweight to the conference. So, too, is a new campus group called the Michigan Student Zionists.

Divestment is among the most controversial steps in the arsenal of anti-Israel activism that has gripped college campuses since the Palestinian intifada began two years ago. The divestment campaign was launched at the first conference of the Palestine Solidarity Movement last fall at the University of California at Berkeley.

Divestment petitions since have spread to 40 universities. However, counter-petitions opposing divestment have garnered 10 times as many signatures, according to Michael Jankelowitz, the Jewish Agency for Israel's representative to Hillel: The Foundation for Jewish Campus Life.

Anti-Israel activists are modeling the movement on the 1980s campaign against South Africa, when student activists convinced some universities to protest the apartheid regime by divesting university holdings.

The analogy between Israel and apartheid South Africa, anathema to supporters of Israel, has become a common feature of the anti-Israel critique.

But a speech last month by Harvard University President Lawrence Summers, accusing the anti-Israel movement of veering into anti-Semitism, has recast debate on the divestment movement.

"Serious and thoughtful people are advocating and taking actions that are anti-Semitic in their effect if not their intent," Summers said Sept. 17. "And some here at Harvard and some at universities across the country have called for the university to single out Israel among all nations as the lone country where it is inappropriate for any part of the university's endowment to be invested."

Given the intense media coverage Summers' speech spawned, this weekend's conference will be scrutinized by media and activists on both sides of the Israeli-Palestinian divide. The event is especially controversial given the large populations of Arab and Jewish students at Michigan.

Divestment is just one item on the conference agenda. Among its guiding principles — which do not include peace with Israel — are "the full decolonization of all

## MIDEAST FOCUS

### Israel transfers funds to P.A.

Israel transferred nearly \$15 million in tax money to the Palestinian Authority. The money was the third and final payment of Israel's promised transfer of some \$42 million in tax revenues that Israel had refused to turn over to the Palestinian Authority since the outbreak of the intifada two years ago. The latest transfer was approved following U.S. pressure on Israel to ease the economic hardships of the Palestinians, Israel Radio reported.

### Report: Israeli judges targeted

Palestinian terror groups reportedly plan to kidnap and murder Israeli military court judges. The judges are being targeted for assassination because they issue the orders to demolish terrorists' homes, according to Army Radio. The plan was reported Wednesday, as Israeli forces demolished the homes of two terrorists near the West Bank city of Nablus. In a related development, the Israeli daily Ma'ariv reported that Hamas has created a hit list of 100 Israeli military officers.

### Poll eyes Christian Israel support

Most of the support for Israel from the evangelical Christian community is not based on theological reasons, according to a new poll.

More than half of evangelicals say they support Israel because it is a democracy and an important ally of the United States in the war against terrorism, according to a survey by Stand for Israel, a project of the International Fellowship of Christians and Jews. The group is a strong backer of the evangelical-Jewish alliance. Thirty-five percent of evangelicals support Israel for theological reasons, the poll said.

The poll, which showed continued Jewish skepticism about evangelical support, also showed high levels of support for Israel among Catholics and Protestants.



## Daily News Bulletin

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Palestinian land"; the "recognition and implementation of the right of return" for Palestinian refugees and their descendants; and "an end to the Israeli system of apartheid and discrimination against the indigenous Palestinian population."

Staff from Hillel and local Jewish federations met privately with the University of Michigan's president last week to voice security concerns and to ensure that portions of the conference advertised as public indeed are open to all.

Some members of the Jewish community recommended ignoring the conference to minimize the publicity it received, but university administrators have come out strongly against the conference.

Given the nature of the conference, the university had to take a high-profile stand, said Laurence Deitch, chairman of the University of Michigan's Board of Regents.

"I felt it was very important to speak out so that people understood that this was a student-organized conference and did not reflect the views of the University of Michigan," he told JTA. "If the destruction of Israel as a Jewish homeland isn't anti-Semitic, what is?" he asked in an interview with the Detroit News.

The university's president, Mary Sue Coleman, also issued a statement Sept. 26 rejecting divestment. The conference got another bolt of negative publicity from a mass e-mail urging faculty to attend.

"We, as the Students Allied for Freedom and Equality, will not remain silent while the Israeli S.S. Nazis destroy the homes of poor Palestinians who have no choice but to respond through what others call 'terrorism,'" the e-mail stated.

The e-mail was sent from the inbox of the conference coordinator and SAFE president, Fadi Kiblawi. Kiblawi has written virulently anti-Israel material in the past, but he denied sending the e-mail to faculty.

Several segments of the Jewish community are planning to respond to the conference. Hillel will get the jump on the anti-Israel crowd with a number of programs Thursday: a midday "We Stand With Israel" rally, an evening speech by Israeli historian and former Knesset member Michael Bar-Zohar and an anti-divestment petition.

Hillel also sponsored a lecture last week by Judaic studies professors, rejecting the link between Israel and apartheid, that drew more than 500 people.

But Hillel decided that "direct confrontation is not the way to go," Berger said.

The newly formed Michigan Student Zionists — supported by the Zionist Organization of America and the Orthodox outreach group Aish HaTorah — rejects that approach.

"We have found that the best way to counter this virulent anti-Semitic propaganda has been through attacking it for what it is, and not keeping a low profile or a distance," said Adi Neuman, president of the MSZ.

"As a grass-roots organization, MSZ is able to speak truths that might be risky for large established organizations such as Hillel."

MSZ has scheduled several events for Sunday, while the conference is in session. It has planned a rally to protest the conference as anti-Semitic and a three-hour counter-conference with pro-Israel lecturers.

On Tuesday, two MSZ students sued the University of Michigan for hosting a Palestinian solidarity conference. The lawsuit is intended to force the university to cancel the conference, slated for this weekend, on the grounds that it "violates free speech by inciting hatred against Americans and Jews," according to one of the plaintiffs, Rick Dorfman.

Another activist group, Coalition for Jewish Concerns — Amcha, is helping to coordinate the MSZ events and is bringing four busloads of students from the New York area to participate.

"We're going there to just say this is a perversion of the university system in America," said Rabbi Shmuel Herzfeld, national vice president of Amcha. "This is not something we're able to sit back and watch."

Another grass-roots group composed of university alumni is protesting the conference with a petition that began Oct. 4 and currently has 100 signatures.

The petition also calls on the conference to explicitly condemn acts of terrorism and "stop promoting anti-Semitism by equating Zionism — Jewish national liberation — with racism and Nazism, and stop using a few unrepresentative Jewish radicals to justify hate." □

## JEWISH WORLD

### Israeli-American wins Nobel

A professor with dual U.S.-Israeli citizenship is sharing this year's Nobel Prize for Economics. Daniel Kahneman, 68, based at Princeton University, is sharing the roughly \$1 million prize with professor Vernon Smith, 75, of George Mason University.

They were given the award for their work using psychological research and laboratory experiments in economic analysis.

On Monday, H. Robert Horvitz, a professor at MIT, was announced as one of three winners of the Nobel Prize for Medicine.

### Book halted because of caption

A contested photo caption may prevent a book on the Holocaust from being distributed in Germany.

A Munich court issued a temporary injunction Tuesday preventing the sale of Daniel Jonah Goldhagen's "The Catholic Church and the Holocaust," because of a photo caption that identifies Munich's Nazi-era cardinal, Michael Faulhaber, together with top Nazi official Hermann Goering in front of a Nazi honor guard.

Church officials said the photograph is not of Faulhaber.

The court said the publisher must destroy the books, black out the offending caption or face a fine of about \$250,000.

The Siedler publishing company has not yet indicated whether it would challenge the court decision. In 1996, Goldhagen's "Hitler's Willing Executioners" was a best seller in Germany.

### Lawyers donate fees to Columbia

A U.S. law firm donated its legal fees from a settlement of Holocaust-era Swiss banks litigation to train human rights lawyers.

"We can think of no greater tribute to the memory of the Holocaust victims than to donate our legal fees from this settlement to Columbia Law School," said Robert Lief, a founding partner of the firm of Lief, Cabraser, Heimann & Bernstein.

The \$1.5 million donated to the school will be used to train the lawyers at Columbia.

The firm's fee came from a \$1.25 billion fund set up by Swiss banks in 1998 to settle a variety of Holocaust-related claims.

### Eldest Jew dies in Brazil's capital

The person believed to be the eldest member of Brasilia's Jewish community died Sunday at 95.

Born in Poland, Laja Szklarz escaped the Holocaust by heading into the forests of Russia with her first husband, Szmuel Kurcbaum, who was later killed.

With her daughter, Anna, she moved to France and later immigrated to Brazil in 1949.

## Indictments planned in AMIA case; some say it's just politics as usual

By Florencia Arbiser

BUENOS AIRES (JTA) — Argentine judicial officials say they are planning to issue indictments against members of Hezbollah for carrying out a deadly car bombing of the Jewish community center here in 1994.

Armed with information provided by the Argentine intelligence service, Secretaria de Inteligencia del Estado, the officials have announced that they have crucial evidence linking Hezbollah's leadership to the attack.

According to Marta Nercellas, lawyer for the Jewish umbrella organization DAIA, the evidence provided by the intelligence service corroborates the judiciary reconstruction of the attack and other information provided by international intelligence services.

Prosecutors also have announced that they now have crucial details about the attack, including the identity of the suicide bomber who drove a van carrying some 600 pounds of explosives and destroyed the AMIA community center on July 18, 1994.

The bombing killed 85 people and wounded hundreds.

Last month, there were reports in the local media that the driver was a Lebanese member of Hezbollah. The CIA, working with the intelligence service in the case, reportedly confirmed the driver's identity.

After the AMIA attack, a park in Lebanon was named in honor of the driver, according to judicial officials here. Argentine officials also maintain that Iranian diplomats traveling in and out of Argentina before the attack served as a support team for the terrorist squad that carried out the bombing.

According to legal observers, Argentine officials may seek international arrest warrants for members of the hit squad, the diplomats, former Iranian intelligence minister Ali Fallahian and Hezbollah leader Sheik Hassan Nasrallah.

Warrants are unlikely to be issued against top Iranian leaders who allegedly ordered the attack because of diplomatic concerns and because of a possible lack of evidence, the observers said.

The documents issued by the Argentine judiciary also will indicate that the terrorist squad included Lebanese who had trained in the Middle East and entered Argentina illegally through the lawless border between Argentina, Brazil and Paraguay.

More than eight years after the AMIA attack, none of those who masterminded the deadly bombing have been brought to trial.

Last year, a trial began against 20 people accused of playing a supporting role in the attack.

Jewish leaders here and abroad have blamed Argentina's inability to find the culprits on incompetence, corruption and anti-Semitism among security and government officials.

The investigative judge handling the case, Juan Jose Galeano, had asked in 1994 for indictments to be handed down against a group of Iranian suspects. The Argentine Supreme Court denied his demand at that time, saying he lacked sufficient evidence.

Since then, Galeano has been trying to gather enough evidence to secure international arrest warrants. Galeano, who just returned from a three-week trip to the United States, has now gotten what he needs, according to Alberto Nisman, the prosecutor in the trial of the 20 accomplices.

"The elements are already in place to ask for some Hezbollah members' arrest," Nisman said.

Word about the new round of indictments was met with some skepticism by some Jewish officials here. The Latin American representative of the Simon Wiesenthal Center, Sergio Widder, told JTA the latest announcements from the judiciary are "an immoral use of the AMIA attack more than serious investigations."

Widder noted that the announcements came just months after former Argentine President Carlos Menem was accused of receiving a \$10 million bribe to cover up Iran's responsibility for the 1994 bombing — an allegation Menem denied.

The announcements, Widder added, may have more to do with politics than with any real breakthrough in the case. □

## In Washington, Sharon will focus on Iraqi threat and Israeli response

By Matthew E. Berger

WASHINGTON (JTA) — When Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon visits Washington next week, it's no surprise what will be on the agenda.

The White House will try to assure Sharon that the United States will do all it can to protect Israel in case of a U.S. attack on Iraq, administration officials say.

It's not just out of concern for the Jewish state: The Bush administration fears that an Iraqi attack on Israel, and an Israeli response, could fracture a U.S. coalition against Iraq and spark a larger, regional conflict.

Sharon will meet with Bush on Oct. 16, and is expected to hold other senior-level meetings in Washington. He canceled expected meetings with Jewish leaders in New York so he can return home sooner, in light of ongoing Israeli-Palestinian violence.

U.S. officials have said recently that they want Israel to sit quietly if attacked. Given the resistance from Jerusalem — and the potential volatility of the issue — the United States is likely to draw up attack plans with an eye to minimizing Saddam's ability to strike Israel.

"We're going to try and make it a moot point," one administrative official said. "We're very focused on Saddam's willingness to draw others into the conflict."

Among the issues under discussion in Washington are plans to attack Iraq's Scud missile launchers and bases, especially in western parts of the country closest to Israel.

Bush administration officials say Israel, concerned about the lack of input into attack plans, asked for the Sharon-Bush meeting. Israel is seeking advanced warning of a U.S. attack, as well as assurances that the United States will try to prevent Iraq from lashing out at Israel.

Israeli defense officials were in Washington last week for a series of meetings on the subject.

"They are moving ahead with plans on Iraq. These plans can affect Israel and it's important to touch base," said Mark Regev, spokesman for the Israeli Embassy in Washington.

This will be Sharon's first visit to the United States since May. Plans to visit California and Florida for the one-year anniversary of the Sept. 11 attacks were scrapped amid talk that Sharon was taking sides in the Florida governor's race by agreeing to meet with the president's brother, Republican Gov. Jeb Bush, one day before the Democratic primary. Sharon's office said the September visit was canceled so the prime minister could deal with Israel's worsening security situation.

Since Sharon's visit in May, Bush has made two major speeches on the Middle East — one in June calling for new Palestinian leadership and the establishment of a Palestinian state after extensive reforms, and one last month signaling the need for the United States to take action against Iraq.

Next week's meeting comes after Bush laid out his rationale for attacking Saddam in a speech in Cincinnati on Monday.

Bush noted the threat Saddam poses to Israel, as well as other U.S. allies in the Middle East and American servicemen stationed in the region. Specifically, Bush cited evidence that Saddam has

resumed his nuclear weapons program. "Saddam Hussein would be in position to blackmail anyone who opposes his aggression," Bush said. "He would be in a position to dominate the Middle East. He would be in a position to threaten America. And Saddam Hussein would be in a position to pass nuclear technology to terrorists."

The speech was considered the most forceful case Bush has yet made for going to war against Iraq, and Israeli leaders are sure to take note.

"There is a definite need for the two countries, at the highest level, to consult about issues pertaining to a likely run-up" to a war, "including certain parameters during the war itself," said David Makovsky, a senior fellow at the Washington Institute for Near East Policy.

Administration officials started discussing an attack on Iraq shortly after Bush took office in January 2001.

Israeli officials have said from the beginning that — unlike the 1991 Persian Gulf War, when the first President Bush succeeded in convincing Israel to stay out of the conflict — they would reserve the right to retaliate if Iraqi missiles again hit their country.

In recent weeks, however, senior American officials have begun pressing Israel to hold its fire, saying Israeli retaliation would not be in anyone's interest.

The executive director of the American Jewish Committee, David Harris, who met with senior Bush administration officials this week, said he believes the retaliation issue is not a major source of disagreement. "I don't think the issue has been Israel's right to retaliate," Harris said. "What's been at issue, on occasion, has been specific methods."

Harris predicted the Bush-Sharon meeting would be smooth, focusing on areas of cooperation between the two states.

"Everything we have heard in Washington suggests that there is a very positive attitude on both sides," Harris said.

Lately, Sharon has hinted that Israeli retaliation would not be automatic. Both Israel and the United States say the scope of an attack on Israel would determine whether Israel would be given the green light to retaliate or pressured to hold off.

If Israel is attacked with nonconventional weapons or suffers mass casualties, "they are crossing thresholds to which any country should be able to act in self-defense," Makovsky said.

Many in Israel believe that if it doesn't retaliate to an attack, the Arab world would conclude that Israel succumbs to U.S. pressure and can be used as a pawn in regional conflicts.

After strongly backing Israel's counterterrorism efforts, analysts say the Bush administration is now looking at the Israeli-Palestinian conflict through the lens of its efforts against Iraq.

Bush is likely to tell Sharon that he cannot take advantage of the American focus on Iraq to tighten Israel's grip on the West Bank and Gaza Strip. White House officials sharply criticized Israel's siege late last month of Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat's Ramallah compound, fearing the international outrage complicated U.S. efforts to build a coalition against Iraq.

The American reaction to the Ramallah siege "was an example of what happens when the two countries are not coordinated in advance at a sensitive juncture," Makovsky said.

The incident provides a cautionary tale, Makovsky said, and Bush will make it clear that now is not the time to roil the regional waters. On Monday, for example, the State Department strongly criticized an Israeli attack on a Hamas stronghold in the Gaza Strip that killed 14 Palestinians, including at least one civilian. □