



# Daily News Bulletin

Vol. 80, No. 192

Thursday, October 17, 2002

85th Year

## TOP NEWS IN BRIEF

### **Bush cagey on Israeli retaliation**

President Bush said Israel had a right to retaliate if it suffered an "unprovoked" attack from Iraq "tomorrow." Speaking in the Oval Office on Wednesday with Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, Bush said, "If Iraq were to attack Israel tomorrow, I'm sure there would be an appropriate response."

A White House spokesman later clarified that Bush's comments did not indicate a position on Israeli retaliation if Iraq attacks it in the course of a U.S.-led war. [Page 1]

### **U.S. official to be Israel liaison**

The United States assigned a vice admiral as liaison to the Israeli army in case of a U.S. attack against Iraq.

James Metzger, an assistant to the chairman of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff, will work from his office in the Pentagon, but could be sent to Israel to advise it on American operations.

Metzger took up his current position in July following two years as commander of the Seventh Fleet, which is stationed in the Pacific.

### **Israel remembers Rabin**

Commemorations marking the seventh anniversary of Yitzhak Rabin's assassination were to begin Wednesday evening with a ceremony at the President's Residence in Jerusalem.

The events, which are being held on the Hebrew anniversary of the assassination, were to include memorial ceremonies in Israeli cities and a special Knesset session Thursday.

### **Survivors to get payments**

A new agreement will release insurance payments to German Holocaust survivors.

Representatives of German insurance companies and the International Commission on Holocaust Era Insurance Claims signed a landmark agreement in Washington on Wednesday that will trigger the release of \$100 million to pay claims against German companies and \$175 million to be used for humanitarian purposes.

Former Jewish residents of Germany and their heirs also will be able to view a list of insurance policies issued to Jewish residents of Germany during the Nazi era.

## NEWS ANALYSIS

### **Sharon seeks a trade from Bush: Israeli restraint for U.S. coordination**

*By Leslie Susser*

JERUSALEM (JTA) — The first shot has yet to be fired in the anticipated American-led war against Iraq, but diplomats already are preparing the ground for a concerted effort to resolve the Israeli-Palestinian conflict as soon as the war is over.

The "Quartet," made up of the United States, European Union, Russia and the United Nations, is refining ideas for a political road map to be presented to Israel and the Palestinians when America's business with Iraqi President Saddam Hussein is finished.

Such efforts formed the subtext to Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's meeting with President Bush in Washington on Wednesday.

The Bush administration is exerting tremendous pressure on Israel to take a low profile in a war with Iraq, even if Israel is attacked.

After the meeting, Bush said Israel had a right to respond if Iraq launched an "unprovoked" attack "tomorrow." But a White House spokesman later said the remarks did not indicate Bush's view if Israel is attacked in the course of a U.S.-led war against Iraq.

Sharon, for his part, reiterated his position that Israel would act to defend its citizens. Such statements may be cover for the quid pro quo Sharon hopes to extract from Washington: an American commitment to coordinate post-Iraq policy on the Palestinian issue with Israel.

Before the Bush-Sharon meeting, the administration presented the Israeli delegation with a blueprint for easing tensions with the Palestinians and eventually restarting diplomatic talks. The United States plans to present the plan to the Quartet next week.

The Quartet, meanwhile, has compiled its own plan.

While both the United States and Britain have assured Israel that there will be no "imposed settlement" of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, Sharon fears a situation in which the powers don't formally impose anything but exert enormous pressure on Israel to make compromises it finds untenable.

In broad outline, the Quartet envisions a sequential three-year process:

- a general cease-fire;
- an Israeli withdrawal to positions held before the Palestinian intifada began two years ago;
- a further Israeli withdrawal from the West Bank and Gaza Strip;
- the establishment of a Palestinian mini-state under an international protectorate for Palestine; and
- talks on final borders, Jerusalem, refugees and the transition to full Palestinian independence.

British Prime Minister Tony Blair already has called for an international conference whose agenda would, to a large extent, be governed by those ideas.

For months the United States and other members of the Quartet have been trying to find a way to back Israel's struggle against Palestinian terrorism while, at the same time, giving the Palestinians hope for a better future.

In his watershed June 24 speech, Bush tried to square the circle by calling on the Palestinians to elect new leaders not associated with terrorism, while holding out the promise of Palestinian statehood in three years if they did so.

Now, with Israeli troops again occupying Palestinian cities, towns and villages, both

## MIDEAST FOCUS

### U.S.: Israel to release tax funds

The White House announced that Israel would release frozen tax funds to the Palestinian Authority.

The announcement, timed to coincide with Wednesday's meeting between President Bush and Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, said U.S. monitors would ensure the money is used "for the economic and civil activities of the Palestinian community and to prevent the use of these funds for terrorist activity of any kind."

### Arafat fires interior minister

Yasser Arafat fired the Cabinet minister he had appointed in June to reform the Palestinian Authority's security services.

Hani Hassan, a loyalist of the Palestinian Authority president, appears likely to replace Gen. Abdel Razak Yehiyeh, the interior minister, who was seen as a moderate. Arafat is replacing much of his Cabinet after ministers were forced to resign last month following pressure from Palestinian legislators.

### Tension over pumping station

Lebanon inaugurated a project to divert water from a border river in a plan that has raised tensions with Israel.

Lebanon says it plans to pump some 4 million cubic meters annually from the Wazzani River.

Before the inauguration Wednesday, the leader of Hezbollah, Sheik Hassan Nasrallah, warned that it would retaliate swiftly if Israel takes any action against the station.

Israel has repeatedly warned that Lebanese efforts to divert water from the Wazzani River could lead to war.

The Wazzani feeds into the Hatzbani River, which provides about 10 percent of Israel's water.

The United States, which boycotted the project's inauguration, has been trying to mediate the dispute.

the Americans and British have taken up the Palestinian humanitarian case.

The primary impetus no doubt is concern for Palestinian suffering. But the pressure also is intended to signal to the Palestinians that the United States and Britain are sensitive to their needs and can create conditions conducive to political negotiation.

The latest directive from Washington to ease conditions in the Palestinian territories, delivered by the U.S. ambassador to Israel, Daniel Kurtzer, was couched in exceptionally blunt language.

Sharon was accused of failing to keep his promises to ease the plight of the Palestinian population, and the Israeli army was accused of ignoring settler violence against Palestinians.

In a private conversation with the Israeli general in charge of the West Bank and Gaza Strip, the British ambassador to Israel, Sherard Cowper-Coles, was even more blunt: Israel was in danger of turning the territories into the "largest detention camp in the world," he said, according to Israeli media.

Cowper-Coles is one of the more outspoken advocates of an international protectorate transition stage. It would help separate Israeli and Palestinian forces, keep a lid on Palestinian terror, restore Palestinian civilian life, rebuild Palestinian civil society and create functioning institutions, he argues.

Cowper-Coles emphasized the need to build an efficient Palestinian security force that would give Israel the confidence to withdraw from territory it has taken in response to Palestinian violence.

"I agree if Israel pulls out of the territories there is a risk of terrorism flaring up again," Cowper-Coles told JTA. "The only way to give Israel the confidence it needs to pull back is for there to be some sort of international supervision of Palestinian security forces as they reform and get a grip on security. It's unlikely that the Palestinians would be able to do it themselves or that Israel would have confidence in them doing it themselves."

Britain would be willing to provide monitors, observers and trainers, Cowper-Coles said. The United States and France have said they would be willing to do the same.

Sharon, however, is firmly opposed to the protectorate idea. He argues that there is too much potential for friction between Israel and the international force, which he believes would not be able to halt Palestinian terror attacks but would impede Israeli efforts to retaliate.

Indeed, Sharon is worried about the international community trying to move too early and too fast on the Palestinian track. He fears Israel's interests may be sacrificed before an attack on Iraq — as America tries to build an international coalition — and after the attack, as America tries to rebuild strained ties with the Arab world.

Therefore, Sharon sees the main goal of Israeli diplomacy as coordinating with the United States what U.S. policy on the Palestinians will be after a war on Iraq.

Before he left for his meeting in Washington, Sharon made sure that arrangements had been made to hand over frozen Palestinian tax money and that the process of removing illegal settlement outposts in the West Bank had begun.

Pundits saw this as an attempt to convince the international community that Israel was ready to make constructive moves on the Palestinian track and ease Palestinian suffering. At the same time, however, Sharon issued tough public statements about Israel's readiness to defend itself if attacked by Iraq. Sharon knows very well that the United States wants Israel to stay out of the war, and pundits say his public statements were intended to raise the price for Israel's compliance.

Sharon also wants to clarify the circumstances in which Israel would receive a green light from the Americans to retaliate against Iraq — for example, if it was attacked with nonconventional weapons or suffered massive casualties.

In exchange for Israel's agreement not to retaliate against a conventional Iraqi missile attack, Sharon wants an American commitment on the Palestinian issue.

Sharon especially wants to make sure the United States will stick to Bush's demands for thorough reform of Palestinian Authority institutions and the election of new leaders not compromised by terror.

Only then, in Sharon's view, can serious negotiations on Palestinian statehood begin — and he hopes prior coordination with the Bush administration will help avoid future misunderstandings on that score. □

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



## Daily News Bulletin

Norman H. Lipoff, *President*

Mark J. Joffe, *Executive Editor and Publisher*

Lisa Hostein, *Editor*

Michael S. Arnold, *Managing Editor*

Lenore A. Silverstein, *Finance and Administration Director*

Paula Simmonds, *Marketing and Development Director*

JTA DAILY NEWS BULLETIN is published five days a week, except holidays, by the Jewish Telegraphic Agency Inc., 330 Seventh Ave., New York, N.Y. 10001-5010. For information about how to subscribe by e-mail, fax or regular mail, call (212) 643-1890, or visit our Web site at [www.jta.org](http://www.jta.org).  
© JTA Reproduction only by previous arrangement.

## JEWISH WORLD

### Georgia Jew sues county

A Georgia Jew is suing his school district for challenging the theory of evolution.

Jeffrey Selman filed the lawsuit against Atlanta's suburban Cobb County School District, following the school board's decision in August to place stickers in science textbooks calling evolution a scientific theory, not a fact.

Then, the seven-member board unanimously voted in September to allow educators to teach both creationism and evolution.

Selman, who has the backing of the Anti-Defamation League, may expand the lawsuit to include the September vote, which he said kowtows to a "vocal, myopic, sectarian minority."

### German genealogy center opens

A new center in Germany will help Jews of Germanic descent trace their origins. The Ephraim Gustav Hoenlein Genealogy Project in Wurzburg, Germany, is a joint project of the Ronald S. Lauder Foundation and the Jewish community of Wurzburg.

The new center is named for the father of Malcolm Hoenlein, executive vice chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations.

Ephraim Gustav Hoenlein fled Nazi Germany with his family and immigrated to the United States.

### Shoah video plan announced

The Survivors of the Shoah Visual History Foundation and the Italian state archive announced a partnership to catalog some 400 Italian-language testimonies of Holocaust survivors.

The announcement of the testimonies, which will be used to educate young Italians, came Wednesday as part of ceremonies marking the anniversary of the deportation of Italian Jews to Auschwitz.

On Oct. 16, 1943, more than 2,000 Jews were rounded up and deported from Rome; only about 100 survived. Other events marking the anniversary included a torch-lit march, religious services and an art exhibit.

### 'Material Girl' goes Jewish

Madonna uses Jewish symbols in her latest video. In her video for "Die Another Day," a song from the upcoming James Bond movie, the pop star is tattooed with Hebrew letters, wears leather straps akin to tefillin and is electrocuted in a chair bearing Hebrew markings.

"Some people could be offended not just because it's a woman" wearing tefillin, "but also because she appears to be using it for something other than Jewish prayer," said Kenneth Jacobson, the associate national director for the Anti-Defamation League.

## Fierce debate in Germany over book on Vatican's role in Holocaust

By Toby Axelrod

BERLIN (JTA) — The message is not new, but it still smarts in Germany: The Catholic Church stood by during the Holocaust and full atonement is long past due.

That's the message of American scholar Daniel Goldhagen's latest controversial book, which is under attack from the church.

Acting on complaints that a photo caption was incorrect, a German court recently issued a recall of some of the books in Germany.

Goldhagen said the injunction was a ploy by the church.

"This is a desperate attempt on the part of the church to try and torpedo this book and avoid a real discussion," he said Oct. 11 at the Frankfurt Book Fair.

The photo was misidentified by the archive that provided it, Goldhagen told reporters at the fair.

A new German edition is now in bookstores. The book is scheduled to appear in the U.S. at the end of October.

Goldhagen is known for his book "Hitler's Willing Executioners," which argued that there was a unique German "eliminationist anti-Semitism" that allowed ordinary Germans to participate in the Holocaust. The book was a best seller in Germany, although it was panned by critics and historians.

During an Oct. 13 presentation of "A Moral Reckoning: The Role of the Catholic Church in the Holocaust and its Unfulfilled Duty of Repair," the extent of the disagreement between Goldhagen and church officials became clear.

Before a packed audience in a Berlin theater, Goldhagen said that if it wishes to repair centuries of injustice that culminated in the Holocaust, the church must make the fight against anti-Semitism "a core teaching" alongside its traditional messages of "love and goodness."

Goldhagen's book examines church actions and inactions regarding persecution of Jews in Nazi Germany and proposes radical acts of atonement, including issuing new editions of the New Testament. Hans Joachim Meyer, president of the board of the Central Committee of the Catholic Church, said at the Oct. 13 debate, "This is not a historical book" but "an agitator's pamphlet."

Both Goldhagen and his critics were heckled during the debate.

On stage with Goldhagen and Meyer were Julius Schoeps, director of the Moses Mendelssohn Center for European Jewish Studies in Potsdam, and Georg Denzler, historian emeritus at the University of Bamberg. The discussion was moderated by Jan Ross, an editor for the weekly newspaper Die Zeit.

"It is false to say the Shoah could have been stopped by the church," said Meyer, who added that the church already had rejected its historical anti-Semitic teachings.

Schoeps agreed, but noted that German bishops successfully protested against the Nazi "euthanasia" program. Thus it is fair to say that the church could have done more to stop or slow the destruction of European Jewry, he said.

Denzler, a prominent Catholic critic of the church, joined Meyer in condemning Goldhagen's work.

Calling Goldhagen irresponsible for producing a work with "no source list," Denzler asked whether the author really believes that "the main message" of the Christian Bible "is to beat the Jews to death."

"My conclusions are difficult to listen to," Goldhagen said. He called the book "a moral, philosophical investigation" rather than a work of history.

"There is no argument about the need for a debate," Meyer said. "But is this a book that encourages debate?"

"Without it, there would be no debate," Schoeps replied, drawing cheers and boos from the audience.

The contentious atmosphere is bound to follow Goldhagen throughout his current tour of Germany and Austria. From Berlin he was to go to Hamburg, Cologne, Munich and Vienna. At the Berlin presentation, Goldhagen said he had come to his latest subject by accident after being asked to review several new books about the church's role during the Holocaust. □

U.S. ELECTIONS 2002**No matter who controls Congress, voices against Israel will be muted***By Sharon Samber*

WASHINGTON (JTA) — It's anyone's guess which party will hold the majority in Congress come November, but one thing is sure: Several leading anti-Israel voices no longer will be heard in the Capitol's halls.

That's because a number of representatives whom Jewish activists have deemed anything from "not a friend of Israel" to "anti-Israel" are not returning to their jobs.

Some lost primaries and some are aiming at higher office, but the departure of these lawmakers — together with the expected victory this fall of dozens of Israel supporters — signals the advent of a particularly pro-Israel Congress for the next two years.

"Support for Israel among candidates running for Congress has never been higher," said an American Israel Public Affairs Committee official who follows elections closely. "That's a reflection of the strong support Israel enjoys throughout the country now."

Among those who will not serve in the next House of Representatives are:

- Rep. Sonny Callahan (R-Ala.), a former key House committee chairman and vocal opponent of U.S. aid to Israel;
- Rep. David Bonior (D-Mich.), the No. 2 Democrat in the House of Representatives;
- Rep. James Traficant Jr. (D-Ohio), who riled the Jewish community with his support of accused Nazi war criminal John Demjanjuk;
- Earl Hilliard (D-Ala.) and Cynthia McKinney (D-Ga.), two African American legislators whose defeat was aided by funds from the Jewish community;
- Rep. Bob Barr (R-Ga.), who also opposed aid to Israel; and
- Rep. John Sununu (R-N.H.), who is considered by some to be soft on terrorism.

Hilliard and McKinney lost their primaries in high-profile races in which Jews rallied to support their opponents.

Jews from around the country opened their wallets for Artur Davis, who defeated Hilliard in the June Democratic primary runoff for Alabama's 7th district. Activists considered Hilliard's voting record in Congress anti-Israel, including his opposition to a pro-Israel resolution in May.

McKinney's vote against a pro-Israel resolution in May added to a record of remarks over the years that Jewish activists considered insensitive, even at times outrageous.

Jews rallied behind McKinney's opponent, Denise Majette, and helped score a major upset in August.

Hilliard's and McKinney's opponents both made pro-Israel statements during their campaigns.

The Hilliard and McKinney losses sent tremors through the Congressional Black Caucus and raised tensions between Jewish and black representatives.

Some political observers wonder if there might be a backlash against Israel as emotions among black lawmakers remain raw. Others say there will be no long-term impact on black-Jewish relations.

Morris Amitay, a pro-Israel activist and former executive

director of AIPAC, believes the pro-Israel community will benefit not just from the outcome of those two races but from changing attitudes in the Congressional Black Caucus.

"I think we'll see more positive records on Israel from CBC members," he said.

Jewish groups also are unlikely to mourn the loss of Traficant.

Traficant was expelled from the House in July after a colorful, 18-year tenure that included a tempestuous relationship with Jewish constituents and organizations.

For years, Traficant voted against aid to Israel — because of his opposition to foreign aid in general — and supported Demjanjuk, who is currently appealing a court order that would deport him from the United States.

In recent years, his voting record on Israel had become somewhat more supportive, but Traficant still managed to get himself in trouble with the Jewish community.

Just after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, he suggested that U.S. support for Israel had provoked the attacks, outraging Jewish groups.

Traficant also ruffled feathers in the Jewish community for his criticism of Israeli actions toward the Palestinians.

Sununu is leaving the House, but he will cross to the other side of the Capitol if he beats New Hampshire Gov. Jean Shaheen in the state's senatorial race.

Sununu, who is of Palestinian and Lebanese background, has come under fire for supporting U.S. aid to the Palestinian Authority, though he also has voted for U.S. aid to Israel and has returned campaign contributions from Arab leaders who backed Hamas.

Some Jewish support already has gone Shaheen's way, but it remains to be seen if Jews will seek to galvanize the same support to stop Sununu that they used to defeat Hilliard and McKinney.

Another sayonara goes to Callahan, who is retiring at the end of the year. As chair of the House Appropriations Committee's powerful Subcommittee on Foreign Operations, Callahan was a perpetual thorn in the side of Jewish activists as he tried to block aid to Israel during his six-year tenure.

In 2000, Callahan led a charge for punitive measures against Israel unless it cancelled a weapons deal with China. He also consistently argued against early disbursement of U.S. assistance, which he believed gave Israel preferential treatment.

Bonior, who gave up his seat to run for governor, was a leading voice opposing support for Israel throughout his career.

Bonior's Detroit-area district included a large number of Arab Americans. He lost in the gubernatorial primary to state Attorney General Jennifer Granholm.

Another legislator the Jewish community won't miss is Barr.

Barr, who lost his primary last month to Rep. John Linder (R-Ga.), regularly voted against aid to Israel. □

**Environmental ride yields \$100,000**

NEW YORK (JTA) — The Jewish environmental group Hazon drew pledges of more than \$100,000 in its third environmental bike ride.

The New York-based Hazon, which means "Vision," drew 140 riders ranging from 11 to 69 years old, all of whom recently pedaled 100 miles from upstate New York to Manhattan.

Hazon began the environmental bike rides two years ago with a cross-country tour for 10 cyclists, founder Nigel Savage said. □