



# Daily News Bulletin

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85th Year

## TOP NEWS IN BRIEF

### Israel to get warning

President Bush told Israeli leaders they would receive enough warning of a U.S. strike on Iraq to prepare for possible Iraqi retaliation.

Sources said Israel would receive an earlier warning than the 48-hour notice it received when the United States attacked Afghanistan last year.

Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon met Thursday with Secretary of State Colin Powell in Washington and is expected to meet with congressional officials before returning to Israel.

### Envoy headed to Middle East

An American envoy will arrive in Egypt on Friday to begin a series of meetings with Middle Eastern leaders. William Burns, assistant secretary of state for Near Eastern affairs, also will visit Israel and the West Bank.

Currently in Paris for meetings with officials of the United Nations, European Union and Russia, Burns is expected to push for reform of Palestinian Authority institutions. He also will urge implementation of a road map for resolving the Israeli-Palestinian conflict that was given to Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon in Washington on Wednesday.

### Sharon defends army actions

Ariel Sharon defended the Israeli army after eight Palestinians were killed and dozens wounded by tank fire in the Gaza Strip on Thursday.

Speaking in Washington, the Israeli prime minister said the Israel Defense Force has the highest moral standards and makes great efforts to avoid civilian casualties.

Sharon's remarks came after Israeli tanks fired shells at buildings in southern Rafah. According to Palestinian reports, one of the shells hit a U.N.-run building, and many of the injured were students.

The army said the tanks opened fire on armed Palestinians after Palestinians fired on army bulldozers working nearby. The army expressed regret for any civilian casualties.

### Rabin assassin pardon opposed

One in 10 Israelis supports amnesty for the assassin of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, according to a poll released Thursday. [Page 3]

## FOCUS ON ISSUES

### Population study revives debate over best approach to intermarriage

By Joe Berkofsky

NEW YORK (JTA) — The fiery intermarriage debate that roiled American Jewry over the past decade is resurfacing.

The battle that erupted in the wake of the 1990 National Jewish Population Survey, which showed 52 percent of Jews married non-Jews in the previous five years, is reviving over the 2000-2001 NJPS.

The latest demographic study, the most ambitious portrait of American Jewry ever undertaken, revealed last week that 5.2 million American Jews live in 2.9 million households — along with 1.5 million non-Jews.

So far NJPS officials have not made public the latest intermarriage rate, but the fact that so many non-Jews live with Jews is rekindling the long-simmering battle over how to deal with interfaith couples.

On one side of the divide are those like Kerry Olitzky, executive director of the Jewish Outreach Institute, which promotes efforts to bring unaffiliated and intermarried Jews into the community.

"These are potential partners in the Jewish community," Olitzky says of the 1.5 million. "We have the power to either embrace or exclude them."

On the other side are those like Steven Bayme, national director of contemporary Jewish life for the American Jewish Committee.

While Bayme believes that the latest demographic stew shows that American Jews have attained an unprecedented level of acceptance, he's also convinced that intermarriage is producing a generation that doesn't identify primarily as Jews.

"If Jews are doing well by American standards, the second narrative is that Jews as Jews are not doing nearly as well," Bayme said.

These arguments both echo the longtime split in the Jewish community about how to deal with intermarriage and signal how both sides are likely to grapple with the latest NJPS in the coming months.

Most headlines about the NJPS last week focused on findings that the Jewish population fell 5 percent from 1990, that Jews are aging and that Jewish women are waiting longer to have fewer children.

Yet the mix of Jews and non-Jews in many Jewish households went largely ignored.

The focus shifted in part because officials of the NJPS team with the United Jewish Communities, the federation umbrella group that funded the \$6 million study, released little information beyond the initial demographic numbers.

NJPS officials said they are still analyzing the survey and will issue a fuller 15-page report on Jewish identity and Jewish life at the UJC's annual General Assembly in November.

At the same time, NJPS officials admitted they wanted to avoid allowing the intermarriage results to overshadow other important findings, which is what happened in 1990.

Vivien Klaff, a sociology professor at the University of Delaware who co-chaired the National Technical Advisory Committee, a panel of experts that consulted on the NJPS, said the team "really didn't want to do that this time."

A decade ago, the NJPS intermarriage data sparked two main reactions — those who called for "inreach," or reinvigorating Jewish life as well as staying off intermarriage among those already involved, and those who advocated "outreach," efforts to welcome marginal Jews and interfaith families into the fold. A decade later, those on

## MIDEAST FOCUS

### Iraq-Israel equation rejected

White House spokesman Ari Fleischer rejected the notion that Israel and Iraq have similarly disobeyed U.N. resolutions.

At a news conference Wednesday before President Bush met with Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, Fleischer said "there is a qualitative difference between the resolutions that were passed dealing with Iraq and the resolutions that were passed dealing with a more comprehensive focus on how to bring peace to the Middle East."

### Malaysia: Israel has nukes, too

Malaysia's prime minister hinted that Israel should be bombed instead of Iraq. Mohamad Mahathir noted that the United States is considering attacking Iraq because the Persian Gulf nation may be attempting to build nuclear weapons, while Israel almost surely has them.

### Hamas cell planned kidnappings

Israeli police and Shin Bet agents recently arrested four Palestinians suspected of belonging to a Hamas cell that planned to kidnap Israeli soldiers.

The four suspects previously received instructions from prisoners in jail and were given some \$10,000 for equipment and arms, Army Radio reported.

### Israeli political cartoonist dies

Ya'acov "Ze'ev" Farkas, the dean of Israeli political cartoonists, died Tuesday at 79. Farkas, a Holocaust survivor, began drawing cartoons for the weekly supplement of the Ha'aretz newspaper in 1962.

One of his most famous cartoons, published in 1979 at the time of the peace accords between Israel and Egypt, showed the dove of peace posing as a magician and producing three tiny figures out of a hat — Egyptian President Anwar Sadat, Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin and President Carter.



## Daily News Bulletin

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both sides are still debating, though now, in the wake of the latest NJPS, the conflict is shaping up about whether outreach and identity-building programs worth tens of millions of dollars have made a difference — and whether they should continue.

Bayme, for one, remains concerned about the offspring of those intermarriages, pointing to a study released last summer of 235,000 Jewish college freshmen by UCLA professor Linda Sax.

Among college freshmen with Jewish mothers only, 38 percent identified as Jews, while 15 percent of those with only Jewish fathers identified as Jews.

In contrast, Bayme pointed out, 93 percent of freshmen with two Jewish parents identified as Jews.

That Jewish identification gap appeared after a decade "where people are being raised partially as Jewish, partially as something else." And "to the extent that those 1.5 million" non-Jews living with 5.2 million Jews" fall into that category, I'm very pessimistic."

The only real prospects for Jewish survival, Bayme said, lie not in encouraging some new strain of Judaism, but in strengthening Jewish identity among Jews and in encouraging conversion among non-Jews close to them.

"All of our experience up to now is, the only hopes for Jewish continuity lie in an unambiguous Jewish identification," he said.

Drawing an equally bleak assessment when it comes to dual-faith marriages is Sylvia Barack Fishman, an associate professor of contemporary Jewish life at Brandeis University.

Fishman said this large group of intermarried couples the new NJPS identifies is largely raising its children in two religions.

"What you need to understand is the religious synchronism these numbers represent," she said.

In May, 2001, the American Jewish Committee published Fishman's study of 254 couples around the country, showing how the intermarried "negotiated and renegotiated the religious character of their households" rather than committing to one faith, she said.

Two-thirds of the couples were in mixed marriages, while one-third were split between Jews married to converts and Jewish couples, who were surveyed as a basis for comparison.

Of the intermarried, 63 percent said they were raising their children as Jews, she said.

However, half of these couples also said they held Christmas and Easter celebrations in their homes, while another 16 percent attended church services and only 16 percent confined Christmas events to those with their non-Jewish relatives.

Many of these couples "absorbed Christian themes" such as Christmas dinners, Christmas stockings and Easter-egg hunts in their lives, she added — while doing little Jewishly to complement those activities.

Those Christian traditions "may not sound deeply religious, but when you realize that nothing in their lives is deeply religious, that makes a difference," she said.

Fishman, who is expanding her study into a book to be published next year called "Jewish and Something Else: A Study of Mixed-Marriage Families," sees one hope for these couples and the Jewish future.

"It is really important for temples and synagogues to gently encourage mixed couples to make their homes exclusively Jewish," she said.

Acknowledging that her solution "is not politically correct," Fishman said it would be difficult to implement because most American Jews are liberal and pluralistic, and inclined to be inclusive.

In her study, that meant many Jewish spouses did not push their non-Jewish spouses to do Jewish things out of empathy.

The non-Jews interpreted the inaction as a lack of commitment to Judaism and followed suit, she said.

Still, Olitzky of the Outreach Institute countered that the way children are raised does not necessarily shape the way they'll view themselves as adults.

"The Jewish community would like the children of interfaith marriages to totally reject their non-Jewish side — but these kids need to figure out how to identify Jewishly, and feel welcomed by the Jewish community, while at the same time embracing the non-Jewish side of their family," he said. □

## JEWISH WORLD

### Refugee numbers limited

The Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society is "deeply disappointed" by the number of refugees to be allowed into the United States this year.

The Bush administration announced 70,000 refugees would be admitted in the upcoming fiscal year, the same number as last year. Refugee organizations had requested an increase because only 27,000 refugees had entered last year as a result of administrative and security difficulties.

The allocation for refugees from the former Soviet Union, set at 14,000, is sufficient to cover the number of Jews expected in the coming year, HIAS Washington representative Gideon Aronoff said.

But Aronoff said the overall numbers are disappointing and the administration has yet to prioritize the security reviews of refugees waiting in processing centers.

### Shul denied special zoning

Religious groups may be prevented from opening churches and temples in residential neighborhoods, a U.S. court ruled. Kol Ami, a congregation trying to open a synagogue in a Philadelphia suburb, had won a lower court decision, but a three-judge panel of the 3rd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals said Wednesday that large churches or temples could create traffic and parking problems.

### ADL charges 'stealth evangelism'

The Anti-Defamation League is warning schools about an assembly program that the ADL says promotes Christian evangelism.

The group alerted public schools in St. Louis, Los Angeles, Tampa, Detroit, Chicago and Philadelphia about "Rage Against Destruction" programs for middle and high school students.

The program advertises motivational anti-violence seminars for teens with music, dancing and giveaways, but the ADL says the real intent of the assemblies is to entice students to attend a second event with a strong Christian evangelical message.

### Wiesenthal: Hate is rampant

Simon Wiesenthal said there is "more open expression of hate against Jews than in the 1930s" around the world today.

The longtime Nazi-hunter made the comment in a letter to the head of Concordia University in Montreal, asking him to reinvoke former Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu for a campus talk. Netanyahu was scheduled to speak at Concordia on Sept. 9, but the event was canceled after pro-Palestinian students and sympathizers rioted.

A university spokesman said the school's rector had not yet decided whether to reinvoke Netanyahu.

## Seventh anniversary of Rabin killing shows that political rift is still deep

By Naomi Segal

JERUSALEM (JTA) — Against the backdrop of the ongoing intifada, Israel's observance of the seventh anniversary of Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's assassination was characterized by official ceremonies, nostalgia and speculation over what might have been.

Seven years by the Hebrew calendar after Rabin was shot dead leaving a peace rally in Tel Aviv, the memorial day had a feeling of ritualized remembrance.

At the same time, the special programs revealed social rifts still unhealed and lingering dissent over the Rabin legacy.

Adding to the debate were the findings of a public opinion poll reported Thursday by Israel Radio. According to the poll, one in 10 Israelis supports amnesty for Yigal Amir, the right-wing Orthodox student who killed Rabin because Amir opposed the Oslo peace process with the Palestinians.

Asked about the poll, Israel's attorney general, Elyakim Rubinstein, said he did not see Amir winning amnesty "in the foreseeable future."

Speaking at a memorial ceremony Thursday at Rabin's grave, President Moshe Katsav said that the "national trauma" of the assassination would remain with Israeli society for generations.

At a candlelighting ceremony the previous night, Katsav had warned that the political discord that wrenched Israeli society before Rabin's assassination must not be allowed to turn violent again.

"We must teach and learn the limits of public debate, what is permitted and what is forbidden," he said. "We must prevent situations in which words turn into bullets."

As in previous years, the Geshar organization, which promotes dialogue between secular and religious Israelis, erected a study tent Thursday at the Mount Herzl military cemetery. Flags flew at half-mast at government institutions and army bases, and schools held special activities on democracy and the dangers of political violence.

Despite efforts to use the day as a springboard for reconciliation and reflection, the social and political wounds exposed by the assassination were evident at the Knesset memorial session.

Left-wing legislators claimed that many right-wing lawmakers did not attend the special session Thursday afternoon. Knesset member Avshalom Vilan of the left-wing Meretz Party said the right-wingers' absence made him wonder if they had absorbed the lessons of the assassination, Israel Radio reported.

The right-wing camp countered that the speakers at the session — Knesset Speaker Avraham Burg, Foreign Minister Shimon Peres and opposition leader Yossi Sarid of Meretz — had used the session to incite against the right-wing.

Knesset member Uri Ariel of the right-wing National Union-Israel, Our Home faction said the speeches given made it difficult for half of the nation to mourn Rabin.

Meanwhile, the Rabin family criticized Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, who was in Washington and could not attend the ceremonies. Before leaving for the United States on Monday, Sharon spoke about Rabin in the Knesset and apologized for not being in Israel on the anniversary of the assassination.

But Rabin's daughter, Knesset member Dalia Rabin Pelosoff, said she hoped Sharon's absence from the memorial day would not set a precedent.

The anniversary also spurred debate over what would have happened to the Israeli-Palestinian peace process — now battered by the two-year-old intifada — had Rabin not been murdered.

On Wednesday evening, passions rose during a Knesset debate on a motion to cancel the Oslo accords. The motion failed.

Tempers flared when the legislator who initiated the motion, National Union Knesset member Zvi Hendel, declared that were Rabin alive he himself would have called to nullify the accords.

Indeed, Rabin had said that if the Palestinian Authority ever turned the weapons it received under Oslo against Israel, the accords would be nullified — though he died long before the intifada began in September 2000. □

## ARTS &amp; CULTURE

## For Nobel-winning writer, identity as a Jew was imposed, not chosen

By Agnes Bohm

BUDAPEST (JTA) — He is the first Hungarian writer to win the Nobel Prize for Literature, but — as a Jew and a survivor of Auschwitz — Imre Kertesz feels his writing reflects a more universal perspective.

"This prize was given to a Jew who writes in Hungarian about the Holocaust and dictatorships," said Kertesz, whose prize was announced Oct. 10. "The Holocaust is an all-European trauma, which left a wound that almost cannot be healed. The Holocaust will remain a theme for writers for many years to come."

Kertesz, who is spending the year in Berlin on a fellowship, returned to Hungary for a quick congratulatory visit.

On Thursday, he was made an honorary citizen of Budapest by Mayor Gabor Demszky. The event was held at city hall, where Kertesz once worked as a journalist.

Kertesz, 72, was deported from Budapest to Auschwitz and from there to Buchenwald, where he was liberated in 1945. His books, all of which deal with the Holocaust, have been especially popular in Germany.

His subsequent experience under Communist rule in Hungary helped Kertesz understand the horrors he suffered in the Holocaust.

"I understood Auschwitz really and deeply only during the Hungarian Communist era, when I comprehended how people behave in a machinery like that," Kertesz told JTA in a telephone interview.

"Dictatorships are similar in that they crush the individual," he said. "In dictatorships, the individual is either the victim or the criminal. When dictatorships are over, like when Germany was defeated in World War II or when the Soviet Union collapsed, the person who was actually the criminal feels that he has been a victim. This is the individual who I call the 'man without fate.'"

Only two of Kertesz's books — "Fateless" and "Kaddish for an Unborn Child" — have been translated into English.

"Fateless," Kertesz's first novel, is an autobiographical account of his experiences in the Holocaust. It was published in the United States in 1992, 17 years after it appeared in Hungary.

Unsatisfied with the quality of the English translation, Kertesz said he hopes the book will be retranslated, as was the case with the German edition.

In "Kaddish for a Child Not Born," Kertesz condemns a world that permitted the Holocaust.

Occasionally compared to Primo Levi or Elie Wiesel, Kertesz does not want to be pigeonholed as a Holocaust writer.

"I hope that this prize didn't go only to the subject" of the Holocaust, "for I write about the dictatorships of the 20th century in a wider sense," he said. "Maybe this played a role as well in the selection."

It took Kertesz 15 years after his liberation to begin writing about his experiences in the Holocaust. Ironically, the power of his work comes from the fact that he writes about the Holocaust as it is being experienced by his characters, not as something viewed and understood in hindsight.

"I wrote my book as one who doesn't know the continuation or the follow-up, that is, one who does not know what will happen in Auschwitz but as it happened in real time, when we waited in the

ghetto without knowing what would happen to us," he said. "That's the experience I wanted to share with my readers."

Initial news stories after Kertesz's selection identified him as a Holocaust survivor, but did not mention that he is Jewish. In fact, Kertesz said, his Jewish identity is not something he chose but something that was "forced" on him.

Still, "it doesn't mean that I don't have Jewish solidarity," he told JTA.

He was recently criticized in Hungary for writing a pro-Israel article after attending a conference for Holocaust survivors in Jerusalem.

"The Israeli Jew is part of a nation, the Orthodox Jew belongs to an ancient and mystical religion, and there also is the Jew who doesn't like to be a Jew and to be identified that way and tries to assimilate into the surrounding society," he said. "I belong to the type of Jew who understood his Jewishness only after Auschwitz, who lacks Jewish culture and the Hebrew language. I am afraid that this type may disappear."

Though the intensity of anti-Semitism today doesn't rival that of the Nazi era, Kertesz indeed sees hatred of Jews on the rise again in Europe.

"The right-wing populist political parties have gained popularity with their xenophobia and opposition to immigration," he said. "Again the Jews are blamed, as if they caused all the problems."

Being a Jew today in Europe and, specifically, Hungary "does not mean the same thing it did in the 1930s, but still it is threatening," Kertesz said.

"To be a Jew today means to carry a certain culture and values which we cannot forget and cannot escape from.

"Anti-Semitism is not a problem only for the Jews, but for all of Europe," he continued. "Unfortunately, in Hungary the Holocaust has not yet been digested, neither by Jews nor by the nation. I do hope that this will come however, and maybe this Nobel Prize will contribute to that."

Kertesz's current project is a book called "Liquidation," which deals with the children of Holocaust survivors.

"For the 'second generation' it is even more difficult to deal with the Holocaust, as they inherited this problem from their parents and they don't know how to deal with it," he said. "The heroine of the book is a woman who wanted to escape from the memories, as she feels they are sickening and she has to break free from it." Eventually, however, "Jewish fate will seize her," Kertesz said. □

## Benefit concert for Theresienstadt

PRAGUE (JTA) — An upcoming concert will benefit the memorial at the site of the former Terezin transit camp.

The Terezin Chamber Music Foundation and the U.S. Embassy to the Czech Republic are cosponsoring the Nov. 4 concert in Prague.

Terezin, also known as Theresienstadt, suffered damage worth tens of thousands of dollars in August floods, which also affected the Jewish Quarter in Prague.

The concert will take place in the Prague Castle with a performance by the Hawthorne String Quartet, made up of four members of the Boston Symphony Orchestra.

The Terezin Chamber Music Foundation was founded by Boston Symphony violist Mark Ludwig to preserve the works of composers who perished in the camp during the Holocaust. □