



# Daily News Bulletin

Vol. 80, No. 212

Thursday, November 14, 2002

85th Year

## TOP NEWS IN BRIEF

### Israeli army moves into Nablus

The Israeli army took control of the West Bank city of Nablus. Soldiers, heavy armor and helicopter gunships moved on Nablus early Wednesday morning after the army took control of Tulkarm and an adjacent refugee camp a day earlier.

Operation Wheels in Motion is being described as the biggest Israeli military operation in months.

In a statement, the army said its operation also involves a crackdown on Bir Zeit north of Ramallah.

### Congress not voting on foreign aid

The U.S. Congress is not expected to vote on foreign aid for the remainder of its term this year. But both houses of Congress are expected to approve a continuing resolution Wednesday to keep the government running through January.

This means that until a new spending bill is passed — a move expected in January or February — Israel will receive only a pro-rated amount of the \$3 billion it receives in annual aid.

Israel is hoping to eventually receive an additional \$200 million in emergency U.S. aid, but this is not likely to be voted on until the next Congress convenes.

### Report: U.S. delays peacemaking

The United States reportedly agreed to an Israeli request to put U.S. peacemaking efforts on hold until after Israel's January elections.

Agreement was reached Monday in Washington during a meeting between the head of Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's office, Dov Weisglass, and the U.S. national security adviser, Condoleezza Rice, according to the Israeli daily Ha'aretz.

### Iraq says it will comply with U.N.

Iraq said it would comply with a U.N. Security Council resolution calling on it to disarm and cooperate with weapons inspectors.

"I delivered a letter to the secretary-general's office," Iraq's U.N. ambassador Mohammed Aldouri told reporters Wednesday. "It was a positive reply."

He also described Iraq's response as "unconditional."

Israeli officials have been closely watching Iraq-related developments, concerned that a U.S. attack on Baghdad will prompt Iraq to strike Israel.

## UJC pulls plan to release NJPS after learning some data was lost

By Joe Berkofsky

NEW YORK (JTA) — Much-anticipated parts of the National Jewish Population Survey will not be released as expected next week because some of the data has been lost.

The United Jewish Communities, which is funding the \$6 million study, is canceling all events about the 2000-01 NJPS at the Philadelphia gathering of its General Assembly, which begins next Wednesday.

And the UJC, the umbrella of the North American federation system, is launching an independent investigation into the lost data, JTA has learned.

"It is true we are delaying the release of the study," Stephen Hoffman, UJC's president and chief executive officer, told JTA on Wednesday. "The reason is there have been some questions raised that I don't believe we have adequate time to get answers to."

The revelations could cast doubt on the entire NJPS, the most extensive and costliest demographic study ever conducted of the American Jewish community.

The lost data apparently concerned methodological details about who was surveyed, rather than their responses to survey questions.

"Some people with serious reputations believe the study is sound and it could have gone forward and will stand up to the test of time," Hoffman said.

"That could be the case — but I didn't feel comfortable with these questions to go forward" with releasing further NJPS data next week as planned, Hoffman said.

Last month the UJC released initial findings from the NJPS, showing the American Jewish population declined 5 percent to 5.2 million since the last study in 1990, and that birth rates were dropping and the community was aging.

Hoffman said that had he known of the missing data before the release of that information, he would not have approved the release of those initial conclusions.

"If we knew then what we know today, I'm sure we would not have released it," he said.

"There may be aspects of it" that are inaccurate, he said, referring to the initial data released. "I don't know."

Hoffman said he only learned of the missing data Tuesday, one week before the information from the NJPS about Jewish identity and intermarriage was due to be released at the annual UJC gathering, which brings together much of the organized American Jewish world.

"I feel it would be irresponsible to go ahead and release the study while these questions are still unresolved," Hoffman said.

"There will be some people who will be disappointed," Hoffman said of the implications for the G.A. "I'm personally disappointed."

But there "are other things in Jewish life," he said that delegates will focus on.

At the heart of the mystery was that Hoffman only learned Tuesday that the firm conducting research for the NJPS, Roper Audits & Surveys Worldwide, lost some data for the study two years ago during initial telephone calls.

Meanwhile, "other issues like that have been coming up in recent days," Hoffman added, though he declined to elaborate.

One source familiar with the NJPS said the missing data concerned lists of those people telephoned for the survey, their phone numbers and how often they were called.

Two-thirds of that data was lost, according to the source.

But the source maintained that while this information was important in determining

## MIDEAST FOCUS

### Sirhan Sirhan redux?

The Palestinian gunman who carried out Sunday's deadly attack on an Israeli kibbutz is believed to be named Sirhan Sirhan, according to Israeli officials.

The officials initially said they believed he was a relative of the assassin by the same name who killed Sen. Robert Kennedy in 1968, but they later withdrew the claim. Relatives of the suspected kibbutz attacker, who comes from Tulkarm, said they had no blood ties to the Kennedy assassin, who came from the predominantly Christian village of Taiba in the West Bank. The Sirhans in the Tulkarm camp are Muslims.

### Netanyahu pledge angers Arafat

Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat responded angrily to Israeli Foreign Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's pledge that if elected prime minister, he would expel Arafat.

"Netanyahu has to remember that I am Yasser Arafat and that this is my land and the land of my great-great-grandfathers," he said.

### Hamass, Fatah meeting ends

A meeting between Hamas officials and members of Yasser Arafat's Fatah movement ended Wednesday in Cairo without agreement.

Fatah had wanted Hamas to halt terror attacks inside Israel, according to The Associated Press, but a Hamas official told a London-based Arab-language newspaper, "Hamas cannot agree to meet with Fatah under the motto of halting the resistance."

### 6 Egyptians charged as spies

Six people were arrested in Egypt on charges of spying for Israel.

Egyptian officials said Wednesday that the six, operating under the cover of a travel agency, had spied for Israel in exchange for money, according to The Associated Press.



## 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.

the accuracy of the survey's methodology, he did not think that it would undermine the ultimate conclusions, specifically those relating to Jews and Jewish identity.

"I don't know how much has been lost," Hoffman said. "The issue is 29 hours old. All I've had time to do is make the decision to not have the data be released."

However, Hoffman said that the UJC's director of research for NJPS, Jim Schwartz, "was aware" of the missing data at some earlier point, though Hoffman said he hadn't spoken directly with Schwartz yet about the matter.

There were no plans affecting Schwartz's position at this point, Hoffman added.

"It would be unfair to jump to conclusions about anybody's particular role," he said. "I'm not casting any aspersions at the moment."

Schwartz could not be reached Wednesday for comment, despite several attempts.

After the General Assembly, the UJC will secure "an outsider" who is "totally objective" to launch an investigation into the missing information. The investigative team might include UJC staffers as well, Hoffman said.

Such a probe would presumably attempt to learn exactly what information is missing, how it got lost, how significant it is, who knew about the missing information and why they did not inform senior UJC officials.

"I want to know if there are any other issues they haven't told me about, either from staff or the technical team" or Roper researchers, Hoffman said.

A spokeswoman for Roper, June Wallach, said the company would have no comment at this time.

Hoffman said he had no idea whether the UJC would take action against Roper.

Roper apparently lost the information from its computer system.

Several lead members of the National Technical Advisory Committee of demographers and social scientists that consulted with UJC's staffers working on the NJPS said they were participating in a conference call Wednesday about the survey, though they declined to comment further.

Hoffman said he did not know if the co-chairs of the advisory panel, Vivian Klaff of the University of Delaware and Frank Mott of Ohio State University, knew about the missing data.

Reached Wednesday, Klaff would only say he would be joining the conference call on the NJPS. Mott did not return calls.

Egon Mayer, director of the North American Jewish Data Bank at the Graduate Center of the City University of New York, said he had heard about the delay this week though he didn't know the reasons for it.

"I think some very important conclusions were reached by the UJC management that led them to this decision, which I'm sure they reached very reluctantly," he said.

Stephen Bayme, national director of contemporary Jewish life for the American Jewish Committee, said he had heard of the delay, but preferred waiting until the UJC got to the bottom of the issue.

"I'd rather not have the data than have data that is mistaken," Bayme said. □

## Viennese Jewry's future murky

BERLIN (JTA) — Only a miracle will keep Austria's small Jewish community from shrinking away to nothing, according to the leader of Austrian Jewry.

Ariel Muzicant made the grim assessment at the dedication Sunday of a memorial to the tens of thousands of Jews deported by the Nazis from Vienna.

The memorial, located at Vienna's City Temple, has the names of 62,400 deportees engraved on black slate.

Some 65,000 Jews were deported from the city, but not all their names are known. Vienna also has a Holocaust memorial at Judenplatz.

The ceremony marked the anniversary of Kristallnacht, the pogrom of Nov. 9, 1938, when Nazi thugs ransacked Jewish-owned shops and set synagogues ablaze across Germany and Austria.

By the time the rampage ended, more than 1,000 synagogues in Germany and Austria had been destroyed. In the following days, several hundred Jews were killed or committed suicide.

Muzicant said at Sunday's ceremony that Austria's Jewish community, which now has between 7,000 and 8,000 members, is shrinking. □

## JEWISH WORLD

### Harvard disinvites poet

Harvard's English department retracted an invitation to a poet who once said West Bank settlers should be "shot dead." Following student complaints, the department chair, Lawrence Buell, issued a statement saying the reading had been canceled "by mutual consent of the poet and the English Department."

Buell also said he "sincerely regretted the widespread consternation that has arisen as a result" of the invitation to Tom Paulin, who lectures at Oxford University. The invitation "had been originally decided on last winter solely on the basis of Mr. Paulin's lifetime accomplishments as a poet," the statement added.

### Anti-Muslim comments criticized

U.S. Jewish and Muslim groups condemned televangelist Pat Robertson for lashing out at Muslim attitudes toward Jews. In a recent broadcast, Robertson said Muslims want to kill Jews and that any hope of negotiating a peace agreement by giving Muslims territory was an illusion.

"I wish the Jews in America would wake up, open their eyes and read what is being said about them. This is worse than the Nazis. Adolf Hitler was bad, but what the Muslims want to do to the Jews is worse," Robertson said.

David Harris, executive director of the American Jewish Committee, called Robertson's comments "outrageous." Jews "do not live under any illusions about the challenges before us, but we must always make distinctions between the extremists, with whom dialogue is impossible, and those committed to moderation and coexistence," Harris said.

The Council on American-Islamic Relations also criticized Robertson, calling "on elected leaders and religious leaders to repudiate these kinds of comments. Time and again we see attacks on Islam go unchallenged."

### Chief rabbi puts brakes on book

Britain's chief rabbi asked his publisher to stop promoting and printing his book. Jonathan Sacks took the step after criticism from members of the Orthodox community who said sections of "The Dignity of Difference" could be considered heretical, according to the Jerusalem Post.

Sacks insists that he stands by the book's central thesis that Judaism, Christianity and Islam each can make claims to teaching divine truths, but he has agreed to revise some sections. "God has spoken to mankind in many languages: through Judaism to Jews, Christianity to Christians, Islam to Muslims," he wrote in the book. "No one creed has a monopoly on spiritual truth."

## BEHIND THE HEADLINES

### House leadership hopeful Pelosi supports Israel and Jewish issues

By Sharon Samber

WASHINGTON (JTA) — A congresswoman was in the middle of her speech at an American Israel Public Affairs Committee luncheon in San Francisco last December when an alarm went off.

Fearing a possible terrorist attack, jittery attendees were rushing out of the room when they suddenly heard Hatikvah, Israel's national anthem.

It was the non-Jewish speaker, Rep. Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.), who was reciting the hopeful lyrics in English. The crowd was stunned.

"She is connected to the Jewish community," said Sam Lauter, a pro-Israel activist in San Francisco. "It comes from her soul."

Lauter — whose family has hosted Pelosi for years at its Passover seder — and other Jewish community leaders have known for a long time that Pelosi is adept at building religious and political bridges.

Now she is set to take over the leadership of the Democratic Party in the U.S. House of Representatives.

Pelosi, 62, is almost assured of victory in the race for House minority leader, announcing last Friday that she had secured the support of 111 of the 209 House Democrats. The representative of California's 8th District since 1987, Pelosi already is the highest-ranking woman in congressional history. She appears poised to make history again in the leadership election, which is set for Thursday.

Currently the House minority whip, Pelosi has been active on a number of issues that resonate with the Jewish community, such as education, AIDS treatment and prevention, health care, housing, human rights and environmental protection.

She has consistently supported foreign aid to Israel, and she has backed a number of issues important to the pro-Israel community over the years, including moving the U.S. Embassy to Jerusalem.

But Pelosi also sponsored an amendment calling on Congress to urge Israel to cancel the sale of an airborne radar system to China in 2000. Israel ultimately buckled to U.S. pressure and cancelled the multi-billion dollar deal, badly harming its relations with China. Following the Democrats' disappointing results in last Tuesday's national elections, Rep. Richard Gephardt (D-Mo.) vacated the minority leader post he had held for eight years. Gephardt is presumed to be preparing to run for president in 2004.

Gephardt was the highest-ranking congressional official to speak at a Washington solidarity rally for Israel last April.

"We cannot stand on the sidelines as the prospects for peace are undermined," Gephardt said at the rally. He said that the United States must work to preserve and strengthen Israel's security and that the Palestinian Authority must turn "unequivocally" against terrorism.

Pelosi, who spoke at the AIPAC policy conference last April in Washington, called upon Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat to stop using terrorism against Israel.

"Israel has the right to provide security to its people by rooting out the extreme terrorist organizations," she said.

In May, Pelosi supported a congressional resolution expressing solidarity with Israel, which passed overwhelmingly in the House. "Terrorism and suicide bombings must not be the price that is paid for a free society," she said at the time.

Pelosi said Arafat must show that he is a partner for peace, the United States and the international community should provide humanitarian assistance to the Palestinians, and the supposed legacy of former Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin — Israeli and Palestinian states coexisting peacefully — must be honored.

Rep. Harold Ford Jr. (D-Tenn.) also is seeking the Democratic leadership position, calling Pelosi too liberal and portraying himself as an alternative to "politics as usual." But Ford, a conservative-leaning African American, is thought to have little chance of winning.

Rep. Marcy Kaptur (D-Ohio) announced Wednesday that she was entering the minority leader race as well, and would urge Democrats to postpone the vote. □

## Federation leaders to tackle crisis in Israel, Jewish identity

By Rachel Pomerance

NEW YORK (JTA) — When the annual conference of the North American federation system convenes next week in Philadelphia, delegates will grapple with two issues preoccupying much of the organized Jewish community — Israel and Jewish identity.

The results of data related to Jewish identity from the National Jewish Population Survey 2001-02 will not be unveiled at the General Assembly of the United Jewish Communities, Nov. 20-22, as had been expected.

Still, issues of Jewish identity will be a theme at the conference. The issues, and the underlying focus on funds needed to address them, illustrate the tensions inherent in a system that has been committed to meeting Jewish needs both at home and abroad.

Several issues of UJC governance are likely to stir debate, including:

- UJC's relationship with Birthright Israel, the free trip to Israel for young adults. UJC will discuss a proposal to pay the federations' overdue portion to support the program and set new guidelines for its future commitment.
- A resolution ousting federations that don't pay their designated dues to the UJC system.

This year's General Assembly trumpets the theme "Justice, justice you must pursue" with an opening plenary on the "traditional Jewish pursuit of justice," featuring Israeli Supreme Court Justice Dorit Beinisch.

Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, who was scheduled to appear, will not be there, according to UJC officials, but may speak via satellite during a plenary session on Israel.

Some 4,000 people are registered for the conference. The UJC expects about 4,500 to cram the halls of the convention site, the Philadelphia Marriott. The latter figure would match the G.A.'s record sellout crowd in 2000.

The approximately 100 sessions and workshops include items ranging from fund-raising strategy and Israel advocacy on campus to running for public office and the plight of Ethiopian Israelis.

Some of the thornier issues will be addressed at meetings of the UJC's Board of Trustees and the Delegate Assembly, which is a larger body representing federations.

Slated for discussion at the Delegate Assembly's Nov. 22 meeting is a resolution to oust from the UJC federations that don't pay their dues.

Already approved by the Board of Trustees, the resolution would strip federations of their voting rights in UJC matters. It also would bar members of the delinquent communities from national UJC leadership roles and from the boards of national agencies funded by the UJC.

The issue arose after federations in Tidewater, Va., and San Francisco questioned their payments, according to sources. Federation leaders in both places insist they aim to stay in the UJC system and are currently discussing the issue with UJC.

For Tidewater, it's a matter of assessing expenses under severe budgetary constraints, according to Daniel Lepow, assistant director of the United Jewish Federation of Tidewater.

It's a matter of "looking at every penny," Lepow said, noting that his federation's campaign has been flat this year and that its dues to UJC are \$198,000.

San Francisco is concerned that its dues have been raised more than \$250,000, to \$1.15 million, said Sam Salkin, CEO of the Jewish Community Federation of San Francisco, the Peninsula, Marin and Sonoma Counties.

"If we just pay it, which we might, then a quarter of a million dollars that would have otherwise gone to beneficiary agencies goes to communal administrative support," said Salkin.

All of UJC's \$42.5 million budget comes from federations' dues. UJC's CEO and president, Stephen Hoffman, is in discussions with both federations.

On Birthright, the Board of Trustees will discuss at its Nov. 20 meeting a proposal for the federations to pay their overdue portion of the initial five-year program.

The \$210 million program, now in its third year, was intended as a partnership among Jewish mega-philanthropists, the Israeli government and the federations, which had committed \$52.5 million over five years.

"We have a situation where we're not producing enough federation income to fulfill the commitments we wanted to make to the Birthright program," Hoffman said. A new plan will be presented to meet the commitment for the remainder of the initial five-year program, "and we'll see if the federations go along with it," he said.

G.A. delegates also will grapple with a host of pressing topics and what they mean for the federation system, its policies and funding priorities. In addition to Jewish identity and the crisis in Israel, these include implications of a new American political landscape, the economic meltdown in Argentina, the spread of worldwide anti-Semitism and the prospect of a U.S. war on Iraq.

For local federation leaders, who ultimately determine their communities' allocations to local and overseas needs, the convergence of critical issues intensifies the familiar tug-of-war among funding priorities. For now, however, Israel seems paramount in the minds of many local leaders.

The federation system has been engaged in an Israel Emergency Campaign since the spring, and has raised more than \$230 million. But leaders also want to focus on non-Israel matters.

Capitalizing on spiritual renewal in America is key, according to Barry Shrage, president of Boston's Combined Jewish Philanthropies. Indeed, the UJC and the Jewish Education Service of North America will sponsor a two-day pre-conference to address such issues.

Agenda items at Hadesh: Renewing Jewish Communities include Jewish camping, adult Jewish learning, congregational and communal education and arts and culture.

This marks the first time in three years that the UJC has formally held a conference on Jewish renaissance and renewal.

For John Fishel, president of the Jewish Federation Council of Greater Los Angeles, the greatest challenge is a long-term one — looking beyond the crisis in Israel. Fishel is wrestling with how to inspire in his community "an ongoing sense of responsibility once the crisis has abated" so that "we don't all just go back to sleep."

While each community must address its particular challengers, it is up to the UJC to "make sure the overseas picture doesn't get lost in the cacophony of local agency demands," Hoffman said.

Hoffman said it is "the job of every federation leader" to make donors aware that "the way to reduce the tension is to raise the money." Federation leaders should "tell our donors that they can make all the headaches go away. All they have to do is increase their gifts." □