



# Daily News Bulletin

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86th Year

## TOP NEWS IN BRIEF

### Deadly clash in Nablus

Two Israeli soldiers and two Palestinian gunmen were killed in a clash Wednesday night in Nablus.

Two other soldiers were wounded, one of them moderately, when the two terrorists opened fire and threw grenades in an attempt to infiltrate an army position in the West Bank city.

The two soldiers killed were identified as 2nd Lt. Amir Ben-Aryeh, 21, of Maccabim-Reut, and Staff Sgt. Idan Suzin, 21, of Kiryat Tivon.

### 3 Arabs killed amid terror alert

Border police in northern Israel shot and killed an Arab man Thursday after he stabbed one of the officers.

The police had stopped the man near the Arab city of Umm el-Fahm and asked for his identity papers when he pulled a knife and stabbed the officer, lightly wounding him.

A security alert had been declared in northern Israel on Thursday for a possible terrorist infiltration.

In the Gaza Strip, Palestinians said two men who worked at a geriatric hospital were killed by military helicopter fire Wednesday night.

### Ramon's funeral planned

The funeral for Israeli astronaut Ilan Ramon will be held in Israel next Tuesday. Ramon will be laid to rest with full military honors at Moshav Nahalal in the Galilee.

NASA officials informed Israeli authorities Wednesday that Ramon's remains had been positively identified. Human remains found in the recovery operation have been transferred to Dover Air Force Base in Delaware, where forensics experts are working to identify them.

The Israel Postal Authority plans to issue a memorial stamp for Ramon on the one-year anniversary of his death.

### Israel: Powell made a strong case

U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell provided a sound argument for disarming Saddam Hussein, Israeli Foreign Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said.

It is evident from the evidence Powell presented Wednesday that Iraq is willfully violating U.N. resolutions and trying to develop biological, chemical and nuclear weapons, Netanyahu added.

## NEWS ANALYSIS

### In Labor's loss, some analysts see signs of historic power shift

By Leslie Susser

JERUSALEM (JTA) — "Historic" may be a term that is used too often, but respected Israeli political analysts believe the Labor Party's electoral debacle last month was a watershed in the balance of power between left and right in Israel.

Labor Party Chairman Amram Mitzna believes the decision to join Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's previous national unity government was one of the main reasons for the crushing defeat Labor suffered at the polls on Jan. 28.

Mitzna hopes that leading Labor into opposition will allow him to rebuild the party and quickly turn it into a credible government alternative.

"Our stay in opposition will be short," he promised party faithful in his concession speech.

But experts aren't so sure. Ephraim Ya'ar, head of Tel Aviv University's Steinmetz Center for Peace Research, argues that the decline in support for the Labor Party and the left in general stems from deep and possibly irreversible changes in Israeli voting patterns.

In 1992, when Yitzhak Rabin came to power, Labor and its more dovish ally Meretz won 56 seats in the 120-member Knesset. Last month, they polled a combined total of just 25.

In other words, in just over a decade the left has lost more than 55 percent of its parliamentary strength. Ya'ar contends that this is part of an ongoing, long-term trend.

In a forthcoming article entitled "Toward the Third Era of Israeli Democracy," Ya'ar divides Israeli politics into three periods: the hegemony of the left from the 1930s to the mid-1970s; a shifting equilibrium between left and right from 1977 to the turn of the century; and the hegemony of the right for the foreseeable future.

Ya'ar contends that the new trend already was evident in the summer of 1999, shortly after Labor's Ehud Barak was elected prime minister.

Ya'ar's "peace index," a monthly measure of public support for the Oslo peace process with the Palestinians, reached record highs at the time of Barak's election, but within months it began to slide.

"The general public sensed there was something wrong with Oslo before the leaders did," Ya'ar says. "And their doubts were confirmed first by the failure of the July 2000 Camp David peace summit and then by the eruption of the Palestinian intifada two months later."

The left was accused of naivete for believing peace with the Palestinians was possible and was blamed for the horrific wave of terrorism that followed the collapse of the peace process, Ya'ar says.

Ya'ar sees another deep attitudinal change, also related to the intifada, working to the left's detriment: the strengthening of what he calls "the particularist Jewish component of the collective identity."

His peace index surveys indicate that the terrorist threat has made Israelis more insular, identifying more with the right's nationalist and traditional Jewish values rather than with the cosmopolitan, universal values of the left.

Even many left wingers now advocate Palestinian statehood as a means of preserving Israel's Jewish character, not as an expression of the Palestinians' right to self-determination, Ya'ar says.

But there is a paradox at the heart of Ya'ar's analysis: He finds that the public still

## MIDEAST FOCUS

### Likud, Yisrael Ba'Aliyah merge

Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon and Yisrael Ba'Aliyah leader Natan Sharansky signed an agreement Thursday to merge the two parties.

As a result, Sharon's Likud Party will increase its Knesset representation to 40 seats. In exchange, the immigrant-rights party will receive a Cabinet position in the next government, where Sharansky will be in charge of Diaspora affairs and Jerusalem, according to the Israeli daily Ha'aretz.

Sharansky also is likely to be a member of the Inner Security Cabinet, while legislator Yuli Edelstein, who is No. 2 on the party's list, is likely to be given a deputy ministerial post, the paper said. Yisrael Ba'Aliyah dropped from four to two seats in the 120-member Knesset after January's election.

### Islamic Jihad planned attacks

Israel foiled several terror attacks planned for Election Day.

The plans included an attempt by an Islamic Jihad cell in Jenin to simultaneously blow up four car bombs in different locations in Israel on Jan. 28, the Israeli daily Ha'aretz reported.

As a result of intelligence information received by the Shin Bet domestic security service, soldiers entered Jenin that day and arrested suspects. Four Palestinian gunmen were killed in the ensuing dash.

### Israel rescues Egyptians

An Israeli navy patrol boat rescued three Egyptian fisherman whose boat was stranded at sea for a week. The boat was sighted off Israel's northern coast Thursday.

After a patrol boat sent to the site made certain that the three were not terrorists, the fisherman were given first aid and food, and their boat was towed into Haifa.

The boat had been driven off course by a storm.



## Daily News Bulletin

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accepts many of the left's key ideas on peace, including an independent Palestinian state, the evacuation of settlements, and the pre-1967 borders as the basis for future peace negotiations.

"The public accepts the left's message but wants the messenger to come from the right," he says, "because the left is not trusted, seen as not skillful enough and as too eager to advance the process."

Journalist Ruvik Rosenthal, another longtime observer of left-wing affairs, adds two more reasons for the left's decline: its lack of a distinctive socioeconomic policy and the loss during the 1990s of its huge Histadrut Trade Union power base.

"These elections," he wrote in the Israeli daily Ma'ariv, "are the fault line in the transformation of the Israeli left into an historic episode which has ended. The political system will now reflect a profound rejection of the left and its culture."

As a result, Rosenthal foresees dire consequences for Israelis' attitudes about education, democracy, freedom of expression, the independence of the judiciary and minority rights.

However, not all analysts agree that the left's decline is irreversible.

Yaron Ezrahi, a political scientist at the Hebrew University and the Israel Democracy Institute, accepts Ya'ar's thesis that the political argument between left and right in Israel has been almost exclusively over peace and security.

But voter behavior depends on the state of the peace process at any given time, he says.

"If there is real hope for peace and a reasonable leadership on the other side, that will revive the left," Ezrahi says.

He also has a different explanation for the apparent contradiction between support for the parties of the right but the positions of the left.

The elections reflected a dissonance between what many potential left-wing voters see as the pressing need of the moment — fighting terror — and what they see as Israel's prime long-term interest in making peace, Ezrahi says.

"They have no faith in the Likud's long-term prescriptions," he says. "But they don't trust Labor and Meretz on what needs to be done in the short term."

But Ezrahi doesn't underestimate the difficulties the left will face in making a comeback.

He notes that Labor and Meretz are struggling to make inroads in several key constituencies, including Sephardim, Russian immigrants and young people.

For example, Labor and Meretz together polled just 16 percent among young first-time voters in the January election, while the secular, centrist Shinui Party got 16 percent and the center-right Likud Party won 34 percent.

In 1996, in contrast, the Labor-Meretz share of the young, first-time vote was a staggering 46 percent.

Mitzna now is promising a nationwide effort to reverse public attitudes.

"We will be present in the development towns and the villages," he says, "in the cities, the kibbutzim, and the poor neighborhoods, in the Galilee and the coastal plain and the Negev."

But the question is whether, given changing attitudes and the new demography in Israel, the public will be in any mood to listen to the historic party's new messages. □

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

## Barking over kosher dogs

NEW YORK (JTA) — A dispute over umbrella ads for kosher hot dogs may soon hit the U.S. courts.

A restaurant owner in Maine filed a civil rights lawsuit last month, alleging that a town official ordered him to paint or tape over signs for Hebrew National hot dogs because the official told him that the words "Hebrew National" offended him, according to The New York Times.

The owner of Bartley's Dockside also asked a judge to prohibit the town of Kennebunk from enforcing its legal ordinance against a restaurant having too many signs.

The city, which denies any anti-Semitism, previously sued the restaurant, seeking tens of thousands of dollars for the ordinance violation. □

## JEWISH WORLD

### New UJC funding for Israel

The United Jewish Communities announced \$28.1 million in new emergency funding to support Israelis.

The funds, donated to the UJC's Israel Emergency Campaign, will be used for emergency medical services and for preventing and relieving trauma.

Funds also will be earmarked for supporting Argentinian immigrants to Israel.

### New Israel Fund cuts back

The New Israel Fund will centralize and scale back its U.S. offices in the hopes of pumping \$1 million more toward peace and social justice efforts in Israel.

The Washington-based group, which promotes peace and civil rights programs in Israel, will close regional offices in Boston, Chicago and Los Angeles and expand hubs in New York and San Francisco, the group announced Thursday.

The move, aimed at lowering the group's overhead and consolidating operations, should largely fund the additional \$1 million for Israel, officials said.

The fund said it has awarded \$120 million to 700 Israeli groups since 1979.

### E.U. office probes P.A.

The European Union's anti-fraud office said it has been investigating the Palestinian Authority's use of E.U.-donated funds.

The office said Wednesday the probe was based on allegations that some moneys are being used to fund terrorism.

The inquiry has been going on for several months. "We decided to announce it publicly after media reports that an investigation was under way," a spokesman for the office said.

The announcement came amid calls from E.U. lawmakers that the European Parliament launch its own inquiry into how the Palestinian Authority is using E.U. funds.

### Alleged Nazi expelled

Costa Rica expelled an alleged Nazi war criminal. Harry Mannil, 82, was prevented from moving from Venezuela to Costa Rica after the U.S. Justice Department notified officials in Costa Rica that he had served with the Estonian Political Police, who collaborated with the Nazis during World War II.

Efraim Zuroff, director of the Simon Wiesenthal Center's Jerusalem office, praised Costa Rica's "prompt action in denying a known Holocaust perpetrator the privilege of residing in Costa Rica, one of the world's leading democracies." Zuroff also called on Estonia to prosecute Mannil. "It is high time that the Estonian government finally realize that he is a Nazi war criminal and Holocaust perpetrator who must be brought to justice," he said.

## Philanthropists, educators seek new strategy for funding day schools

By Joe Berkofsky

LOS ANGELES (JTA) — Financial wizard Michael Steinhardt is blunt in assessing the future of North American Jewry.

The next generation is "mostly Jewish ignoramuses," Steinhardt says. "We haven't convinced the general Jewish population of the value of a Jewish education."

Steinhardt's bleak assessment was aimed not at Jews in general, but at a select group: those who have donated at least \$100,000 — and as much as several million — to Jewish day schools.

There are only 1,800 such major supporters of the country's approximately 700 Jewish day schools, however, and that, Steinhardt says, is "not enough."

"We need to double that number."

Steinhardt was addressing the third annual Donor Assembly of the Partnership for Excellence in Jewish Education, the day-school advocacy group he launched five years ago.

For the first time this week, those big donors mingled with Jewish communal and day school professionals in a leadership assembly of more than 600 people, aiming to hammer out a national strategy to promote Jewish day schools.

The gathering comes at a time when many day schools, viewed as solid foundations for lifelong Jewish identity, are strapped for funds.

And many who want to attend day schools cannot afford the high cost of a Jewish education.

Some 200,000 children attend Jewish day schools in this country, 79 percent of them Orthodox or fervently Orthodox.

Among the top goals of the philanthropists was finding new sources of money.

To bolster their advocacy effort, the group, known as PEJE, offered the initial findings of a survey of 177 of those big day-school supporters.

The group also released the results of interviews with 65 other donors, potential donors and day school experts.

The survey, conducted in October and November by TDC Research of Boston, found that among current donors, 49 percent give to day schools because they see them as vehicles to "ensure Jewish continuity" and 13 percent were motivated to give because they had a personal connection, such as a child or grandchild in day school.

But among donors, nondonors and experts, the study found:

- 81 percent believe that day schools ensure continuity.
- 78 percent supported day schools because of the Jews' "collective future."
- 75 percent backed day schools because they "foster communities of committed Jews."

Of those who responded, 97 percent also gave money to their synagogue; 92 percent aided their local federation; 73 percent helped some kind of Israel-focused program and 59 percent backed their local Jewish community center.

The donors surveyed hailed from 29 states and Canada, were usually parents or grandparents of day school students and sat on day school boards.

One such donor at the conference was Claire Ellman of La Jolla, Ca., whose three children attended the San Diego Jewish Academy, a pluralistic, 700-student school with students from kindergarten to 12th grade.

Ellman has just helped the school raise \$33 million toward a new building, the largest single effort to date in the city's Jewish community.

Born in South Africa, Ellman says her grandfather started Cape Town's first Jewish day school and infused her with a love for Jewish learning.

But she believes not all donors support education for the same reasons.

"A lot of people are going to give to Jewish education because they feel so strongly about continuity," she says, "but also because of a guilt complex" that they personally failed to teach their children Jewish values.

The study did not reach that conclusion, though it did find that 10 percent of donors said the most important reason to back Jewish day schools was to teach Jewish knowledge. □

## ACROSS THE FORMER SOVIET UNION

**Ukraine's Jews say fear led to low numbers in recent census**

By Daniel MacIsaac

KIEV, Ukraine (JTA) — Ukraine's first national census since independence took into account a number of demographic factors, but perhaps not the "fear factor."

That, at least, is how many observers are explaining the discrepancy between their estimates that some 250,000 to 500,000 Jews live in Ukraine and the 103,591 counted in the 2001 census, which was released in late December 2002.

"Many people are afraid to say that they're Jews," said the chief rabbi of Kiev, Moshe-Reuven Azman. "Right now we have a democracy and everything is fine, but you never know what will happen. We don't know the future but we have a history here, and we're afraid."

Ukraine's last census, conducted in 1989 when it was still part of the Soviet Union, counted some 52 million people, including 487,300 Jews.

Since that time, emigration and a low birth rate have contributed to an overall decrease in Ukraine's population by almost 3 million people, to the current total of slightly less than 48.5 million.

Freedom of movement and a deteriorating economy have led thousands of Ukrainian Jews to move to Israel or to countries such as Germany and the United States. Even accounting for that, however, many observers say the census' Jewish numbers don't add up.

Azman said many Jews didn't disclose their ethnic identity, preferring to opt for the security of belonging to a majority group.

"Ten years ago, people had a Soviet passport and had no choice over what nationality was recorded in it, but now they have a Ukrainian passport and don't have to indicate" another nationality, he said.

The practice may go back even further: A doctor working at a private medical clinic in Kiev, who identified herself only as Anya, said that after her parents' personal documents were lost during World War II they chose to suppress their Jewish identity, even after the war ended.

She said she has many friends in a similar situation, raised in families where Jewish traditions are passed from generation to generation, but official Jewish identity is not.

"My parents knew how difficult life could be for Jews in Ukraine and changed their identity," Anya said. "So if the government wants to know about my status, it will never find out."

Alex Kupershtein, a Lviv-born Israeli citizen and director of the Makabi restaurant in Kiev, agreed.

"I have a lot of friends in Kiev whose parents are still afraid to say that they are Jewish," he said.

A spokeswoman for Ukraine's State Statistics Committee said the committee could not interpret the 2001 census results.

"But personally," she said, "I think the numbers look right when you consider the emigration that has taken place."

The spokeswoman added that more details on ethnicity in Ukraine would be available when the census is released in published form later this year.

But most Jewish groups aren't waiting to express their conviction that Jews have been vastly undercounted.

According to surveys by the Jewish Agency for Israel, there are 215,000 to 220,000 Jews in Ukraine, said Alex Katz, head of Jewish Agency operations in Ukraine and Moldova.

"I hope that at least in the case of the major Ukrainian cities we'll succeed in finding more Jews than have been counted now," he said.

Other Jewish leaders agree. The chief rabbi of Ukraine, Ya'akov Dov Bleich, said the real number is closer to half a million Jews, or five times the census figure.

Josef Zissels, chairman of the Va'ad umbrella group of Jewish organizations in Ukraine, said that at least 150,000 Ukrainians are Jewish according to Jewish law, meaning that they have a Jewish mother. Including those with a Jewish spouse or at least one Jewish grandparent, some 400,000 individuals would qualify to immigrate to Israel under the Jewish state's Law of Return, he said.

The census figure makes sense only if it counts those people with two Jewish parents, he said.

Zissels said it would be helpful to have a better understanding of the number of Jews and their position in Ukrainian society. He's hoping to find funding for a census of his own, which he believes will provide more accurate results.

"I'd like to conduct a census that deals not only with demographics but which is also sociological," Zissels said. "That way we'd understand better how Jews in Ukraine are living, what schools they attend, what newspapers they read and who their parents and grandparents are."

Steven Schwager, executive vice president of the American Jewish Joint Jewish Distribution Committee, also believes the census figure may represent just a partial picture. The New York-based group assists community-building and renewal efforts by Ukrainian Jews.

"In the last 10 years, under the welcoming policy of the Ukrainian government, the JDC helped dozens of new communal Jewish organizations evolve in Ukraine," Schwager said. "Those organizations alone reach a number of Jews far larger than the figure quoted in the census."

The JDC said the census results won't affect the group's work in Ukraine, where it is best known for its Chessed system of welfare programs for elderly Jews.

Ukrainian Jews are not alone in seeking shelter amid the majority when dealing with the government.

The 2001 census also saw a decrease in the number of people identifying themselves as ethnic Russians and an increase in the number of ethnic Ukrainians, who make up nearly 78 percent of the population.

Oleksy Haran, director of the School for Policy Analysis at Kyiv-Mohyla Academy, explained that in 1989 more people identified themselves as Russians because of a desire to belong to the largest ethnic group in the Soviet Union.

Then, of course, there are mixed marriages where the Jewish partner is content to identify himself or herself by the nationality of the spouse — particularly if the children are being raised in a secular way and are attending Ukrainian or Russian schools.

But Yana Yanover, director of the Jewish Education Center in Kiev, argues that the fear factor can't be underestimated.

"It's a tradition of fear stemming from Soviet times," Yanover said. "People don't know what those census-takers who knock on their doors will do with that information — and they don't know who will be knocking on their doors the next time." □