



# Daily News Bulletin

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86th Year

## TOP NEWS IN BRIEF

### Abbas: End to 'armed intifada'

The Palestinian Authority's prime minister called for an end to the "armed intifada" against Israel.

Speaking at the end of a 90-minute summit Wednesday with President Bush, Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon and Jordan's King Abdullah, Mahmoud Abbas called for an end to attacks on Israelis "wherever they may be," including settlers in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Abbas said the Palestinians must instead use peaceful means to pursue their goals, adding that the Palestinians "do not ignore the suffering of the Jews throughout history." [Page 2]

### Sharon: Outposts to come down

Ariel Sharon said Israel would "immediately begin to remove unauthorized outposts" in the West Bank.

"It is in Israel's interest not to govern the Palestinians, but for the Palestinians to govern themselves in their own state," one that would have "territorial continuity," he said. [Page 2]

### Israeli protesters blast Sharon

As many as 75,000 settlers and supporters rallied in Jerusalem to express their defiance of Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's statements supporting a Palestinian state and pledging to tear down settlement outposts.

A young crowd filled the capital's Zion Square on Wednesday to protest Sharon's statements at the summit that it is in Israel's interest "for the Palestinians to govern themselves in their own state" and that Israel understands the Palestinian need for "territorial continuity" in the West Bank. [Page 1]

### Hamas: We won't put down arms

Hamas and Islamic Jihad vowed not to put down their weapons, despite the Palestinian Authority prime minister's call for an end to the armed intifada.

The statement Wednesday followed more moderate statements before the Middle East summit in Jordan by senior Hamas official Ismail Abu Shanab, who said the group will end attacks on Israelis if it receives guarantees of a gradual Israeli army withdrawal from Palestinian areas.

Shanab made the comments on ABC's "Nightline" program.

## While leaders meet at summit, settlers rally against 'road map'

By Matthew Gutman

JERUSALEM (JTA) — To Israeli settlers and their backers, Ariel Sharon's support for the "road map" peace plan and a Palestinian state come very close to treason and betrayal.

On Wednesday, just after the Israeli prime minister concluded his summit in Jordan with President Bush, Palestinian Authority Prime Minister Mahmoud Abbas and Jordan's King Abdullah, as many as 75,000 settlers and supporters rallied to express their defiance of Sharon's statements supporting a Palestinian state and pledging to tear down settlement outposts.

"It is imperative not to be afraid in a time of war," Dov Lior, chief rabbi of the West Bank enclave of Kiryat Arba, told the rally, which was held in an atmosphere that mixed festivity and resignation.

"God will let us stay strong against all the pressures of the goyim," he said, using a derogatory term to refer to perceived U.S. pressure on Sharon.

A young crowd filled the capital's Zion Square to protest Sharon's statements at the summit that it is in Israel's interest "for the Palestinians to govern themselves in their own state" and that Israel understands the Palestinian need for "territorial continuity" in the West Bank.

"This is basically the de facto retirement ceremony for Sharon as the nationalist camp leader," Adi Mintz, a leader of the Yesha settlers council, told JTA before the rally. "You cannot be the head of the Zionist movement and intend to install a Palestinian state on the Land of Israel."

The rally brought together throngs of young men in yarmulkes and teen-aged girls whose bare midriffs were plastered with stickers reading, "We cant let them have a state."

Moshe Feiglin, wearing a T-shirt proclaiming his support for slain extremist Rabbi Meir Kahane, described Sharon as a traitor.

"This whole process is a lie," said Feiglin, 19, referring to the road map peace plan that was the focus of the summit.

Several young protesters came on stage during the rally carrying a trash can marked "the trash heap of history." They proceeded to rip up a number of booklets, including one marked as the road map, which calls for a Palestinian state within three years.

Perhaps because several members of Sharon's Cabinet spoke at the rally, however, criticism of the prime minister took a backseat to opposition to a Palestinian state.

"There already is a Palestinian state, and its capital is Amman," Jordan, Tourism Minister Benny Elon said to the roars of the crowd.

Several right-wing politicians, including Yuval Steinitz and Uzi Landau of the Likud Party and Avigdor Lieberman of the National Union bloc, declined to attend the rally. Coalition politicians who did speak were met with chants of "traitor, traitor" from activists with Kach, Kahane's movement, who see participating in Sharon's government as villainous.

Israeli security sources told Reuters that security around Sharon will be increased due to fears of an assassination attempt by right-wing extremists.

"We are concerned that a fringe group of extremist settlers will make good on declarations to fight evacuation with weapons," one security source was quoted as saying.

Extremist incitement — including a huge rally in Zion Square — was blamed for

## MIDEAST FOCUS

### Sharon security tightened

Security around Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon is being increased due to fears of an assassination attempt by right-wing extremists after the Israeli-Palestinian summit in Jordan.

"We are concerned that a fringe group of extremist settlers will make good on declarations to fight evacuation with weapons," an Israeli security source told Reuters, referring to Sharon's commitment to evacuate illegal settlement outposts.

Sharon is under pressure from Israel's right wing for saying he accepts a Palestinian state.

### Jerusalem elects Orthodox mayor

Uri Lupolianski became the first fervently Orthodox man elected mayor of Jerusalem.

Lupolianski, who has served as acting mayor since February, took 52 percent of the vote in Tuesday's municipal elections, beating millionaire businessman Nir Barkat, who received 43 percent.

### Protesters pray for Pollard

Thousands of Israelis gathered at the Western Wall in Jerusalem to urge that Jonathan Pollard, who is serving a life sentence in the United States for spying for Israel, be freed.

A crowd estimated at more than 4,000 took part Wednesday in a two-hour prayer service that was led by Mordechai Elisha, a former Sephardi chief rabbi of Israel.

### Chief rabbi appointment upheld

Israel's High Court rejected a petition against the appointment of Rabbi Yona Metzger as Ashkenazi chief rabbi.

The court ruled Wednesday on a petition filed by a Tel Aviv accountant, who said Metzger was unqualified to serve because he was not authorized to be a religious judge and because of alleged improprieties.

creating the atmosphere that led to the 1995 assassination of Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin. Officials with the Yesha council have vowed to keep this demonstration and all subsequent actions peaceful. True to their word, when a protester put up a placard reading, "Sharon is betraying the state," the sign was confiscated.

But sentiment against Sharon's actions was crystal clear.

A man who introduced himself as Benjamin from the West Bank settlement of Beit El told the crowd that "any leader who gives up the settlements can't be prime minister." Using Sharon's nickname, the crowd chanted in response, "Arik, go home. Arik, go home." □

## At summit, Bush, Sharon and Abbas present vision of peaceful relations

By Leslie Susser

JERUSALEM (JTA) — If their dramatic statements at the Aqaba summit are anything to go by, President Bush, Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon and Palestinian Authority Prime Minister Mahmoud Abbas all have taken a giant step toward Middle East peace.

Skeptical onlookers ask if the parties can back up their brave words with action, but the statements themselves were remarkable.

Abbas, the Palestinian Authority prime minister, boldly called for the end of the intifada, the armed Palestinian uprising that began 32 months ago.

"We will spare no effort, using all our resources, to end the militarization of the intifada, and we will succeed," he declared at Wednesday's summit. "The armed intifada must end and we must resort to peaceful means in our quest to end the occupation."

Abbas has been trying to convince Hamas and Islamic Jihad fundamentalists to declare a temporary cease-fire on attacks against Israelis, even though Israel is demanding — and Abbas has promised — that the groups be disarmed and dismantled.

In his understated way, Abbas on Wednesday had strong words for the rejectionists. As "full partners in the international war against terrorism," he said, the Palestinians "would call upon our partners to prevent financial assistance to those who oppose this position," words urging Arab states to stop financing Hamas or Islamic Jihad. Abbas also made the strongest possible commitment to stop terror against Israelis "wherever they are," whether in Israel proper or in West Bank and Gaza Strip settlements.

That goes beyond previous Palestinian proposals to limit terror attacks to the West Bank and Gaza Strip, a distinction Israel has rejected.

Abbas also promised to end incitement against Israel in Palestinians schools, media and mosques. Israel's prime minister was equally outspoken in his commitment to a Palestinian state.

"It is in Israel's interest not to govern the Palestinians but for the Palestinians to govern themselves in their own state," Sharon said. "A democratic Palestinian state, fully at peace with Israel, will promote the long-term security and well-being of Israel as a Jewish state."

In his address, Sharon made several commitments: to help normalize Palestinian life; improve the Palestinians' humanitarian situation; not to make unilateral moves that could prejudice the outcome of negotiations, i.e., not to build new settlements; to remove "unauthorized" settlement outposts; and to ensure territorial contiguity in the West Bank for a Palestinian state, presumably by dismantling several bona fide settlements.

For his part, Bush deftly pocketed each side's commitments, making it clear that the United States intends to oversee the process and apportion public blame if either side shows signs of backtracking.

"These leaders of conscience have made their declaration today in the cause of peace," Bush declared. "We expect both parties to keep their promises."

In a rare display of empathy, Abbas made a comparison between Palestinian and Jewish suffering, saying the time had come for both to end. □

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



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## JEWISH WORLD

### Senators introduce Holocaust bill

A new bill in the Senate will create a foundation to support research and education on Holocaust-era assets and restitution policy.

The Holocaust Victims Assets, Restitution Policy and Remembrance Act of 2003, introduced Wednesday by Sens. Gordon Smith (R-Ore.) and Hillary Rodham Clinton (D-N.Y.), was created in response to a recommendation from the Presidential Advisory Commission on Holocaust Assets, which suggested further research and review of assets in the United States and around the world.

The public-private foundation would disseminate information, create a simple mechanism for assisting claimants and create a database of victims' claims.

### Chicagoans protest cartoon

Some 200 people protested what they considered an anti-Semitic political cartoon that ran May 30 in the Chicago Tribune.

Wednesday's noontime rally at the Tribune Tower in Downtown Chicago was organized by the Zionist group EXIST.

Other Jewish groups across the Chicago area joined the protest.

The cartoon by Dick Locher, a cartoonist syndicated through Tribune Media Services, depicts a grotesque, hooked-nose figure — presumably Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon — with a Star of David on his jacket.

### Giuliani to lead delegation

Rudolph Giuliani will lead the U.S. delegation to an anti-Semitism conference in Vienna later this month.

The former mayor of New York will be joined by State Department officials in the U.S. delegation to the conference, hosted by the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe.

Nobel laureate Elie Wiesel is among the speakers at the conference, scheduled for June 19-20.

### Web surfers back Rudolph

Some extremists are using the Internet to call for violence in the name of Eric Rudolph, the white supremacist arrested over the weekend for allegedly committing four bombings, according to the Anti-Defamation League.

"We need more lone wolves...WAY MORE!!!" wrote one self-described skinhead from Atlantic City.

Rudolph, who apparently was motivated in part by an anti-Semitic ideology known as Christian Identity, is believed to be responsible for four bombings, including an attack at the 1996 Olympics in Atlanta.

He pleaded innocent this week to one of those bombings.

## FOCUS ON ISSUES

### What's in a 'road map'? Americans don't know, but they still back plan

By Joe Berkofsky

NEW YORK (JTA) — Most Americans don't know what the Bush administration's "road map" entails, but they believe it can lead to a Middle East peace.

That's the thread running through two new public opinion surveys dealing with the road map, which is the topic of discussion at two summits President Bush is attending in the Mideast this week.

The first poll, released May 29 by a bipartisan effort called the Israel Project, measured attitudes of 600 "opinion elites." Even among that rarefied crowd, only 7 percent in the poll, conducted April 15-19, were familiar with the road map, Jennifer Laszlo Mizrahi, president of the Israel Project, said.

"People don't know what's inside the road map, but what they do want is a solution to the conflict and that they can have peace as soon as possible," she said.

Americans may want peace now, but not without some conditions, she added.

The survey, conducted for the Israel Project by Neil Newhouse's Public Opinion Strategies, found that 66 percent said the United States should pressure the Palestinians to institute democratic reforms before any Palestinian state can exist — and 69 percent agree that the United States should not back a Palestinian state until the Palestinians halt terror attacks.

A more recent Israel Project poll completed May 31 of 800 registered voters found that Americans remain skeptical about Palestinian pronouncements, because there "is talk of peace, but the terror attacks continue," Laszlo Mizrahi said.

Though Americans sympathize with Israeli security needs, they also hold "simplistic" views about how smoothly the road map to peace can be built, she added, in the wake of the quick allied military victory in Iraq.

"In 21 days, we went from shock and awe to the fall of statues of Saddam Hussein in public squares, so there's a profound misunderstanding of how we can defeat Saddam in 21 days and we can't create a peace deal between the Palestinians and Israelis."

Meanwhile, the University of Maryland's Program on International Policy Attitudes and the Knowledge Networks conducted a poll of 1,265 people nationwide May 14-18 measuring attitudes about the road map.

According to that survey, 55 percent of Americans who are not well-informed about the road map hold positive views about it, and when they learned details of the plan that support rose to 74 percent.

Steven Kull, director of the study and of the PIPA/Knowledge Networks poll series, said Americans want Bush to intensify pressure on both Israel and the Palestinians to achieve the road map's aims. While only 49 percent of Americans said the administration should generally pressure Israel, more than 60 percent backed tougher pressure on Israel when that "is embedded in the concept of the road map," Kull said.

The pressure ranged from the withholding of U.S. military and economic aid to threats to withhold its U.N. vetoes of anti-Israel resolutions.

At the same time, a majority said Bush should threaten the Palestinians with holding back foreign aid if the Palestinians do not meet the road map's conditions.

While many Americans may back the road map, a CNN/Gallup poll May 30-June 1 found that Americans remain pessimistic about the chances it will work.

Of 1,019 people of voting age polled, half were asked if the road map summit specifically would produce peace, while others were asked if overall Bush administration efforts would lead to peace.

But a fourth poll, conducted May 21 by John McLaughlin & Associates for the Zionist Organization of America, found a very different American public. According to the ZOA poll of 1,000 Americans, few oppose Jewish settlements in the Palestinian territories — even though the road map envisions the dismantling of the settlements.

Only 10 percent said settlements remain an obstacle to peace; 61 percent say Jewish construction in the territories should continue; 64 percent oppose removing Jews from the settlements; 61.5 percent said both Jews and Arabs should be allowed to build in the territories; and 61 percent said Jews should be allowed to live there. □

## UJC set to reduce budget as it elects new leadership

By Rachel Pomerance

NEW YORK (JTA) — The United Jewish Communities is hoping to mollify critics and open a new chapter by adopting its second-largest budget cut in its four-year history.

The budget slash of nearly 10 percent — from \$42.5 million to \$38.5 million — is up for approval by the group's Delegate Assembly, which is set to meet in Washington on June 9.

The reduction is largely a product of axing the federation umbrella's university programs division and Trust for Jewish Philanthropy, along with deep cuts in its Campaign/Financial Resource Development and Israel Overseas departments.

The vote on the new budget, which will go into effect July 1, comes as nominations for new officers will be reported to the board of trustees, also meeting in Washington early next week. The board of trustees votes on the nominations at the General Assembly in November, which is when the officers become active.

The budget cuts and the rotation in leadership could signal progress for the UJC, which has weathered years of growing pains.

Since its inception in 1999, the UJC — a merger of the United Jewish Appeal, the Council of Jewish Federations and the United Israel Appeal — has come under fire for a lack of vision and some of its operating practices.

Stephen Hoffman, the UJC's chief executive officer, quieted much of the criticism when he took over the group two years ago, instilling faith in his leadership and working to create a leaner, more centralized organization.

But along with continuing frustration among some that the UJC has not yet arrived at a unified goal, a chief grievance has persisted among many federation leaders that the system is bloated and offers spare services.

Hoffman told JTA that he determined the cuts based on a call for a 10 percent budget reduction by the UJC's budget committee and a recognition of the financial concerns facing local federations, which are hurting from lower campaigns.

The cuts would translate into a reduction in dues payments for federations, to be determined as an across-the-board cut or an adjusted cut based on federation's campaign results.

Among some of the key changes to the UJC budget:

- Campaign/FRD, UJC's fund-raising operation, was cut from \$10.2 million to \$9.4 million;
- Israel Overseas department, which runs missions to Israel and the UJC's Israel office, was cut from \$11.9 million to \$9.1 million;
- The consulting department, which services local federations, expanded from \$4.7 million to \$5.5 million;
- The Washington Action Office, which advocates primarily for social programs that sustain local services of federations, was cut from \$3.2 million to \$2.8 million;
- The marketing department was reduced from \$4.7 million to \$4.3 million;
- The Trust for Jewish Philanthropy, a \$1.5 million program to target new donors for designated national and international projects, was eliminated; and
- The university programs division, a \$500,000 program that ran campus fund-raising campaigns and worked with North American students in Israel, was cut completely.

In response, many federation leaders — including some of the

loudest critics of the system — say they approve of the moves.

Several say the nominees for the top two UJC positions — Robert Goldberg for chairman of the board and Morton "Sonny" Plant for chairman of the executive committee — are well-suited to carry out fiscal reforms.

Goldberg, UJC's current executive committee chairman, is well-versed in the budget and operations of the UJC's largest overseas beneficiary, the Jewish Agency for Israel, having chaired its assets and liabilities committee.

Plant, currently treasurer, has been a leading advocate for UJC budget cuts over the course of his two-year tenure.

"The outreach efforts" are "going to have a positive impact, and I think the budget result is just one indication that there's a lot of listening and understanding going on," said Jay Sarver, past president of the Jewish Federation of St. Louis.

But gripes remain. Some dispute the wisdom of specific cuts, and several of the smaller federations, which struggle to make their dues payments, say the cuts were not deep enough.

Robert Schroyer, UJC's vice chairman and chairman of its Israel Emergency Campaign, expressed concern over the cuts in marketing and campaign development.

Richard Wexler, a member of UJC's budget committee, regretted the loss of the university programs department.

According to Hoffman, the budget "reflects a desire to provide stronger services to the federations."

He cited specifically an expansion in funds for the young leadership Cabinet and for consulting services, including a new telephone information service, which will be a one-stop shop for general questions and which grew out of discussions with small and intermediate cities.

While the belt-tightening has placated some critics, others say serious problems remain. For many, the most pressing is the system's continuing shortfall in allocating funds overseas.

Individual federations determine their own allocations overseas, but they continue to fall short of recommendations made by the UJC.

Some say the blame lies with local federations, but others note the host of competing demands on federations and say it's up to the UJC to make the case for overseas needs.

A UJC overseas advocacy committee was planned at the start of the year, but it is still in formation.

The shortfall has led one of UJC's overseas partners, the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, which provides relief and welfare to Jews abroad, to circumvent the UJC and solicit individual federations, sometimes causing confusion.

And at a May 19 semiannual meeting of JDC's board of directors, Hoffman told the group that there might be a shortfall in cash, given the poor performance of federations' campaigns.

Hoffman said he could not quantify the shortfall, as federations are in the midst of making allocation decisions. And he said that federations could continue disbursing allocations to the UJC's beneficiaries, but only from their designated funds — 10 percent of their allocations.

According to Michael Zedek, chief executive officer of the Jewish Federation of Cincinnati, who represents large-intermediate cities on the UJC committee that makes overseas allocation recommendations, the overseas process is in dire straits.

"We're at a point in time to deliver or time to admit that this process doesn't work," he said.

When asked to respond, Hoffman said, "I reject that." □