



# Daily News Bulletin

Vol. 81, No. 128

Friday, July 11, 2003

86th Year

## TOP NEWS IN BRIEF

### Mofaz, Dahlan meet

The Israeli and Palestinian defense chiefs met to discuss Israeli troop withdrawals and the release of Palestinian prisoners.

The meeting between Shaul Mofaz and Mohamed Dahlan took place in the Gaza Strip on Thursday night, after uncertainty about whether it would occur because of an ongoing crisis in the Palestinian leadership over the policies of Mahmoud Abbas.

Abbas earlier in the week resigned from the Central Committee of the PLO's mainstream Fatah movement and threatened to quit as Palestinian Authority Prime Minister.

### Survivors have tea with Haider

A group of Israeli Holocaust survivors met with Jorg Haider on a visit to Austria.

Haider, the far-right governor of Carinthia province, is known for his statements praising the Nazi SS and criticizing Ariel Muzicant, the leader of Austria's Jewish community.

"We are common prisoners of the past," Karl Fuchs, one of the survivors, told an Austrian news agency. The 10 survivors in the group were born in Austria.

### Denier's film is denied

An Australian film festival canceled the screening of a film made by Holocaust denier David Irving.

Organizers at the Melbourne Film Festival canceled Thursday's screening of "The Search for the Truth in History" because of fears of a protest.

Also on Thursday, some 200 people demonstrated outside the theater where the film was to have been shown.

U.S. filmmaker Ray Greene previously withdrew his film, "Schlock! A History of American Movies," to protest the showing of Irving's film at the festival.

### Palestinians, Israelis cooperate

Palestinian and Israeli security services cooperated in the recent arrest of an Islamic Jihad member.

The man later was transferred to a Palestinian prison in Jericho, according to Israel Radio.

According to sources quoted by Israel Radio, senior Palestinian officials are making sincere efforts to thwart terror attacks in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

## BEHIND THE HEADLINES

### For Israeli camp counselors in U.S., new visa measures mean headaches

By Rachel Pomerance

NEW YORK (JTA) — When Meirav Ezer decided she wanted to teach art for a second summer at the Reform movement's Kutz Camp in upstate New York, the 31-year old Israeli art student had to wait four months to get her visa.

The extensive process, which included an interview at the U.S. Embassy in Tel Aviv, where she was drilled about her motives, delayed her departure and forced her to miss the first few days of camp orientation.

When she finally arrived at Newark International Airport, she was detained for 40 minutes for a final identity check.

"I felt very frustrated," Ezer said in a telephone interview this week from the camp in Warwick, N.Y.

"It really surprised me, all this process I need to do and to deal with, and all this waiting," she said, noting that last year it had been much simpler.

Ezer's experience reflects the new regulations the U.S. State Department has added to its visa program in the wake of the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks.

The regulations, which apply to all Israelis and other foreign nationals who require visas to enter the United States, have, at times, flummoxed and frustrated Israelis coming to work in American Jewish summer camps and the Jewish professionals responsible for getting them here.

To bolster national security in the aftermath of Sept. 11, the State Department first beefed up the visa process with additional forms. But beginning earlier this year, there was a complete overhaul. The new measures included a more elaborate visa application process and, often, an in-person interview. In addition, the Department of Homeland Security instituted a new computerized database.

Now, beginning Aug. 1, all foreign nationals requesting an American visa will require a face-to-face interview with an American consular officer in their home country.

Twenty-seven countries — mostly European — are exempt from the requirements because their citizens can travel to America without a visa for tourism or general business. Israel does not meet the requirements for what is known as the visa-waiver program, according to Kelly Shannon, spokeswoman for the State Department's Bureau of Consular Affairs.

In order to qualify, a country must have a visa refusal rate of less than 3 percent for foreign nationals applying for a U.S. visa in their country for the previous fiscal year.

In addition, the country must have reciprocal visa-free travel for U.S. citizens traveling to that country for general business and tourism and a high-security passport program that protects against fraud.

While there is understanding about the need for tougher security measures, some believe Israelis should not be subject to the newest stringent measures.

The issue has already been taken up by at least one member of Congress.

In a July 3 letter to U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell, Rep. Janice Schakowsky (D-Ill.) wrote: "Particularly during a time when Israel faces so many challenges, the United States should not be placing additional burdens on its people.

"We should make every effort to remove unnecessary barriers and delays for those Israeli citizens who are in the process of getting visas to travel to the United States."

Schakowsky has not yet received a response from Powell, but the congresswoman

## MIDEAST FOCUS

### Sharon snubs BBC in London

The BBC will not be invited to a press briefing during Ariel Sharon's visit to London next week.

The briefing is due to take place after the Israeli prime minister meets with his British counterpart, Tony Blair, Ha'aretz reported.

The move comes after Israel decided to boycott the station in protest over what it considers biased and anti-Israel coverage.

The BBC said it regretted Israel's decision on the press conference.

### Israel 56th in economic freedom

Israel placed 56th out of 123 countries in the Economic Freedom Index. Israel shared its ranking with Egypt, while Jordan placed 39th.

Published by The Fraser Institute, a Canada-based policy organization, the index evaluates the consistency of a country's policies and institutions in the realm of economic freedom according to 38 parameters.

The parameters that dragged Israel down were related to government — its size and spending, transfer payments, subsidies and investments, Ha'aretz reported.

Israel also won low points for taxation, private ownership of banks, mandatory military service and the effect of the minimum wage.

### Israel lights up camels

Israel is putting fluorescent strips on camels in an attempt to prevent car accidents in the Negev Desert.

The first 40 camels were outfitted with the strips this week, and as many as 1,000 more could be tagged soon, Israeli officials said.

The effort is an attempt to reduce the number of car crashes involving camels.

Ten people are estimated to have died in such crashes during the past two years.



## Daily News Bulletin

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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).  
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intends to raise the issue with other members of Congress and the administration, according to her press secretary, Nadeam Elshami.

For the camping community, the new restrictions will further slow a process that is "already taking a tremendous amount of time," said Ariella Feldman, North American service director for the summer shlichim, or emissaries, program of the Jewish Agency for Israel, which coordinates the process of bringing Israeli staff to most North American Jewish summer camps.

Despite the restrictions, Feldman enrolled nearly 1,400 Israeli shlichim at 185 North American camps this summer, up from 1,250 the previous year, and about 1,100 in 2001. The bulk of them are in the United States.

Several Israelis were unable to obtain visas in time to come to camp this year.

While many camp officials downplay the issue as a bureaucratic pitfall, others are more concerned.

"If the U.S. government continues with this policy" in the future, said Paul Reichenbach, director of camping for the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, "it could be a disaster for Jewish camps, which depend upon a significant number of Israelis" to play a practical and educational role in representing Israel at Jewish camps across North America.

In addition to the time factor, the new requirements are costly — more than doubling the price for American camps to bring Israeli counselors.

Visas, which last year cost \$55 apiece, jumped to \$120, Feldman said.

It was a "much more lengthy and arduous process all the way around," said Charlene Wendell, a consultant on camping services for the Jewish Community Centers Association.

The association was the sponsoring agency for 800 Israelis for its summer camps and other Jewish camps this year.

The National Ramah Commission and the Union of American Hebrew Congregations are also sponsoring agencies, which means they fill out the initial paperwork and visa applications for the Israelis seeking entry. Still, Wendell accepts and understands the security concerns that have complicated her job.

"I don't want anybody coming into the country who's not eligible," she said.

For the Jewish Agency, which helps facilitate the process on the Israeli end, the new provisions cost additional staff and time. And, in a few cases, the price of re-booking flights.

Despite the new regulations, American Jewish camps and Israeli summer staff seem undeterred. Camps "feel that bringing Israel to camp is an essential part of their program," said Feldman.

For Ezer, the Israeli staffer at Kutz, being at camp was worth the trouble to get there. "It's a great experience to be with Americans," she said.

She said she felt she had made a powerful contribution to the camp's Israel Day on Sunday.

"I was really surprised that so many people feel like Israel is kind of a home for them," Ezer said, adding that she sees a place to talk to them about her culture and her identity as a Jew living in Israel.

The bottom line is that more careful planning will be needed, according to Ramie Arian, executive director of the Foundation for Jewish Camping. "The reality is, if we're aware of it, and we pay attention to it, and you don't let yourself get late, then it's fine. It's just the last-minute stuff is much harder or impossible," he said. □

## Sobibor revolter dies at 87

NEW YORK (JTA) — Chaim Engel, a survivor of a prisoner revolt at the Sobibor death camp, died last Friday at 87.

In October 1943, Engel was one of 300 Jewish laborers who revolted at the camp in Poland.

They killed several German and Ukrainian supervisors before they were captured. Engel, who hid in the Polish woods with his girlfriend, Selma Wynberg, after the revolt, was one of an estimated 30 who survived the war. After the war, he married Selma and moved to Holland and Israel before settling in Connecticut. □

## JEWISH WORLD

### Canadian census data will provide detailed picture of Jewish community

By Bill Gladstone

TORONTO (JTA) — Jewish officials hope that newly released census data will give them a more comprehensive picture of the Canadian Jewish community, helping them prepare better for the community's future needs.

UIA Federations Canada, the umbrella organization for 11 federated Jewish communities across the country, has paid about \$300,000 to the federal census office, Statistics Canada, for the detailed numbers on the size, shape, age and other variables for communities across Canada.

Dubbed the National Jewish Demographic Study, the project constitutes "the largest comprehensive demographic study ever undertaken of the Jewish community in Canada," according to research coordinator Charles Shahar.

Unlike the 2000 U.S. census, the 2001 Canadian census asked citizens to identify both their religion and ethnic background. The two variables will allow demographers to determine the number of Jews with greater accuracy, Shahar said.

"Basically we're going to be looking at about 150 small-, medium- and large-sized communities across Canada, from St. John, Newfoundland to Nanaimo on Vancouver Island, British Columbia," he said.

Shahar, who does demographic studies and surveys for the Jewish community of Montreal, plans to compile about a dozen reports in the coming year based on census information he is scheduled to receive in four packages between now and October.

The data will enable him to compile statistics on everything from whether Jews are living singly or in family units, their marital status and economic brackets, their intermarriage rate and even their level of affiliation in the community.

It also will allow him to determine where are the most concentrated populations of Jews and where the "dependency ratio" of seniors and children to adults is highest, indicating a greater need for social services.

Figures from the 2001 census provide a much more accurate planning tool than those obtained in the previous full census in 1991, said Perry Romberg, director of planning and community services for UIA Federations.

"We're going to be doing several variant studies of our community regarding the numbers of elderly, people living in poverty, single-parent families, Holocaust survivors and many other factors," Romberg said.

In the 2001 census, 348,605 Canadians identified themselves as Jewish by ethnicity and 329,995 as Jewish by religion. The numbers indicate a total of 370,520 Jews in the country, reflecting a growth rate of 4 percent in the population since 1991, Shahar said.

Roughly three-quarters of Canada's Jews are concentrated in Toronto and Montreal — 48 percent in Toronto and 25 percent in Montreal — the figures show.

While the Toronto community increased in number by about 10 percent since 1991 to 179,100, Montreal dropped 8 percent to 92,970. Historically speaking, these figures represent a seismic shift in Canadian Jewry. Until the mid-1970s, when the number of Jews in Montreal peaked at about 115,000, the Montreal community had dominated national Jewish life for some two centuries. By mid-decade, Toronto will have twice the Jewish population of Montreal, Shahar predicted.

Vancouver — 22,585 — and Ottawa — 13,450 — showed growth exceeding 16 percent. Likewise, the Calgary community grew by 11 percent to 7,950, and the Halifax community grew by 13 percent to 1,985. The other five federated communities registered varying net losses. The census counted 14,760 Jews in Winnipeg, Manitoba; 4,925 in Edmonton, Alberta; and 4,675 in Hamilton, 2,295 in London, and 1,525 in Windsor, Ontario.

The figures indicate that the Jewish population is significantly older than the national average. The median age among Jews is 41.5 years, compared to 37 for the population as a whole. That statistic has ramifications for such variables as the number of spaces to plan for in Jewish homes for the aged and other long-term care facilities.

The figures also show the continued decline of many small-town Jewish communities across the country, a trend underway for at least half a century. □

#### Berlin target misidentified

Berlin's Jewish community center, not the Jewish Museum, apparently was the target of planned terror attacks in 2002.

During a trial in Dusseldorf's Higher Regional Court, it emerged that reports last Friday that the museum was the intended target were mistaken. On trial are suspected members of the Al Tawhid group, believed to be part of the Al-Qaida terrorist network.

A Palestinian defendant said he had seen a building with a menorah and Hebrew letters near the entrance.

#### Russian Israelis to vote in Russia

Some 100,000 Russian immigrants to Israel are expected to vote in December elections for the Russian Parliament. That is drawing the ire of some local Communist leaders in Tula in central Russia, where the votes may help decide three seats, two of which currently are held by Communists.

#### White supremacist runs in Canada

A convicted white supremacist is running for mayor of Canada's capital city. Donna Upson, 23, served more than a year in jail for hate-related crimes a few years ago.

According to her statements at a 2000 trial in Halifax, Upson has been affiliated with the Ku Klux Klan, the Aryan Nations and the National Socialist Movement.

B'nai Brith Canada officials are "deeply disturbed to learn that not only has she resurfaced but that she is doing so in such a prominent way," said the organization's president, Rochelle Wilner.

#### Stamp honors rescuer of Jews

Argentina issued a stamp honoring a man who saved up to 24,000 Jews during World War II, and later became pope.

The stamp issued July 2 honors Angelo Giuseppe Roncalli, who was the Vatican delegate to Turkey and Greece during World War II.

The Raoul Wallenberg Foundation launched the initiative for the stamp commemorating Roncalli, who became Pope John XXIII in 1958.

#### Nuremberg prosecutor dies

Britain's chief prosecutor at the Nuremberg trials died Thursday at age 101. When he was attorney general, Lord Hartley William Shawcross led one of the nation's most notorious treason cases, prosecuting William Joyce for aiding the Nazi propaganda effort during World War II.

Shawcross also was Britain's representative at the United Nations through the late 1940s. He is survived by his wife, Monique, and his two children.

## NEWS ANALYSIS

**Dismissed as small-time, Shinui shows clout on prisoner release**

By Leslie Susser

JERUSALEM (JTA) — Even after Shinui became the third-largest party in Israel in last January's Knesset elections, shrewd political observers tended to dismiss its electoral success as a flash in the pan.

Not anymore. After months of being derided as a passing fad with little substance, Shinui, whose name means "change," now really does seem to be making a difference.

The leader of the centrist, staunchly secular party, Justice Minister Yosef "Tommy" Lapid, is proving to be an astute politician with major input in the process of reconciliation underway between Israel and the Palestinians.

Lapid's No. 2, Interior Minister Avraham Poraz, is forcing Israelis to think long and hard on fundamental issues of state and religion.

And now Shinui is gearing up to contest municipal elections across the country this fall, hoping to widen its grassroots base and show that it's not the elitist, yuppie, one-time phenomenon its critics claimed.

One small incident this week signaled Shinui's arrival as a major force in Israeli politics: Lapid's single-handed reversal of a government vote against the release of Palestinian prisoners.

Palestinian terrorist groups say that an Israeli refusal to release all Palestinian prisoners — even though it's not part of any peace plan — will void the groups' recent agreement to temporarily halt attacks against Israel.

On Sunday, Prime Minister Ariel Sharon presented criteria for prisoner release for his Cabinet's approval. The results — 10-10, with two abstentions — meant that the proposal had failed.

Lapid was quick to recognize the vote's potential consequences: "If the proposal is voted down, it will ruin Israel's name in the world, and put an end to the peace process," he declared.

Lapid pressured one of the abstainers, Shinui's own Eliezer Sandberg, the science minister, to change his vote. He also added a rider to the proposal, to the effect that the prisoner release would depend on the Palestinians' compliance with their commitments under the "road map" peace plan.

That enabled the other abstainer, Absorption Minister Tzipi Livni of Likud, and one of the nay-sayers, Finance Minister Benjamin Netanyahu of Likud, to join the supporters.

On a second vote, the proposal passed, 13-9.

Israeli media hailed Lapid for saving Israel from a step that could have torpedoed the nascent peace process.

The incident confirmed what has become increasingly evident over the past few weeks: Lapid is a key player in the new peace moves, and one of Sharon's staunchest allies in the government and Knesset.

Sharon made sure to include Lapid in the so-called "Aqaba team," four senior ministers who joined Sharon in a June 4 summit in Jordan with President Bush and Palestinian Authority Prime Minister Mahmoud Abbas.

He then took part in an early July meeting with Abbas and several P.A. government ministers at Sharon's Jerusalem office.

Lapid also is a member of several committees for policy and

negotiations with the Palestinians, including the key committee on prisoners' release.

Right-wing Cabinet ministers accuse Lapid of going too far, too fast with the Palestinians.

Tourism Minister Benny Elon of the far-right National Union bloc told Lapid on Israeli television recently that the day would come when he would "feel ashamed" of the photographs of him hugging Palestinian leaders.

Lapid and Shinui are exerting a moderating influence on Sharon's right-wing government.

Without Shinui, Sharon probably would not have been able to carry out his peace policy. In addition, the fact that it is Sharon, with his hawkish reputation, making the peace moves means that most of the country — left, center and some of the right — is behind him.

Shinui also seems likely to leave a mark on civil issues such as the criteria for Israeli citizenship. In May, Poraz announced a revolutionary approach: Non-Jews living in Israel who have made a "special contribution" to Israeli society can become citizens, whereas people who convert to Judaism in Israel — even under Orthodox auspices — would no longer automatically be eligible for citizenship.

The proposed changes would not affect Jews or those who converted to Judaism abroad, who still would be eligible for citizenship under the Law of Return if they moved to Israel.

However, under pressure from the Orthodox establishment, Sharon insisted that Orthodox converts be automatically eligible for citizenship. Poraz then changed his tack. Now, he says, he will back the right of all those who convert in Israel — whether Orthodox, Conservative or Reform — to automatic citizenship.

Both gambits by Poraz — first denying citizenship to all converts, and then supporting it — had one common denominator: undermining the Orthodox hegemony over Judaism in Israel and gaining a measure of equality for the Conservative and Reform movements.

Not surprisingly, Orthodox Jews have been highly critical of Poraz's moves.

"What he is doing is irresponsible, violates government guidelines and undermines Israel's Jewish and democratic character," asserted Housing Minister Effie Eitam, the leader of the National Religious Party.

Poraz is "behaving like an elephant in a china shop," Eitam said.

Whether Shinui finally secures its position as a major force in national politics could depend on its performance in October's local elections.

To shed its city slicker image, Shinui is deliberately targeting the periphery. It intends to put up candidates for mayor in 18 outlying towns and for the municipal councils in around 60.

As in the national elections, much of Shinui's energy will be spent fighting the fervently Orthodox Shas Party.

"Shas is the tragedy of the development towns, and we are the alternative," declared Shinui's Golan Mishali, who is running for mayor in the northern town of Migdal Ha'emek.

The question is whether Shinui can go beyond simply being an antithesis to Shas and establish itself as a major secular-liberal, peace-backing party. Early signs are that it can. □

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