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86th Year

TOP NEWS IN BRIEF

Quiet in northern Israel

A tense quiet took hold along Israel's border with Lebanon. The United States was engaged in intensive consultations with Syria in an effort to prevent Hezbollah from further violence after Sunday's deadly shelling of the northern Israeli town of Shlomi.

Israel opted for what it called a restrained position, warning Syria that it would respond to further shelling with attacks on Syrian targets in Lebanon.

However, Cabinet Minister Avigdor Lieberman argued Monday that Israel should retaliate immediately. "If the residents of Shlomi sit in shelters, so should the residents of Beirut," Lieberman said.

More prisoners going free

Israel will release an additional 69 prisoners Tuesday.

On Monday, Israeli President Moshe Katsav pardoned the 69, none of whom have committed terrorist acts.

The releases come after more than 330 prisoners were released last week as a goodwill gesture to improve relations with the Palestinian Authority and bolster the status of the P.A.'s prime minister, Mahmud Abbas.

Babi Yar memorial criticized

A group of Russian-speaking Jews in the United States are criticizing a planned memorial at Babi Yar in Ukraine.

The center proposed at the site where more than 30,000 Jews were killed in September 1941 "will do damage to Jewish interests" and "diminish the memory of the Jewish community," said the group, known as the Save Babi Yar committee.

The objections come after Ukrainian Jewish leader Josef Zissels led protests against the memorial in Ukraine.

The American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, which is funding the memorial, said, "The Jewish community of Ukraine is the only legitimate forum for making a decision on the issue of a Jewish memorial near Babi Yar. The Ukrainian Jewish community is comprised of dozens of sovereign and independent Jewish organizations, headed by indigenous Jewish leaders. The overwhelming majority of those organizations support a Jewish memorial near Babi Yar."

NEWS ANALYSIS

Report between Bush, Sharon masks differences on key issues

By Leslie Susser

JERUSALEM (JTA) — The way top Israeli officials tell it, ties between Jerusalem and Washington have never been better.

They point to the relaxed camaraderie of Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's late July meeting with President Bush at the White House, which they describe as their best ever.

"The two leaders are on the same wavelength on all the big issues," a close Sharon aide told JTA.

For all the upbeat talk, however, the Sharon-Bush meeting revealed at least three major issues on which Israel and the United States are divided and could clash further down the road:

- construction of the Israeli security fence, which Bush called "a problem," and over which his administration is threatening to cut promised loan guarantees to Israel;
- the concept of a settlement freeze, which Israel and the United States interpret differently; and
- the timetable for the Palestinian Authority to dismantle terrorist groups.

According to Israeli officials, Bush's unease over the security fence stems from a fear that it could compromise his vision of Israeli and Palestinian states living side by side in peace.

For the vision to become a workable reality, the Palestinian state, in Bush's view, "must be viable." A fence cutting into Palestinian territory and disrupting territorial contiguity could destroy that viability, Bush believes.

In their meeting, Bush urged Sharon to look at "the big picture," and not to build the fence in such a way that it prevents a viable Palestinian state.

A few days later, in an interview with the Israeli daily Ma'ariv, Secretary of State Colin Powell declared that what worried him and the president was the fence "producing faits accomplis with respect to what a state might look like" — that is to say, that Israel was moving unilaterally to determine a border of a future Palestinian state.

At about the same time, State Department officials leaked news of a contingency proposal to reduce the \$9 billion in loan guarantees promised to Israel for every dollar spent on the fence where it veers into the West Bank.

It long has been American policy to cut aid to Israel for its non-security expenditures on settlements in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

In the State Department view, the fence, where it cuts into the West Bank, might similarly be considered an untenable Israeli development on Palestinian land.

No decision has been made yet on the loan-reduction proposal.

Israeli officials, however, believe the Americans wanted to broach the idea to pressure Israel into building the rest of the fence more or less along the Green Line, the boundary that divides Israel proper from the West Bank, which was captured from Jordan in 1967.

Israel, it seems, is ready to comply. One of the options for the fence was to go around the city of Ariel, Israel's largest settlement in the West Bank, some eight miles from the Green Line.

That would have meant cutting deeply into West Bank territory in that one spot.

Now, however, officials are saying privately there are other ways of defending places like Ariel.

The rest of the fence, another 100 miles to the south, probably will run very close

MIDEAST FOCUS

P.A. tries to find 'missing'

The Palestinian Authority is searching for an American teenager who is missing in Israel. The P.A.'s security chief, Mohammed Dahlan, told U.S. representatives that a search team has been formed to look for Dana Bennet, according to the Jerusalem Post.

In addition to looking for Bennet, who has been missing since Aug. 1, the team also will look into the disappearance of American-born Eliezer Zisyse Klughaupt, who has been missing since Aug. 3.

'Day of Rage' on Friday

The Palestinian Authority is planning a "Day of Rage" against Israel for Friday. The day of protests and rallies is part of a campaign against the security fence that Israel is building in an attempt to reduce terrorism.

Police behavior probed

Israel's Justice Ministry is probing the way Jerusalem police dispersed a Druse demonstration. Hundreds of Druse demonstrators clashed with police Sunday in one of the most violent demonstrations in front of the prime minister's office in recent years.

Scores of demonstrators and policemen were wounded. The demonstrators protested the government's intention to unify local Druse authorities.

Jewish youth threatens Sharon

Israeli police briefly detained a Jewish youth who allegedly threatened to murder Ariel Sharon. The youth from Hebron came to the prime minister's residence in Jerusalem on Sunday to post signs inviting the public to an event in the Jewish quarter of the West Bank city.

When policemen questioned him, he allegedly said: "I have no problem to assassinate Sharon." He then fled the scene. He was later caught, detained, questioned and released on bail.



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to the Green Line. Israeli officials are telling their American colleagues that the main reason the Palestinians don't want the fence is that it will take away the leverage terrorism has given them throughout the past decade of negotiations.

"The Palestinians thought they would come to negotiate now, and if it doesn't work out, simply go back to terror," one official said. "But with the fence stopping the suicide bombers, it won't be so easy for them to do so."

The second possible flashpoint in Israel-U.S. relations is the question of a settlement freeze and the dismantling of unauthorized Israeli settlement outposts — often a mobile home or two on a hilltop not far from an existing settlement. Again, the problem is the president's fear that settlement expansion could compromise the chances of creating a viable Palestinian state.

The administration fears that unauthorized outposts will be joined to existing settlements, taking in swaths of land Palestinians claim as their own.

Israeli officials counter that that's simply not on the agenda, noting that 22 such outposts have already been dismantled and that 12 more will be taken down over the next few weeks.

Still, there could be problems.

The Americans insist on a building freeze even in existing, full-fledged settlements, while Israel says it must be allowed to accommodate natural population growth in existing settlements — though the "road map" peace plan clearly prohibits that type of expansion as well.

In Israel's view, in any case, the key to the success of the diplomatic process isn't the fence or the settlements but whether or not the Palestinians disarm the terrorist militias, as called for under the road map.

P.A. Prime Minister Mahmoud Abbas and his security chief, Mohammed Dahlan, say there's no need to confront groups like Hamas and Islamic Jihad as long as they are maintaining the temporary cease-fire, or hudna, that they declared at the end of June. Taking on the terrorists now, they argue, would spark a Palestinian civil war.

They say they prefer to wait until the Palestinian public gets used to peace and quiet and rejects groups like Hamas, whose ideology would lead them back to violence and suffering.

Israel says the groups are using the cease-fire to rearm for future confrontations, and that allowing the groups to flourish — even if they're not carrying out attacks right now — is like keeping a loaded gun to Israel's head, one that surely will be fired sooner or later.

The Israelis argue that Abbas and Dahlan easily could dismantle the groups right now: The Palestinian Authority has some 20,000 men under arms in Gaza and 30,000 on the West Bank, whereas the militants number only a few thousand at most.

The American position is ambivalent. Powell has said that the United States "will not be satisfied until terror has been eliminated, not just for the moment, not just for a hudna, for good."

Yet, he adds, "We need to show a little bit of patience and flexibility to make sure that it happens in a way that does not result in a situation that undercuts or brings down Mahmoud Abbas, because then where are we?"

A senior Israeli official describes the emerging situation, in which the cease-fire continues but the militias are left untouched, as a "honey trap" for Israel.

Hamas and other terrorist groups are rearming massively for a new round of terror, he says, "but if the cease-fire continues, the government won't even be able to explain to its own people, enjoying peace and quiet, the need for the" Israel Defense Forces "to preemptively smash the terrorist infrastructure."

Worse, he says, the Israeli fear is that in an ongoing cease-fire situation, the Americans might press Israel to move on to the next stage of the road map without the Palestinians having carried out their most basic commitment: disarming the militias.

The senior official acknowledges that President Bush could not have been more emphatic in demanding that the Palestinians disarm the militias before taking the peace process any further.

But, he says: "That's the American position now. Who knows what it might be several months down the road if the hudna is extended and holds." □

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

JEWISH WORLD

Anti-Semitism at Berkeley?

An Arabic-language instructor at the University of California at Berkeley is being accused of teaching anti-Semitism.

Student Susanna Klein alleges that the instructor, Abbas Kadhim, uncritically presented material from "The Protocols of the Elders of Zion" during class, according to the Daily Californian newspaper.

The "Protocols" is a 19th-century forgery that purports to be a Jewish plot to rule the world. Kadhim, who claims scholars still are unsure about the Protocols' authenticity, says he was "explaining the conventional wisdom of Iraqis in a social context."

Several other students have complained that Klein was disruptive during the class and repeatedly accused students of being anti-Semitic.

France protests 'Protocols'

France's national broadcasting commission has complained to Egyptian public television following the satellite broadcast of a series based on "The Protocols of the Elders of Zion."

The Supreme Audio-Visual Council, known by its French acronym CSA, wrote to the Egyptian Radio and Television Union at the end of last month complaining about the series based on the anti-Semitic tract.

Jewish aid for Liberians

The American Jewish World Service is collecting money to aid those harmed by the political chaos in Liberia. Donations can be made to: American Jewish World Service, Attn: Liberia, 10th Floor, 45 W. 36th St., New York, N.Y., 10018.

The French are coming

Thousands of French Jews will visit Eilat in the next few days. Organizers expect between 14,000 and 15,000 French Jews to come to the southern Israeli resort town. The influx is the result of a concentrated tourism promotion designed to make Eilat into a tourist alternative to the Canary Islands and Spain. "French Jews are very warm Jews," said Eilat's mayor, Gabby Kaddosh. "I hope American Jews will follow."

Player honors Holocaust victims

A Jewish baseball player has the start and end dates of the Holocaust tattooed on his right leg.

Gabe Kapler of the Boston Red Sox also has a Star of David on his left leg, according to the Boston Jewish Advocate.

"I'd like to be recognized as a baseball player first, but that's out of my hands," said Kapler, a reserve outfielder. "However, I do feel really lucky to be looked up to. Carrying the torch is special."

It's unclear whether Kapler knows of the Jewish prohibition against tattoos.

British writer who's biased against pro-Israel letters gets no punishment

By Richard Allen Greene

LONDON (JTA) — A British newspaper columnist who admits that he ignores pro-Israel letters to the editor if the writer has a Jewish name will not be punished, the country's media watchdog has decided.

Richard Ingrams, a columnist for the Observer newspaper, made the remark last month in a column criticizing Barbara Amiel, a journalist and the wife of Jerusalem Post proprietor Conrad Black.

"I have developed a habit when confronted by letters to the editor in support of the Israeli government to look at the signature to see if the writer has a Jewish name. If so, I tend not to read it," Ingrams wrote in his July 13 column.

The Observer received about 50 letters and e-mails in response to the column, including one from the Board of Deputies, the umbrella organization that represents most British Jews.

Neville Nagler, the director general of the board, called Ingrams' position "quite unacceptable."

"If a Jewish person chooses to support the Israeli government, this does not make his argument any less legitimate than a non-Jewish person's," Nagler wrote. "It is deeply worrying that a journalist of your paper is so willing to blind himself to one side of this sad conflict."

Another person who complained to the paper about the column pointed out that many Jews are highly critical of Israel.

"Ingrams would thus exclude names such as" Noam Chomsky, Susan Sontag and David Grossman — all fierce critics of Israeli policy — "from the public debate on Israel, on much the same ethnic principle as Jews were once blackballed from certain gentlemen's clubs," R.J. Chisholm wrote.

The Observer's own journalist employed to investigate reader complaints admitted that the piece was "inflammatory" and "bigoted."

"I agree with a reader who pointed out that Ingrams' piece displayed such a degree of prejudice against Jews that it will be impossible ever again to take seriously anything he writes about Israel," the journalist, Stephen Pritchard, wrote on Aug. 3.

But the Press Complaints Commission, which received two formal complaints about the piece, has decided not to take action against Ingrams.

"It is clear there has been no breach of the code" governing newspapers, commission spokesman Stephen Abell told JTA.

Complaints were filed on two grounds, he explained: accuracy and discrimination.

The column did not breach the accuracy clause because it was clearly labeled opinion, rather than news, Abell said. And the code's discrimination clause applies only to named individuals, not to groups, he said.

Ingrams "wasn't naming individuals, he was making a point about a group," Abell said.

The column might have been offensive, he said, but that is not a violation of newspaper guidelines.

"Matters of taste and offensiveness aren't covered by the code," he said.

Norman Lebrecht, a former columnist for Britain's Jewish Chronicle newspaper, supported the commission's decision.

He called it a matter of courtesy to read one's mail, adding, "If a columnist chooses to be discourteous, that isn't a matter for the Press Complaints Commission."

"There is no anti-Semitism in" Ingrams' refusal to read mail from Jews in support of Israel, he said.

The reaction to the column stemmed from anxiety in the Jewish community, Lebrecht said.

In May, the Press Complaints Commission rejected a complaint that a cartoon depicting Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon eating a baby was anti-Semitic. The commission said it based its decision on the grounds that the cartoon criticized Sharon's policies, not his religion. □

Los Angeles Jews cool to Arnold Schwarzenegger's bid

By Tom Tugend

LOS ANGELES (JTA) — “The recall election is a circus and Arnold Schwarzenegger is expected to hold up the tent,” says Saul Turteltaub, a veteran television sitcom writer and producer.

Turteltaub knows Schwarzenegger socially and thinks he is a nice guy and sincere person, but that doesn't mean he'll vote for the movie action hero for governor of California.

“First, I'm a Democrat, and secondly, I think that the recall election is a bad idea,” Turteltaub says.

Like the TV writer, most Los Angeles Jews to offer public comment on the issue seem tepid about both the election and Schwarzenegger's bid as a Republican candidate.

That's partially because “Ahnold,” as he is universally addressed, hasn't laid out any political agenda for tackling the state's horrendous fiscal problems, and partially because the vast majority of California Jews are Democrats.

The now-unpopular incumbent, Gov. Gray Davis, a Democrat, drew 69 percent of the Jewish vote in last November's election.

Sheldon Sloan, an attorney, former judge and founder of the Republican Jewish Coalition chapter in Los Angeles is one exception.

“I've known Arnold for years,” Sloan says. “He is a moderate in politics, he knows how to pick good people and he is a very successful businessman — something people underestimate. In my Republican Jewish circle, most support Arnold.”

Two aspects of Schwarzenegger's past may give Jews pause.

One is the fact that the father of the Austrian-born actor was a member of the Nazi Party and served in the German army during World War II.

The second is the somewhat murky relationship of “The Terminator” with Kurt Waldheim, the former U.N. secretary-general.

Rabbi Marvin Hier, founder and dean of the Simon Wiesenthal Center, recalls that in the mid-1980s, Schwarzenegger became an active member and patron of the center, and later its Museum of Tolerance.

“In 1990, Arnold came to see me and said he was troubled because he really knew so little about his father,” Hier says. “He asked us to use our researchers and resources to track down his father's past.”

The search showed that Gustav Schwarzenegger, a small-town Austrian police official, tried to join the Nazi Party in 1938, immediately after the Anschluss, but was not formally inducted into the party until 1941.

He served in the German army, stationed in Austria in a police function. No records or complaints were found to implicate the father in any war crimes or persecution of Jews.

The actor's relationship with Waldheim, who was barred from entering the United States because of his World War II record as a Nazi intelligence officer in the occupied Balkans, has been controversial.

It seems clear that Schwarzenegger toasted the then-Austrian president, in absentia, when the actor married Maria Shriver in 1986, and he was later apparently photographed with Waldheim. But Hier puts this down more to political naivete than to ideologi-

cal leanings.

In any case, both Democratic and Republican political analysts agree that if no worse skeletons are found in Schwarzenegger's closet, neither Jewish nor non-Jewish voters will be much troubled by this past.

During his ongoing relationship with the Wiesenthal Center, Schwarzenegger has donated between \$750,000 to \$1 million of his own money, and he has raised millions more from others in parlor meetings, Hier says.

Hier will not say how he will vote, but he says he feels a strong loyalty to Davis, the subject of the recall.

Davis, he says, has been a strong supporter of his Wiesenthal Center, the Jewish community and Israel.

Hollywood, with its large Jewish contingent, might support Schwarzenegger as one of its own and in the hope that, as governor, he would take steps to halt the runaway production of movies from local studio lots to other states and countries.

But don't count on it, says Arnold Steinberg, a Republican consultant and pollster.

“People in Hollywood usually separate their politics from their business,” he says.

Steinberg believes that whatever Jewish votes go to Schwarzenegger will be mainly from younger Jews, who, he notes, have a tendency not to show up on polling days.

Joel Strom, now chair of the local Republican Jewish Coalition, is supporting another Republican in the race, but he thinks that fewer Jewish Democrats will cross over to vote for Schwarzenegger than would have for former Los Angeles Mayor Richard Riordan, who is not in the running.

According to polls, the one public figure who most easily could have turned back Schwarzenegger is the state's Jewish U.S. senator, Dianne Feinstein. But she decided not to enter the race.

A more jaundiced view of the whole proceedings is taken by cultural critic Neal Gabler, author of “An Empire of Their Own: How the Jews Invented Hollywood.”

Gabler sees in the recall election a validation of his thesis that politics in America has become a branch of the entertainment industry, in which life imitates art.

“What California voters are doing is to consciously convert the political process into a movie,” Gabler says. “Arnold understands that the election has nothing to do with politics and everything with entertainment values.”

The outcome of the election, the New York-based writer believes, hinges on what approach the media decides to take.

“If the media reports this as a serious political issue, I don't think Arnold will win,” Gabler says. “But if they treat this as just fun and games, then he's in.” □

Israel drops Uzi

JERUSALEM (JTA) — Israel is getting rid of the Uzi.

The world-famous submachine gun is being replaced by a weapon called the Tavor, which draws on lessons the Israeli military learned during the current Palestinian intifada.

The new weapon is lighter than the Uzi and has large vents to prevent dust clogs and sights that allow shooters to aim with both eyes open, according to Reuters.

The first Tavors, manufactured by Israel Military Industries, have been issued to elite Israeli infantry units. □