



Daily News Bulletin

Vol. 81, No. 170

Friday, September 12, 2003

86th Year

TOP NEWS IN BRIEF

Israel decides to expel Arafat

Israel's Security Cabinet approved the expulsion of Yasser Arafat but said it would not act immediately.

The ministers decided Thursday that rather than acting immediately, they would ask the Israel Defense Forces to draw up a plan to expel the Palestinian Authority president, Israeli media reported.

Before the Security Cabinet's decision, Arafat responded to the possibility of expulsion defiantly.

"This is my homeland. This is terra sancta. No one can kick me out," he told reporters from his compound in the West Bank city of Ramallah. "They can kill me." [Page 1]

Dean: Send Clinton to Middle East

Democratic presidential candidate Howard Dean called on President Bush to send Bill Clinton to the Middle East to help end the violence.

Dean, whose calls last week for an "even-handed" approach to the Middle East earned him a rebuke from two dozen House Democrats, told CNN on Wednesday that any U.S. effort needed to have credibility with both sides in the conflict.

Earlier, House Democrats had sent Dean a letter saying, "In these difficult times, we must reaffirm our unyielding commitment to Israel's survival and raise our voices against all forms of terrorism and incitement."

After the stir, which included a rebuke from fellow Democratic presidential hopeful Sen. Joseph Lieberman (D-Conn.), Dean said, "I've learned that 'even-handed' is a sensitive word in certain communities."

He added, "perhaps I should have used a different euphemism." He accused his rivals of "demagoguery" for making his Israel comments an issue. "What Joe and others are doing on Israel is despicable," Dean said, singling out Lieberman.

Four charged in terror case

Four men were charged in Germany with plotting to attack Jewish sites.

One of the four men associated with a terrorist group known as Al-Tawhid has testified that the men planned to attack a Jewish site in Berlin and a Jewish-owned bar or disco in Dusseldorf.

The charges were filed Aug. 27, but were made public only on Thursday.

NEWS ANALYSIS

Is it new policy or politics?

Israel moves to expel Arafat

By Ron Kampeas

WASHINGTON (JTA) — Israel's decision to expel Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat intensifies the diplomatic war between Israel and the Palestinian leader.

The question is whether the decision to expel Arafat in principle will translate into a new policy to forcibly change the Palestinian leadership.

For the time being, Israel's government has reserved the right to remove Arafat from power "in a manner, and at a time, of its choosing." Israel knows that if it did expel the Palestinian leader, it almost certainly would be without U.S. approval.

"We're in a situation in which we know that such approval, were we even to ask for it, would be impossible to get," Foreign Minister Silvan Shalom said on Israel Army Radio.

Nonetheless, Shalom said, the day could come when Israel's security needs override Israel-U.S. sensitivities.

"There are certain situations when you must make decisions cut off from external considerations, and it is understood that there are certain quarters that will be unhappy," Shalom said.

Shalom was speaking just before he entered the Security Cabinet meeting in which ministers voted Thursday to make the decision regarding Arafat.

"Recent days' events have proven again that Yasser Arafat is a complete obstacle to any process of reconciliation," a Cabinet statement said Thursday. "Israel will act to remove this obstacle in the manner, at the time and in the ways that will be decided on separately."

U.S. State Department spokesman Richard Boucher responded to the decision by saying, "We think it would not be helpful to expel him because it would just give him another stage to play on."

Israel's opposition Labor Party shared that view.

"Arafat abroad will be in my judgment more dangerous and more hostile than where he is tonight — today," Labor leader Shimon Peres told the syndicated "One on One" program on Thursday in Washington, where he was meeting Bush administration officials. "I object to it completely. I think it will be a mistake."

As the Security Cabinet convened to make its decision, Arafat had a defiant message for Israel: "This is my homeland. This is terra sancta. No one can kick me out," he told reporters at his compound in the West Bank city of Ramallah. "They can kill me. They have bombs."

An Israeli English-language daily, the Jerusalem Post, called for killing Arafat in an editorial this week.

After the Cabinet's announcement Thursday night, hundreds of Palestinians flocked to Arafat's compound in Ramallah to express support for the Palestinian leader.

Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon is known to be wary of making a martyr of the man seen by Palestinians — and much of the world — as a symbol of the Palestinian struggle. Any decision to actually go forth and expel the Palestinian leader would require another Cabinet decision.

At the very least, the delay buys some time for incoming Palestinian Prime Minister Ahmed Karia time to prove his independence from Arafat. If he can prove that independence by controlling terrorists and effectively rendering Arafat irrelevant,

MIDEAST FOCUS

Snow to Middle East

U.S. Treasury Secretary John Snow is headed for the Middle East in an attempt to get President Bush's "road map" back on track. Snow will lead a Treasury team leaving Sunday on a 10-day tour of Israel, Saudi Arabia, Afghanistan, Pakistan and the United Arab Emirates.

"While I'm with the Israeli and P.A. leaders I intend to discuss the economic opportunities that lie before them, the opportunities for cooperation between them for mutual prosperity and, of course, to engage them on both sides in a dialogue on further efforts with respect to the fight against terrorism," Snow said Thursday. Snow will seek funds in Saudi Arabia for the Palestinians and will meet with International Monetary Fund and World Bank finance ministers in the UAE.

Meanwhile, Secretary of State Colin Powell's deputy has canceled a Middle East tour planned for this month. Richard Armitage might go later in the year, State Department spokesman Richard Boucher said Wednesday.

Israeli Arab wounded

An Israeli Arab was wounded by Israeli gunfire in central Israel. Thursday's shooting came after residents of Kafr Kassem, near Rosh Ha'ayin, began throwing rocks at border police officers, Israel said.

Jerusalem Post: Kill Arafat

The *Jerusalem Post* is calling for the killing of Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat.

In an editorial Thursday, the Israeli English-language daily said Arafat would block any meaningful Palestinian attempt to contain terrorism whether he remained in Ramallah or was driven into exile. "We must kill Yasser Arafat, because the world leaves us no alternative," said the editorial, titled "Enough."



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.

perhaps Israel will abandon its plans to exile the longtime PLO leader.

Reserving the right to expel Arafat without taking measures to do so shifts the blame for the failure of the U.S.-led "road map" peace plan to Arafat, said Max Abrahms, an analyst with the Washington Institute for Near East Policy.

"I think this is more politics than policy," he said. "Highlighting Arafat underscores the degree to which he stopped the road map from being carried out."

Israel believes Arafat encourages terrorist attacks, like the ones on Tuesday that killed 15 Israelis, to leverage concessions from Israel. Israeli and American leaders are frustrated with Arafat for refusing to cede security control to the Palestinian Authority prime minister, leading to continued terrorism and last week's resignation of Prime Minister Mahmoud Abbas, who lost a power struggle with the P.A. president.

The new prime minister, Karia, called Israel's Cabinet decision "destructive" and said its only effect would be to frustrate attempts by moderate Palestinians to end terrorist attacks.

Most ministers in the Israeli Cabinet and key defense officials favor expulsion.

"As soon as he's gone, there are more moderate — not Zionist exactly, but more moderate — elements who favor dialogue," Shalom said.

One of the most ardent advocates of expulsion, Israeli Defense Minister Shaul Mofaz, is going to Washington next week to convince the Bush administration of the need to expel Arafat sooner rather than later. □

Sept. 11 commemoration in Israel unites a few Arab and Jewish youth

By Loolwa Khazzoom

JERUSALEM (JTA) — For a few people in Israel on at least one night, terrorist violence brought Arabs and Jews together.

Just two days after a deadly suicide bombing in Jerusalem, a group of Jews and Arabs gathered at the city's Bible Lands Museum on the anniversary of Sept. 11.

"We are gathered in memory of the victims of Sept. 11 and violence everywhere," said Abdel Rahman and Lisi Rosenberg, the final speakers at the Interreligious Convocation of Remembrance and Hope.

Yet even this gathering was marred by recent violence.

Rahman and Rosenberg were supposed to be accompanied by Gassan Kattoua for the program's concluding remarks, but Kattoua was attending the funeral of a friend's son who was killed in the Cafe Hillel bombing on Tuesday.

Kattoua had prepared the Arabic translation of the evening's Hebrew and English presentations, which Rahman and Rosenberg presented to the U.S. ambassador to Israel, Daniel Kurtzer, who attended the ceremony.

"We are gathered here to remember individuals lost, to celebrate their lives and the impact they had on loved ones and friends, and to mourn their untimely deaths," Kurtzer said.

Slightly more than 100 people turned out for the event.

Rev. Aris Shirvanian, director of ecumenical and foreign relations at the Armenian Patriarchate in Jerusalem, said at the ceremony that he believes it is important for Israel to hold remember the victims of the Sept. 11 attacks. "Yesterday the tragedy happened in America, today in Israel and tomorrow it can be anywhere," he said.

The evening included the lighting of a memorial candle, the singing of the Israeli peace song "Od Yavo Shalom Aleinu," speeches and musical performances.

Far fewer Israelis turned out for this year's Sept. 11 ceremony compared with last year's, which attracted several hundred people.

Ron Kronish, director of the Interreligious Coordinating Council in Israel, said that was "because of the atmosphere right now, because it's right after two suicide attacks."

Coincidentally, Kronish helped host one of Israel's first Sept. 11 memorials the day the twin towers in New York fell. Terrorists attacked the World Trade Center and Pentagon hours before Kurtzer was schedule to speak at one of the Interreligious Council's evenings of reflection. That event turned into an impromptu evening of mourning. □

JEWISH WORLD

9/11 conspiracy theories abound

A book by a former German Cabinet minister suggesting the CIA or Mossad was behind the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks is third on the country's bestseller list.

News of the popularity of the book by Andreas von Bulow, reported by Reuters, comes amid reports that conspiracy theories regarding Sept. 11 are gaining ground.

Compensation talks break down

Talks on compensation for a Jewish family that lost its department store to the Nazis have broken down. According to the Claims Conference, the offers from the German government to the Wertheim family have been inadequate.

The family is seeking compensation for the site in downtown Berlin where the family's flagship store stood. After World War II, members of the Wertheim family living in the United States said they were tricked into selling land where the stores stood for a mere fraction of what it was truly worth.

Couple to honor terrorism victims

An Israeli couple is planning to hold a post-wedding party at the site of this week's terrorist attack in Jerusalem.

Rena Maslansky and David Lewis will hold one of their sheva brachot celebrations, held in the week following a wedding, near where Café Hillel stood in Jerusalem. Emek Refaim Street, where the café is located, will be a pedestrian mall during Sukkot, when Maslansky and Lewis plan to marry.

Berezovsky granted asylum

The Russian Jewish tycoon Boris Berezovsky was granted political asylum in Britain.

Berezovsky, a former Kremlin insider who got on President Vladimir Putin's bad side, has been living in London for nearly two years. Britain rejected an asylum application from the tycoon in March. It did not explain why it had reversed its decision this week.

'Orange juice mayor' found guilty

The mayor of a town in northern France who instructed school cafeterias not to buy Israeli orange juice was found guilty of discrimination.

Jean-Claude Willem, the Communist Party mayor of Sedin, was found guilty on Thursday and fined \$1,000. Willem said he would appeal the ruling.

Brazilian Jewish leader dies

Benno Milnitzky, president emeritus of the Brazil Israelite Confederation, died at 82 on Thursday.

"We lost one of the greatest names of Latin American Jewry," said Jack Terpins, current president of the umbrella group of Brazilian Jewry.

By numbers, NJPS paints portrait of American Jewry

By Joe Berkofsky

NEW YORK (JTA) — Does Jewish education combat intermarriage? Where do most American Jews live? How many attend a seder on Passover?

Answers to these and other questions can be found in the newly released National Jewish Population Survey 2000-01, the \$6 million study commissioned by United Jewish Communities, the federation umbrella group. The report was made public this week.

Dubbed "Strength, Challenge and Diversity," the NJPS offers key findings on demographics, intermarriage, Jewish "connections" — that is, communal behavioral trends — and such "special" topics as the elderly, immigration and poverty.

By Friday, the study was slated to be available online at www.ujc.org/njps, and the entire data set was slated to be available at www.jewishdatabank.com.

Among the long-awaited study's key findings:

Demographics

- There are 5.2 million Jews in the United States, down from 5.5 million counted in the 1990 NJPS. Those Jews live in 2.9 million homes, with a total of 6.7 million people. So in Jewish households, two out of every nine people are not Jewish.

- Jews are older, on average, than the American population as a whole. The median age for Jews is 42, compared to age 35 for Americans generally. So while 14 percent of Americans are age 9 or younger, only 10 percent of Jews are. And 23 percent of Jews are older than 60, compared to 16 percent of Americans as a whole.

- A majority of Jews — 57 percent — are married, but they tend to marry later in life than other Americans. For instance, while 59 percent of American men in the 25-34 age bracket are married, only 48 percent of Jewish men are. Among women in that age bracket, 64 percent of Jews are married, compared to 70 percent of Americans generally.

- Jewish women's fertility rates are lower than most Americans. Ninety percent of Jewish women ages 18-24 and 70 percent of those 25-29 do not have children, compared to 70 percent and 44 percent of U.S. women in those age groups. Jewish women had 1.86 children on average overall, versus 1.93 children by all U.S. women.

- Forty-three percent of Jews live in the Northeast, 23 percent in the South, 22 percent in the West and 13 percent in the Midwest. But while 77 percent of Jews born in the West still live there, only 61 percent of Jews born in the Northeast and just half of those born in the Midwest do, signaling a continued migration westward.

- That migration was offset by immigration to the Northeast, where nearly 60 percent of Jews from the former Soviet Union live.

- Jews are more affluent than Americans generally. More than one-third of Jewish households report an annual income of \$75,000 or higher, compared to just 18 percent of U.S. households. The median Jewish household income is \$54,000, compared to \$42,000 for Americans generally.

- Only 61 percent of all Jews are currently working, compared to 65 percent of all Americans, reflecting the higher median age of Jews.

Intermarriage

- Among all married Jews today, 31 percent are married to non-Jews. The intermarriage rate, which had been rising since 1970s, leveled off in the late 1980s and early 1990s to about 43 percent. Since then, it has climbed again slightly, with 47 percent of Jews who have wed since 1996 choosing non-Jewish spouses.

- Intermarriage runs highest among the young, with 41 percent of married Jews younger than 35 wed to non-Jews. By comparison, only 20 percent of married Jews over 55 have non-Jewish spouses.

- Of people who are married, the intermarriage rate is higher among men than women — 33 percent, compared to 29 percent.

- The greater one's Jewish education, the less likely one is to intermarry. Forty-three percent of those who lacked any Jewish education intermarried, compared to 29 percent among those who had one day per week of Jewish education. The rate dropped to 23 percent for those who had part-time Jewish education, and to 7 percent among those who

attended Jewish day school or yeshiva.

- Mirroring some earlier studies, the NJPS also showed that intermarriage breeds intermarriage, with the children of intermarried couples three times more likely to intermarry themselves. Intermarriage was 22 percent among those with two Jewish parents, versus 74 percent of those with just one Jewish parent.

- Children of intermarried couples raised in a Jewish household were less likely to intermarry, though a majority still did. Nearly 60 percent of children raised Jewish by an interfaith couple intermarried, compared to 86 percent who were not raised as Jews. But only 33 percent of intermarried households raise their children as Jews, compared to 96 percent of homes with two Jewish parents.

- Those who intermarry may experience alienation from the Jewish community. Just 24 percent of the intermarried say they have close Jewish friends, compared to 76 percent of those in all-Jewish marriages.

Jewish 'connections'

Among all Jews, 52 percent have close Jewish friends, 77 percent attend or hold Passover seders, 72 percent light Chanukah candles, 35 percent have visited Israel, 63 percent are "emotionally attached" to the Jewish state and 41 percent have contributed to a Jewish cause outside of the federation system.

The NJPS further identified 4.3 million Jews, or 80 percent of the total Jewish population, as more "Jewishly connected" than others.

These Jews replied to a more detailed NJPS survey, by first saying they either had at least one Jewish parent; were raised as Jews; considered themselves Jewish culturally, ethnically or nationalistically; or practiced no other religion.

Those who practiced a non-monotheistic religion, such as Zen Buddhism, but still considered themselves Jews and practiced some "residual" Jewish activity were also included, said Laurence Kotler-Berkowitz, the NJPS research director.

Of the remaining Jews in the overall population, 800,000 met all those criteria but did not consider themselves to be Jews. The previous 1990 survey cast a wider net and counted these people as Jews in measuring rates such as intermarriage.

Of the more Jewishly active 4.3 million:

- Forty-six percent said they belong to a synagogue; 27 percent said they attend a Jewish religious service at least once per month.

- Of those who said they were synagogue members, 39 percent identified as Reform Jews, 33 percent as Conservative, 21 percent as Orthodox, 3 percent as Reconstructionist and 4 percent as "other," such as Sephardic.

- Fifty-nine percent said they fast on Yom Kippur.

- Twenty-eight percent said they light Shabbat candles, while 21 percent said they keep kosher at home.

- Twenty-one percent said they belong to a Jewish community center, while 28 percent said they belong to another Jewish organization.

- One-fifth of all Jews said they have visited Israel two or more times, and 45 percent said they have Israeli relatives or friends.

- Fifty-two percent said being Jewish is very important.

- Thirty percent said they contributed to a Jewish federation.

- Sixty-five percent said they read a Jewish newspaper or magazine; 55 percent read books on Jewish topics; 45 percent listen to Jewish tapes, compact discs or records; and 39 percent use the Internet for Jewish purposes.

- Nearly one-quarter said they attend Jewish education classes.

Education

Education — both secular and Jewish — plays a key role among American Jews.

- Jews are highly educated compared to the population generally, with 55 percent having earned a college degree, compared to 29 percent of all Americans, and 25 percent of Jews holding graduate degrees, compared to 6 percent of Americans.

- Seventy-three percent of the more "connected" Jews received some kind of formal Jewish education growing up, including 79 percent of those between age 6 and 17 at the time of the survey.

- Twelve percent of the more "connected" subset attended a Jewish day school or yeshiva growing up, 25 percent had one day per week of Jewish education and 24 percent went to a Jewish school part time.

- In fact, the NJPS found a dramatic rise in Jewish day school and yeshiva education, with 29 percent of those between the ages of 6 and 17 — and 23 percent of 18- to 34-year-olds — saying they have attended day school or yeshiva. By comparison, only 12 percent of 35- to 44-year-olds, and 10 percent of older Jews, say they had a day school education.

- As for more informal Jewish schooling, 23 percent of children ages 3 to 17 attended a Jewish day camp in the year before the survey was taken, between August 2000 and 2001; 19 percent of those aged 8 to 17 went to a Jewish sleep-over camp in the previous year; and 46 percent of those aged 12 to 17 participated in Jewish activities or organized youth groups in that period.

- Among current college and graduate students, 41 percent reported taking a Jewish studies course, while only 11 percent of those 55 and older did so; 28 percent of those between 35 and 54 attended such courses; and 37 percent of those under age 35 took a college-level Jewish studies class.

The elderly, the poor and immigrants

- Nearly one-fifth of the total Jewish population is considered elderly (65 and older), with 9 percent age 75 or older. Fifty-four percent of the elderly are women.

- One-third of elderly Jews live alone, with 67 percent being widows or widowers. More than one-third report their health is poor or fair, three times the rate of those under 65.

Because the 1990 NJPS did not track poverty levels, the study could not spot any trends. It did, however, find that:

- Nine percent of the Jewish elderly live in households below the federally defined poverty line; 18 percent of the elderly live in households with incomes of less than \$15,000; and 43 percent of the elderly claim total assets of \$250,000 or more.

- Nearly 8 percent of all American Jews immigrated to the United States since 1980, amounting to 335,000 people. Of these, 227,000 — or slightly more than two-thirds — came from the former Soviet Union. The remaining immigrants came from 30 other countries, with those from Canada, Iran and Israel accounting for more than half of those 108,000.

- Ninety-one percent of immigrants from the FSU were married to other Jews.

The NJPS was based on interviews with 4,523 people, who represented a 28-percent response rate from all those contacted.

NJPS officials said that rate fell within industry standards considering such technological hurdles as caller identification and cellphone use. The NJPS contained an overall margin of error of plus or minus 2 percent. □