



# Daily News Bulletin

Vol. 81, No. 189

Tuesday, October 14, 2003

86th Year

## TOP NEWS IN BRIEF

### Arafat appoints security chief

Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat appointed a new interim security chief.

The appointment of Hakam Balawi, a senior official from Arafat's Fatah Party, came as P.A. Prime Minister Ahmed Karia is threatening to resign from his post because of a power struggle with Arafat. Karia had favored Nasser Yousef, who sought to wrest control of the security services from Arafat.

The United States and Israel consider sidelining Arafat a precondition for renewed peace talks with the Palestinians. Karia has been frustrated by Arafat in his attempts to appoint an independent Cabinet. Karia's resignation would make him the second prime minister to quit the job in less than two months. [Page 3]

### U.N.: Gaza raid leaves homeless

An Israeli raid in the Gaza Strip left more than 1,200 Palestinians homeless, the United Nations said.

U.N. officials said the weekend operation was the largest demolition of houses since the Palestinians launched the intifada in 2000. The Israeli sweep was aimed at uncovering tunnels used to smuggle weapons into the Gaza Strip from Egypt. Eight Palestinians were killed in the raid, including two children.

### Oslo redux?

A grass-roots Israeli-Palestinian peace plan reportedly will be mailed to all Israeli homes.

Under the plan, Israel would relinquish sovereignty over Jerusalem's Temple Mount and the Palestinians would give up the "right of return" for refugees who fled their homes during Israel's 1948 War of Independence, according to the Jerusalem Post.

The plan was finalized in Jordan over the weekend by teams led by Israeli politician Yossi Beilin and former Palestinian Authority Cabinet minister Yasser Abed Rabbo.

Israeli politicians derided the plan, with former Prime Minister Ehud Barak calling it "delusional." Neither delegation to the talks had any official weight.

### British Jews face terror threat

There is a specific terror threat against Jewish targets in Britain, according to Newsweek. The threats could relate to a recent incident in which Iranians were questioned after taking pictures of Jewish buildings in London, the magazine reported.

## BEHIND THE HEADLINES

### Report says U.S. must overhaul outreach to Arab, Muslim world

By Ron Kampeas

WASHINGTON (JTA) — "Seinfeld" airs on Syrian TV twice a day, and teachers there use "Friends" to teach English.

In the post-Sept. 11 world, when the cultural gap between the United States and the Middle East has clear political consequences, some might think that exposure to U.S. pop culture would sensitize the Arab and Muslim world to U.S. lifestyles and values.

Yet without the context to understand such globally pervasive American cultural phenomena, Arab and Muslim hostility to the United States will continue to grow and pose a security threat.

Those are among the conclusions of a congressional report that found that America's public diplomacy in the Arab and Muslim world needs an overhaul.

Cold War levels of outreach are needed to explain and defend U.S. Middle East policy, the team that did the research said.

"The United States today lacks the capabilities in public diplomacy to meet the national security threat emanating from political instability, economic deprivation and extremism, especially in the Arab and Muslim world," says the report by the panel, headed by Edward Djerejian, a former U.S. ambassador to Israel and Syria.

Panel members said Israel would benefit from such an approach, because its alliance with the United States would be seen in the context of an America that also cares about the Arab world's future.

"The fact that the United States has been part of trying to resolve" the Arab-Israeli conflict over the years "needs to be emphasized much more," said Stephen P. Cohen, a panelist and national scholar with the Israel Policy Forum.

Israel's Foreign Ministry has studied the report, and officials there took some satisfaction in noting that they are not alone in being misunderstood by the Arab world.

The idea that America needs to defend its policies more vigorously marks a rare convergence between longtime Arabists — some of whom were on the panel — and Israel's most vocal defenders in Washington.

"They gave a blunt assessment of what's gone wrong," said Robert Satloff of the Washington Institute for Near East Policy, who in the past has been harshly critical of U.S. public diplomacy as espoused by State Department veterans like Djerejian.

The panel said that emphasizing the U.S. commitment to a fair solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict should be just one component of a new public-relations strategy. The United States also should emphasize its role in defending Muslims from non-Muslims in Bosnia, and in intervening in intra-Muslim conflicts in Somalia and the Sahara, the report recommended.

Above all, the report, entitled, "Changing Minds, Winning Peace," advised against "spin" and manipulations.

"Public diplomacy is about telling it the way it is, sometimes even if it means people won't like your ideas," said Shibley Telhami, a University of Maryland Middle East expert who was on the team. "When you look at our explanation for Iraq, overthrowing a ruthless dictator and bringing about a democracy — that may have been a reason, but not the only reason or even the critical reason."

Panel members traveled to Egypt, Syria, Turkey, Senegal, Morocco and Muslim communities in Europe and held video conferences with Pakistanis and Indonesians.

Reaction to the report in the Muslim world was muted, with some saying that the

## MIDEAST FOCUS

### Neighborhood watch

Jordan said its forces killed two armed men who were trying to sneak into Israel. Two other would-be infiltrators were wounded in Monday's incident in the northern Jordan Valley, Israel Radio said.

### Captive audience

Ariel Sharon said an Israeli businessman abducted by Hezbollah could be prosecuted if freed. The prime minister's comments came as Foreign Minister Silvan Shalom told Israeli Army Radio that a prisoner-exchange deal with Hezbollah is closer than ever.

Israel is weighing the release of several hundred Arab prisoners in exchange for businessman Elhanan Tannenbaum and the bodies of three soldiers ambushed by the Lebanese terrorist group in October 2000. Sharon said Tannenbaum, who reportedly was abducted while on an unauthorized visit to Dubai, could face criminal charges if freed.

### Rafah raid ends

Israeli forces withdrew from a Gaza Strip refugee camp after uncovering three arms-smuggling tunnels.

The raid on Rafah, which began Oct. 9 and ended on Sunday, left eight Palestinians dead and more than 1,000 homeless after the army razed buildings used by gunmen as shooting positions and to conceal the tunnels from nearby Egypt. Israeli military spokesmen said the raid was mounted following intelligence assessments that Palestinian groups were trying to acquire anti-aircraft missiles.

### Sukkot imports? No thanks

Customs agents at Ben-Gurion Airport are confiscating two of the four items used on Sukkot.

Regulations of Israel's Agriculture Ministry prohibit import of the etrog and lulav, used for ritual purposes during the holiday along with willow and myrtle-tree branches.

perception of U.S. arrogance runs too deep to be upended quickly.

According to the panel, the crisis of perception stems from the time of the collapse of the Soviet Union, when the belief that democracy had triumphed worldwide precipitated spending cuts of up to 50 percent in public diplomacy budgets.

The U.S. Information Agency, an organization that thrived on disseminating information, was rolled into the State Department, an organization that thrives on hoarding it. That was a shame, Djerejian said.

Outreach to the Arab and Muslim world accounts for just \$150 million of the \$500 million budgeted for public diplomacy — even though, since the Sept. 11 terror attacks, it's clear that Muslims are probably the most urgent targets for such diplomacy.

"Remember, this is 1.5 billion people in the world," Djerejian said. "And then when we parsed it down and looked at salaries and overhead, we realized that what's left in public diplomacy outreach is \$25 million — which is, as we put in the report, absurdly inadequate."

The report showed that other nations were far more successful, spending far less money, in making the case as a friend to the Arab world.

"The Japanese seem to get more credit for building Cairo's opera house than the U.S. does for building the city's critical infrastructure," the report said.

Making matters worse, Arabs see U.S.- and Israel-related news every day on Arab TV stations like Al-Jazeera, which often present the news with a pronounced bias and without context or explanation of the U.S. perspective.

That's not because the Arab stations are unwilling to host Americans; it's because of a paucity of Americans capable of appearing, the report found.

"Foreign Service officers who are fluent in Arabic immediately convey a sense of respect for and interest in the people to whom they speak," the report said, "and fluency prevents the distortion of translation."

The report recommends hiring at least 600 Arabic speakers, including 300 capable of appearing on debate shows. Currently there are only five, Djerejian said.

Even apparently benign examples of American culture can pose problems.

"In Damascus, we were surprised to find 'Seinfeld' aired twice daily," the report said. "A Syrian teacher asked us plaintively for help in explaining American family life to her students. She asked, 'Does 'Friends' show a typical family?'"

The panel's recommended remedies include dramatic increases in funding, greater monitoring of Arab and Muslim media, and educational exchanges.

If the Bush administration takes the panel's recommendations to heart — and the bipartisan welcome for the report suggests that it will — there still will be differences of opinion over which recommendations deserve emphasis.

The panel wants to expand existing educational outreach, while Satloff worries that the United States has sometimes sent out lecturers who disagree with U.S. policy.

Djerejian said that 80 percent of America's image problem in the Arab world had to do with U.S. policies — for example, on Israel. But he noted that overhauling the 20 percent that has to do with public diplomacy could temper resistance to U.S. policy.

"When you try to understand where the other side is coming from," he said, "you have a body of knowledge that can help craft more coherent and intelligent policies."

Arab diplomat Hesham ElNakib, director of public information for the Egyptian Embassy, said policy differences will never be obscured by public relations, no matter how effective. Nevertheless, he said, there was room for some improvement.

"The State Department has exerted some effort, but some more efforts need to be done when it comes to the differences in cultures," he said.

Some worried that the panel's mandate, which explicitly excluded comment on current policy, was too narrow.

Daniel Pipes, the director of the Middle East Forum, said the administration's reluctance to address radical Islam muzzled effective diplomacy.

"If you don't talk about the problem, you can't address it," Pipes said. "They talk about terror. Terror is a tactic, not an enemy. It would be like, in 1941, declaring war on surprise attacks."

Still, the view among drafters of the report is that the ground is ripe for tilling.

"As one of our Iranian interlocutors put it, 'Who has anything against life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness?'" the report asked. □



## 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).

## JEWISH WORLD

### Clark: I'm no rabbi's son

Gen. Wesley Clark is not descended from a long line of rabbis, as he had once claimed.

The Democratic candidate said he had been given bad information before giving a speech at a New York yeshiva in 1999 claiming that he was the "eldest son of the eldest son of the eldest son" of a rabbi.

Clark, who repeated the rabbi claim as recently as January in an interview with the *Forward*, says he still is proud that he is descended from Jews on the side of his father, a Kohen, or member of the priestly caste.

"I always felt a real kinship to the courage of European Jews who went to Israel," Clark told *The Associated Press*.

### McGreevey: Support Israel

New Jersey's governor and its two U.S. senators joined some 7,000 Israel backers at a rally at Rutgers University.

Gov. James McGreevey and Sens. Frank Lautenberg and Jon Corzine, all Democrats, urged the crowd Oct. 9 to support Israel during the Palestinian intifada. Some 100 pro-Palestinian activists on the fringes of the rally chanted anti-Israel slogans. Meanwhile, the pro-Palestinian group NJ Solidarity held its own conference over the weekend at a local hotel, after being denied permission to meet on campus.

Organizers of a national pro-Palestinian conference that had been planned for Rutgers chose to disassociate themselves from the New Jersey group, which they consider too radical.

### Anti-Semitic sign near Moscow

A sign with an anti-Semitic slogan and a fake bomb was found on a roadside near Moscow.

The sign was found by a motorist Oct. 9, with a bag that contained a large bottle packed with plaster and wires, according to the ITAR-Tass news agency.

It is the latest in a series of copycat attacks since a woman was burned while trying to remove an anti-Semitic sign that exploded last year.

### New European leader

Italian Jewish leader Cobi Benatoff was elected president of the European Jewish Congress.

Benatoff, who since 1999 has headed the European Council of Jewish Communities, is president of Milan's Jewish community.

He was chosen at an EJC executive meeting in Paris on Oct. 1 to succeed Germany's Michel Friedman, who was forced to resign following a drug scandal. Benatoff's election marks a break with tradition for the EJC, whose presidency generally has rotated among representatives from Western Europe's three largest Jewish communities — Britain, France and Germany.

## BEHIND THE HEADLINES

### Arafat, Karia struggle for power as interim P.A. Cabinet takes office

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM (JTA) — One of the wonders of Palestinian politics is the durability of Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat and the speed with which his rivals evaporate into thin air.

Until a few weeks ago, P.A. Prime Minister Mahmoud Abbas and Internal Security Minister Mohammed Dahlan were being touted — by the Americans and Israelis, at least — as the Palestinian leaders of the future.

Now, one can almost ask: Abbas who? On Sept. 6, after four months of tension with Arafat, Abbas resigned, saying he would not serve as a figurehead prime minister.

This week, Abbas' successor, Ahmad Karia, threatened that he, too, might resign because of Arafat's schemes to deny the prime minister real power.

If he stays on, Karia will have to decide on a policy toward Hamas, Islamic Jihad and the Al-Aksa Brigade, terrorist groups that the Palestinian Authority pledged to eliminate under the "road map" peace plan. Israel and the United States are waiting to see how Karia acts against the terror groups before deciding whether to renew peace talks with his government.

Like Abbas, Karia is expected to conclude that internal peace among various segments of Palestinian society is more important than peace with Israel. "It is a mistake to use Palestinian arms against Palestinians," Karia told a Lebanese daily recently.

But Karia found out that he needs to satisfy more than just internal politics: Arafat also is standing in his way.

Arafat tried to twist his arm, but Karia — a shrewd and experienced politician, unlike his predecessor — found a roundabout way to deal with Arafat. Unlike Abbas, he did not say "definitely not" to Arafat's demands.

Instead, Karia announced that the emergency Cabinet that Arafat appointed last week, when he feared harsh Israeli retaliation for a suicide bombing in Haifa, would remain in office for the next 25 days. Afterward, when a new government is formed, it will have "a new prime minister too," Karia told reporters.

This week, Arafat appointed a new interim security chief, Hakam Balawi, a senior official from the Fatah Party. Karia had favored Nasser Yousef, who sought to wrest control of the security services from Arafat.

As the ruling Fatah Party's Central Committee met this weekend in Ramallah, Karia announced that he would not seek renomination when a new permanent Cabinet is formed in three weeks.

The message to Arafat was clear: Karia will not confront him head-on, and if Arafat insists on his own way, he can look for other players when the interim period is over.

Despite its limited mandate, Karia's Cabinet has faced strong opposition inside and outside the Palestinian legislative council. Both secular and fundamentalist factions published statements attacking the government following Karia's statement that "chaos must be put in order" in the Palestinian territories.

Even at its swearing-in, the Cabinet faced a crisis: Karia's designated interior minister, Nasser Yousef, refused to attend, demanding a vote of confidence from the legislative council and written assurance from Arafat that Yousef would receive full responsibility for all Palestinian security services. Arafat has refused to loosen his grip on the security services, a crucial lever of control.

Arafat proved once again that he will not tolerate a serious challenge to his authority. He wants to be sure that the new Cabinet will be totally obedient, and if it takes more time, then so be it — after all, as recent polls have shown, he remains by far the single most popular political figure among the Palestinian public.

There is a good possibility that nothing will change.

If Karia indeed does step down, several names have been mentioned as replacements. Among them are Saeb Erekat, a former P.A. interior minister, and Nabil Sha'ath, a former foreign minister. There are even some saying that Abbas could yet return.

Perhaps the only certainty in Palestinian politics is that Arafat will continue to do all he can to stay front and center. □

## NEWS ANALYSIS

## French Jews mobilize opposition as Le Pen kicks off his campaign

By Philip Carmel

PARIS (JTA) — French far-right leader Jean-Marie Le Pen's campaign for the leadership of a key region in southern France has local Jewish community leaders very worried.

The problem, they say, is that Le Pen's National Front has a real chance of winning the first-round voting next March, which would lend legitimacy to Le Pen's anti-Semitic politics.

Launching his campaign aboard a boat in Nice's harbor last month, Le Pen said he would run for the presidency of the Provence-Alpes Cote d'Azur region — also known as PACA — an area with large Jewish communities in Marseille, Nice and other cities.

"This is not just a Jewish issue," said Zvi Amar, president of the Marseille Consistoire, a Jewish community group. "Le Pen threatens the whole of French society, not just the Jewish community."

Amar, a national vice president of the CRIF umbrella organization of French Jews, said he doubts whether Le Pen actually could be elected president of the PACA region, but said there was a strong possibility that the far-right leader could top the polls in first-round voting, when a plethora of other candidates could divide the opposition vote.

"That would show the strength of the National Front base in the south of France, where the movement has had strong roots now for a long time," Amar said.

In the national presidential election last year, Le Pen got the most votes in the PACA region in first-round voting and more than a quarter of the votes in the region in the second-round runoff against incumbent President Jacques Chirac.

Nationally, 18 percent of voters cast their votes for Le Pen.

Le Pen, 75, is taking part in what is quite possibly his last major election fight, and the election represents a final chance to achieve legislative power in a region that traditionally has had a strong right-wing base.

With its large immigrant population, particularly in and around Marseille, the PACA region has given the National Front a platform to espouse its openly racist policies.

Marseille also is home to France's second largest Jewish community, at 70,000 people.

The Jewish communities in Marseille, Nice and along the Cote d'Azur shoreline have not been targeted by National Front campaigns, but Le Pen's storied record of anti-Semitic statements is cause for alarm among the region's Jews.

Le Pen once described the Holocaust as a mere "detail in World War II history," has accused Chirac of being "in the pay of Jewish organizations" and has blamed Jews for erecting "invisible barriers inside the French people."

In order to avoid division in the anti-Le Pen vote, Jewish leaders are urging candidates from small parties with minimal chance of victory to abstain from running in places like the Provence region, asking them instead to lend their support to an agreed-upon center-left candidate.

CRIF leaders raised the issue during a recent meeting with the Green Party. A similar deal may be in the works with the center-

right Union for French Democracy.

That would leave Le Pen and Deputy Foreign Minister Renaud Muselier in a run against the incumbent president of the region, Michel Vauzelle of the Socialist Party.

If all three qualify for the second-round runoff, Jewish leaders say the weaker candidate should withdraw so the stronger one can beat Le Pen.

"Only the strongest republican candidate should be allowed to run against Le Pen in the second round," said Clement Yana, CRIF president for the PACA region. "All republican votes should then unite to block Le Pen."

Whether or not French Jews can convince the candidates to go along with their scenario to block Le Pen is unclear.

Already, the National Front has had success in small towns in the south of France, with mayoral victories in Orange and the larger metropolis of Toulon.

In each case, the National Front was able to play on a split in the opposition's vote in the second round.

Jews also are concerned by a change in the electoral system that grants a bonus 25 percent allocation of seats on the PACA region's council to any party that comes in first in the initial round of voting.

That means Le Pen could win big, says Jean-Yves Camus, a Jewish journalist who has authored numerous studies on the far-right in France.

If that happens, the National Front could become the largest party in the council and may be able to persuade center-right parties — the political home of Chirac — to join its ruling coalition.

Currently, the National Front holds 37 of the council's 123 seats.

The possibility of an alliance between the National Front and center-right parties is not so far-fetched.

In the last regional elections in 1998, the center-right leader in Burgundy retained the regional council's presidency only after securing the support of the council's National Front representatives.

Chirac has strongly condemned alliances between center-right parties and Le Pen's party.

However, it is the threat of Le Pen himself that has Jewish leaders in southern France most worried.

So far, the far-right leader has shied away from talking about "national preference" for native French in housing, employment and social-welfare benefits — the central policy plank of the National Front in last year's presidential election.

But National Front representatives are talking about what it says are the two principal problems of the region: "hooliganism" and "Islamism."

Camus says the National Front Party's anti-Muslim diatribes should not mask the party's latent anti-American and anti-Israel positions.

Last time local elections were held in the region, some Jews voted for the National Front, ostensibly because they wanted to cast an anti-Muslim vote, analysts said.

Amar said such voters represent "a very, very small and marginalized group within the community."

"Jews in Marseille and Provence are not going to fall into Le Pen's trap," Amar said. "He has never disguised his hatred for Jews." □