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86th Year

TOP NEWS IN BRIEF

Security Council backs 'road map'

The U.N. Security Council endorsed the "road map" peace plan, with U.S. backing.

Some Jewish leaders fear the resolution will make Israel vulnerable to diplomatic sanctions if the peace process falters. The resolution passed Wednesday and calls on the parties to "fulfill their obligations under the road map in cooperation with the Quartet," the United States, European Union, Russia and the United Nations. [Page 4]

Bush presses Israel, Palestinians

President Bush criticized both Israel and the Palestinians during a speech at the beginning of his state visit to Britain.

In a wide-ranging address to defense and foreign-policy experts Wednesday at London's Banqueting House, Bush said that while "the long-suffering Palestinian people deserve true leaders" who did not misuse funds or consort with terrorist groups, Israel had a responsibility to "stop humiliating" the Palestinians, put a freeze on settlement construction and dismantle illegal settlement outposts.

He also called on Arab states to end anti-Israel incitement, cut off funding to terrorists and establish normal relations with the Jewish state.

Free education for everyone!

Michael Steinhardt called for free Jewish education for Diaspora Jews.

In a landmark speech, the philanthropist laid down a gauntlet at the North American Jewish federation system's General Assembly, saying he would donate \$10 million if his gift is matched by at least \$90 million from other sources. The fund would provide free early childhood education to Jewish children and would help Jewish children attend camps, day schools and college programs.

"Nothing seems to me as urgent," Steinhardt told an electrified crowd. "If we can create a fund of unprecedented scope we will be able to effect the paradigm-shifting changes in our community."

Comparing the fund to the movement to free Soviet Jewry, Steinhardt said the community must "dedicate efforts and resources in rescuing American Jewry." Immediately after Steinhardt's speech, Jewish students distributed fliers pledging to donate \$500,000 to the new fund.

AMERICA DECIDES 2004

Despite their small number, Iowa's Jews leave their mark

By Ron Kampeas

DES MOINES, Iowa (JTA) — Des Moines' Jewish community has only about 1,000 families, but it's vital enough to turn out a minyan reliably for the essential life cycle events: weddings, Bar Mitzvahs and coffee with presidential candidates.

Iowa's position as the first battleground in the presidential electoral season means the state's Jews receive the attention of candidates eager to test out policies on Israel, church and state, and other matters important to U.S. Jews.

Rabbi Ari Sytner, who moved to Des Moines from New York five years ago, marveled at the difference between politics in the two states.

"In New York, you see hustle and bustle and action, but I'd never experienced political action like this," said Sytner, who heads the Orthodox Beth El Jacob synagogue.

"Here, I've met Dan Quayle, Al Gore, Hillary Clinton. I've had Joe Lieberman in my home," he said.

Statewide, there are no more than 7,000 Jews in Iowa — one quarter of one percent of the state's 2.8 million people — but Jews here display few of the insecurities often found in isolated communities.

"It's smaller and very active. It's very easy to get involved and make an impact," said Heidi Moskowitz, who moved here with her husband David from Washington's Maryland suburbs four years ago.

Jewish political involvement reaches deep into both parties: Paulee Lipsman directs the Democratic legislative staff in the state house and has worked on campaigns for Sen. Tom Harkin; Bud Hockenberg is a key Republican strategist and chairman of Sen. Charles Grassley's 2004 reelection committee.

"We take politics for granted," said Lu Gene Isleman, who attended a synagogue forum Sunday with former Vermont Gov. Howard Dean, Massachusetts Sen. John Kerry and Ohio Congressman Dennis Kucinich. "You get used to all these candidates showing up."

There are plenty of signs of an active Jewish life in a state better known for freezing winters, flat plains and some of the largest hog farms in the world.

There is a Jewish day school through grade eight and two Jewish delicatessens. The Des Moines community last year completed an eruv, or Sabbath boundary, working in close cooperation with the city council.

In recent years, the city's Jews also have built an auditorium and a lodge for Jewish summer campers on the outskirts of Des Moines.

Community members have posted a "Jobs for Jews" Web site to attract interest in Des Moines, a center for the financial-services and health-care industries.

Jews here also have sponsored the arrival of Jews from the former Soviet Union and Argentina in recent years. A small Chabad outreach center serves Jews in outlying towns.

Most remarkably, there is a Jewish kollel program training four Orthodox rabbis, and a program for troubled Jewish youths from other Jewish communities around the country.

In interviews, Jews credited their willingness to assume a high profile in the state to Iowa's warm, unbigoted populace.

"People in Iowa are sweet and loving," said Karen Weiss, who is active in Tifereth

MIDEAST FOCUS

Fight terror first, then cease fire

Ariel Sharon ruled out renewed truce talks until the Palestinians curb terrorism. "Israel rejects any offer of a cease-fire or 'hudna,' although this has yet to be proposed," Israeli media on Wednesday quoted a senior adviser to the Israeli prime minister as saying.

Sharon, who is visiting Italy and is due to meet with Palestinian Authority Prime Minister Ahmed Qurei upon his return, insists on a crackdown on terrorism as required by the U.S.-backed "road map" peace plan. But Washington reportedly is supporting efforts by Egypt's intelligence chief to negotiate a suspension of Palestinian attacks in exchange for a similar respite on the part of the Israeli military.

Sharansky: Block anti-Semitic TV

Europe should block the broadcast in Europe of Arab television channels that air anti-Semitic programs, Natan Sharansky said. In Jerusalem, Israel's minister for Diaspora affairs told 26 European ambassadors to Israel, "He who does not actively combat anti-Semitism becomes its accomplice."

The ambassadors watched a Syrian-produced TV special that shows a Jew who is killed by other Jews because of a romantic liaison with a non-Jew. The special is airing on Hezbollah TV and is available throughout Europe on satellite and cable packages.

Israeli dies of wounds

An Israeli soldier died of wounds sustained in a September suicide attack. Sgt. Liron Tziboni, 19, who will be buried Thursday, is the ninth Israeli to die from the Sept. 9 attack outside the Tzrifin army base.

Wounded woman dies

An Ecuadorian woman wounded in an attack at the Israel-Jordan border died. Monica Patricia Teran Navarette, 33, was one of five people wounded in Wednesday's shooting.



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Israel, the Conservative synagogue that hosted the political forum for the presidential contenders Sunday.

Hockenberg, a fourth generation Iowan, said his grandfather — who as a young man worked as a peddler in the Iowa countryside — would always remind him that Iowans readily gave him shelter and food in the winter. Hockenberg said, "My earliest memory is of him carrying me on his shoulders into a polling booth when I was three or four, and saying: 'This is a great country, always vote.'"

Another facet of Iowa Jewish life is the willingness of all three Jewish denominations to work together. Sytner noted that all three denominations contributed to the renovation of his synagogue's mikvah, or ritual bath.

"I've never seen the interaction among Reform, Conservative and Orthodox Jews that I've seen here," Sytner said.

While the state's political importance isn't the principal attraction, Jews here say it indeed plays a role in their decision to live here.

"Judging from my e-mails, a quarter to a third of the house parties in Des Moines are in Jewish homes," said Alan Koslow, a vascular surgeon who is active in the Democratic Party.

Koslow joined Dean's campaign a year ago, when he bumped into Dean handing out leaflets on a street corner.

Sytner was asked to deliver the invocation at the Jefferson-Jackson dinner, the massive Democratic fund-raiser that kicks off the season culminating in the January caucuses. His simple parable about helping one another ended with the traditional sign off — "Let us say Amen" — and the audience of 8,000 shouted back, "Amen!"

"That was amazing," he said afterward.

There are the typical small town Jewish issues: Parents have to lobby hard to reschedule major exams slated for Jewish holidays.

"You have to explain a lot," Weiss said.

That was part of the attraction, said David Moskowitz, Heidi's husband.

In Maryland, "it was like living in a ghetto in a large safe city," he said. "Here you have to reach beyond the Jewish community."

There also is the occasional discomfiture faced by Jews across the nation.

"The only time it comes out is with the Israeli-Palestinian conflict," said Louie Sloven, 16. "A lot of my friends wear 'Free Palestine' buttons."

Ames, a nearby university town, has a large Arab community, and a local library recently ran a Palestinian film festival. The library blocked several Israeli students from distributing information about one of the films, which alleged a massacre in 2002 by Israeli soldiers in the Jenin refugee camp, in the West Bank.

The Israelis were disappointed that the Jewish community did not do more to counter the films' propaganda.

"I got a sense of, 'You pay your dues, you go to shul, but you don't make a big deal,'" said Alex Yakubsen, one of the Israelis.

Sytner and Hockenberg both say they've encountered Holocaust revisionism among some Iowans. Still, Jews here consider themselves more confident — and involved — than they would be elsewhere.

Lipsman, the Democrat, and Hockenberg, the Republican, both said they were surprised in 2000 to encounter Jews elsewhere who were unnerved by Connecticut Sen. Joseph Lieberman's historic place on the Democratic presidential ticket.

"I just don't buy that it would be bad for the Jews if there were a Jewish president," Hockenberg said.

Lipsman said an experience in 2000 brought home the Iowa Jewish message for her: A group of recently-arrived Russian Jews wanted to register to vote. □

U.S. ambulance helps victims

NEW YORK (JTA) — An ambulance donated by a U.S. foundation to Istanbul's Jews helped victims of Saturday's twin synagogue bombings.

Donated by the Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation of Baltimore, the ambulance brought both Muslim and Jewish victims to local hospitals after the blast, which killed 24 people and wounded hundreds. The ambulance was parked outside one of the synagogues, as it is for all important Jewish events. □

JEWISH WORLD

Bush speaks on anti-Semitism

Leaders in Europe and other lands need to strongly combat anti-Semitism, President Bush said. "Europe's leaders — and all leaders — should strongly oppose anti-Semitism, which poisons public debates over the future of the Middle East," Bush said in a speech Wednesday to British defense and foreign-policy experts.

Synagogue bombers ID'd

DNA tests identified the two Turks who perpetrated Saturday's twin synagogue bombings in Istanbul, Turkish officials said. Mesut Cabuk, 29, and Gokhan Elaltuntas, 22, carried out the attacks, which killed 24 people and wounded hundreds.

Jerusalem resolution introduced

Sen. Sam Brownback introduced a resolution to make recognition of a Palestinian state conditional on moving the U.S. Embassy in Israel to Jerusalem.

The Kansas Republican would require the embassy move to take place at least three months before any recognition of a Palestinian state, and would declare Jerusalem the undivided capital of Israel. Brownback introduced the resolution last Friday.

Peres-Netanyahu showdown

Shimon Peres and Benjamin Netanyahu offered opposing ideas about peace in speeches to the United Jewish Communities' General Assembly.

Peres, the head of Israel's Labor Party, told the annual conference of North American Jewish federations that Israel must make peace immediately with the Palestinians because a growing Arab population would threaten the existence of the Jewish state.

Netanyahu, the Israeli finance minister, said Israel should focus on security and prosperity, which eventually will lead to peace.

Yarmulkes out in France

French Jewish children should wear regular hats instead of yarmulkes to avoid anti-Semites, France's chief rabbi said.

On Tuesday, Joseph Sitruk told Radio Shalom that he didn't want young people "isolated in the metro or on suburban trains to risk becoming a target for aggressors any more than I want our young Jews to respond and become the aggressors themselves."

Argentine Jews rally for Turks

An Argentine Jewish community that knows the pain of terrorist bombings rallied in solidarity with Turkish Jews. Argentine Jews rallied in front of the AMIA Jewish community center in Buenos Aires, site of a deadly 1994 bombing, to support Turkish Jews, who suffered twin synagogue bombings on Saturday.

A Nazi eagle, and few other clues, in Indiana Holocaust museum fire

By Joe Berkofsky

NEW YORK (JTA) — When the pickup truck with the two shady-looking characters pulled away from the curb, Michael Kor saw something straight out of Buchenwald.

A survivor of the Nazi concentration camp, Kor, 75, works as a guide at the local Holocaust museum in Terre Haute, Ind. As the two visitors left last Thursday afternoon, he noticed an unusual decal on their truck. "What struck me as strange was — at the back of the glass on the cab — a Nazi eagle," he said.

Just after midnight Tuesday, the tiny CANDLES Holocaust Museum — the name stands for Children of Auschwitz Nazi Deadly Lab Experiments Survivors — burned to the ground in what officials say probably was an arson attack.

The Midwest office of the Anti-Defamation League offered a \$2,500 award for information while an investigation got under way by the Indianapolis office of the FBI; the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms; and local police and fire officials.

Law enforcement officials would not comment on Kor's encounter.

While investigators have unearthed some leads, they still lack sufficient evidence to make arrests, Vigo County Prosecutor Bob Wright told JTA.

At the site of the razed museum, investigators found what is believed to be a fire accelerant and the phrase "Remember Timothy McVeigh" scrawled on one brick wall.

The Oklahoma City bomber, part of a group that adhered to a vision elucidated in a racist, anti-Semitic tract called "The Turner Diaries," was put to death in Terre Haute's federal prison on June 11, 2001.

The attack stunned the community, where about 200 Jews live and where there is one synagogue, the Reform United Hebrew Congregation, Wright said.

"This is Middle America. I would never have suspected this museum would have been targeted by any type of group," Wright said. "I don't know of any incident that has occurred in this county that would have caused one to believe this kind of thing could happen."

Kor said he grew suspicious when two men came into the museum 20 minutes before closing and looked around, but seemed uninterested in hearing about the Holocaust. When he asked one of the pair if he'd heard of Auschwitz or the death camps, "He said, 'Not really,' with a kind of grin," Kor said.

Meanwhile, the community has rallied around Kor's wife, museum founder Eva Mozes Kor, 69, who was among thousands of Jewish children subjected to medical experiments by Dr. Josef Mengele in Auschwitz.

In the two days since the attack, Mozes Kor said, she has received more than 80 phone calls of support. The local council of churches, the synagogue and a local radio station were scheduling candlelight vigils at the site, located near a busy highway.

"If these people tried to stop what we were doing, they have succeeded in doing the exact opposite," she said.

Several people already have given her money to rebuild the museum. Mozes Kor estimated the damage at \$350,000, which insurance likely would not cover, she said.

Mozes Kor, a real-estate agent, founded the 4,500-square-foot museum in a former print shop in 1995. The museum's education director, Mary Wright, said 2,300 students visited the museum in the first six months of 2002. About 10,000 people visit in a typical year, Mozes Kor said.

Among the few museum objects that survived the fire were a partly melted silver cup that Mozes Kor salvaged from Auschwitz and a damaged Nazi helmet.

Anti-Semitic attacks in the Midwest have become rare, said Richard Hirschhaut, the ADL's Midwest director, who is based in Chicago.

In 2002, the ADL recorded 48 anti-Semitic incidents in Illinois, up from 31 a year earlier; 23 in Wisconsin, up from 20; four in Minnesota, down from 18; three in Indiana, one less than in 2001; and none in North Dakota or South Dakota.

The fire "ranks as among the most serious episodes" in the area since 1999, Hirschhaut said, when white supremacist Benjamin Smith went on a shooting spree in Illinois and Indiana, killing two and injuring nine, including two religious Jews. □

BEHIND THE HEADLINES

U.N. resolution on 'road map' rattles Israeli, Jewish officials

By Ron Kampeas

WASHINGTON (JTA) — U.S. support for a U.N. Security Council resolution endorsing the "road map" peace plan has rattled Israeli and U.S. Jewish officials, who worry that the move could wrest control of the peace process from Israel's closest ally.

"There is a potential danger here. We don't think the United Nations is an objective party," said Ambassador Arye Mekel, Israel's deputy permanent representative to the United Nations. "We always considered the Americans the only honest broker and we still do."

The resolution, unanimously approved on Wednesday, calls on the parties to "fulfil their obligations under the road map in cooperation with the Quartet and to achieve the vision of two states living side by side in peace and security."

The road map, which envisions Palestinian statehood and an end to terrorism within three years, nominally had always been the project of the "Quartet" — the United States, the United Nations, the European Union and Russia — but in effect it had been administered by the United States.

Israel sees the Europeans and the United Nations as pro-Arab and the Russians as questionable at best, but U.S. control of the road map until now had eased any Israeli concerns.

Israel was so concerned about this resolution that Israel's ambassador to the U.N., Dan Gillerman, had urged U.S. Jewish organizational officials to lobby the White House against it.

Apparently they were unsuccessful, since the United States voted for the resolution.

Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon also brought up the resolution with Russian President Vladimir Putin during his visit to Moscow earlier this month.

Things could change now that the Security Council has formally endorsed the plan, because the council's resolutions have the force of international law.

"Not only will this resolution undoubtedly be used for further anti-Israel action by the council, but it will also place the U.S. government in increasingly difficult circumstances where it will have to decide whether to veto unbalanced resolutions," Abraham Foxman, the Anti-Defamation League's national director, said. "This resolution is an unfortunate step that foreshadows greater and more destructive U.N. involvement in the process."

U.S. officials downplayed the resolution's significance, saying they could hardly have opposed a process they helped initiate.

"We're members of the Quartet, we all support the road map and the president's vision of a two-state solution and didn't see this as being contrary to that," said an administration official who spoke on condition of anonymity.

The only question, the official said, was one of timing.

The Russians, who initiated the resolution, had wanted to pass it last month, but the Americans preferred to wait until a new Palestinian Authority government was in place.

Jewish officials were not assuaged, especially because the resolution also demands an "immediate cessation of all acts of violence, including all acts of terrorism, provocation, incitement and destruction."

That could allow a country hostile to Israel serving one of the

10 two-year terms on the Security Council to make Israel legally answerable for actions it deems necessary for security, such as the demolition of homes belonging to suicide bombers or homes serving as snipers' nests.

Syria, one of Israel's most implacable enemies and a country on the U.S. State Department's list of terrorist-sponsoring nations, currently occupies a seat on the council.

"You can see the potential for mischief and abuse," said Malcolm Hoenlein, the executive vice chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major Jewish Organizations. "It could allow them to catalog every perceived violation by Israel as a Security Council violation."

Hoenlein said that efforts to persuade Washington to back away from the resolution were fruitless.

"Many people in the administration shared our concerns, others did not, and it was clear that they could not and would not veto this when it's clear it's their own road map," he said.

But not all Jewish groups were so concerned.

The Israel Policy Forum said concerns that the U.S. role in the region would suffer were overstated, and that Israel should welcome the Security Council's endorsement of an initiative that the Jewish state had embraced.

"It's clear that nobody is going to wrest control from the United States nor diminish its influence in the Middle East," said Jonathan Jacoby, the forum's executive vice president. "It's refreshing that the Security Council is engaged in doing something positive rather than resorting to knee-jerk denunciations."

Other Jewish groups said they were confident the United States would use its status as one of the five veto-holding permanent council members to stymie any efforts to target Israel.

"We remain confident that the United States will not allow the delicate search for peace to be derailed," said Rebecca Dinar, spokeswoman of the American Israel Public Affairs Committee.

The question that baffled Israel, Mekel said, was why the United States put itself in the potential position of perpetually using its vote to veto mischievous Security Council initiatives.

He cited a Hebrew aphorism: "A wise man never gets himself into a position in which only a clever man knows how to get out," Mekel said. "The question is why put all of us in this situation in the first place?"

One reason might be that the United States was in a position of having to repay the Russians for their support last month for a resolution that let the United States seek more international troops and funds for the occupation of Iraq. Russian Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov, who pressed hard for Wednesday's resolution, is seeking to bolster Russia's influence among Arabs.

Another reason could be that with tensions in Iraq rising, the Bush administration is tiring of the Israeli-Palestinian standoff and was using the resolution to pressure the Israelis into concessions.

The U.S. government's unhappiness has increased in recent months, and President Bush and others have criticized what they see as unduly harsh measures against the Palestinians.

In London on a state visit Wednesday, Bush told an audience of influential Europeans that Palestinians had to end terrorism but much was incumbent on Israel as well.

"Israel should freeze settlement construction, dismantle unauthorized outposts, end the daily humiliation of the Palestinian people and not prejudice final negotiations with the placements of walls and fences," Bush said, referring to concern that the security fence would predetermine borders of a Palestinian state. □