

## IN THE NEWS

## Burns to Egypt to tout cease-fire

The top U.S. envoy to the Middle East is traveling to Egypt to encourage its efforts to get Palestinian terrorists to stop attacking Israel.

William Burns, the assistant secretary of state, is expected to meet with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak to discuss his efforts to persuade Hamas and Islamic Jihad to declare a total cease-fire.

## Foreign policy adviser is tapped by Dean

Howard Dean named Leon Fuerth, the Jewish former national security adviser to Vice President Al Gore, as chairman of his foreign policy advisers.

An expert in arms control and non-proliferation, Fuerth is known to have guided Gore toward pro-Israel positions in Congress and at the White House, and likely will be a principal adviser to Dean on Middle Eastern matters.

The former Vermont governor's campaign has faced criticism for naming Clyde Prestowitz to its foreign policy team; Prestowitz has said U.S. aid to Israel should be conditional on Israeli concessions to the Palestinians.

Dean officials say Prestowitz will not advise Dean on the Middle East.

## Touchdown Allah

A U.S. university hired a European Muslim scholar who wrote an article accusing French Jewish philosophers of abandoning universalist values.

Notre Dame hired Tariq Ramadan, a Swiss scholar who wrote an article on a Web site in October saying French Jewish intellectuals had placed their religion ahead of their duties as scholars by supporting the U.S.-led war in Iraq, the New York Sun reported.

Ramadan is widely considered to be an apologist for radical Islam, though he also has spoken out against anti-Semitism.

# WORLD REPORT

PUBLISHED WEEKDAYS BY JTA—THE GLOBAL NEWS SERVICE OF THE JEWISH PEOPLE • WWW.JTA.ORG

## Ford appoints Eizenstat as it promotes terror guidelines

By MATTHEW E. BERGER

**W**ASHINGTON (JTA) — The Ford Foundation has hired a former Clinton administration official with strong ties to the Jewish community to help promote a new policy forbidding grant recipients from supporting terrorism or bigotry.

The appointment of Stuart Eizenstat comes as key leaders in the U.S. Congress say they will move forward to investigate the use of Ford funds and the accountability of such tax-exempt groups.

Recent editorials, from the Wall Street Journal to the New York Jewish Week, have called on Congress to move forward with such hearings.

It also comes as Palestinian groups in the West Bank and Gaza Strip — including the major Palestinian umbrella group for non-governmental organizations, which receives Ford funding — said Monday that they would not accept U.S. humanitarian aid in protest of new U.S. requirements that they sign a pledge guaranteeing that the money will not be used to support terrorism.

The Ford Foundation has been under a microscope since the fall, when a special JTA investigative series found that large financial grants from Ford enabled Palestinian groups virtually to hijack the 2001 U.N. Conference Against Racism in Durban, South Africa, and direct attacks against Israel and Jews.

Since the publication of the JTA series, Ford has been working with American Jewish groups and lawmakers to reshape its image and institute new guidelines for grant recipients.

Eizenstat, former deputy Treasury secre-

tary and special representative for Holocaust issues in the Clinton administration, said he also likely will serve as a liaison between Ford and Jewish community leaders.

While some outspoken Jewish leaders want hearings, several key Jewish organizations say they want to give Ford time to implement its new policies and do not support a congressional investigation at this time.

Organizational officials say Jewish support for Ford stems from the foundation's willingness to work with Jewish groups on the issues, even with possible Ford funding of programs that fight anti-Semitism.

### NEWS UPDATE

Others in the community say they are concerned that the hearings are politically motivated, and they're concerned that Congress might move to place new restric-

tions on all foundations, many of which fund programs in line with the American Jewish community's priorities.

Eizenstat said his predominant role will be to work with Ford to implement new guidelines for how Ford grantees can use their money.

"We are making explicit what was implicit before — that no grantee can support or participate in any acts of violence, bigotry, intolerance, discrimination or call for the destruction of any state," Eizenstat said.

Ford is working with KPMG to create a "risk matrix," assessing which prospective grantees have the potential of violating the foundation's guidelines. And Ford is requiring groups that receive aid from grantees to sign a pledge identical to the one Ford is crafting for its aid recipients.

Eizenstat said he supports Ford's humani-

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## ■ *After a JTA series, Ford is scrambling to reshape its image*

*Continued from page 1*

tarian mission. "I believe in the work they have been doing, and have seen it on the ground," he said. "The work they're doing is essential to Israel's security as well as America's security."

Ford officials have been meeting with Jewish leaders and U.S. lawmakers since the JTA series was published. They have won some support for the foundation's recent efforts. "They seem to be making good-faith efforts and they seem to me to be substantial efforts," said U.S. Rep. Jerrold Nadler (D-N.Y.), who helped craft an agreement with Ford for the foundation to more closely monitor its grant money.

Nonetheless, U.S. Sen. Charles Grassley (R-Iowa), chair of the Senate Finance Committee, appears likely to move ahead with congressional hearings.

Some Jewish groups agree with Nadler that Ford should not be the subject of congressional hearings right now.

"We need to create a little time here for the Ford Foundation to demonstrate its willingness to abide by its guidelines, both in spirit and in the letter," said David Harris, executive director of the American Jewish Committee.

Harris said the World Social Forum in Mumbai, India, in two weeks will be a good early test for Ford's efforts to see whether Ford holds Palestinian groups to its new guidelines.

Nadler said he is concerned that the Ford Foundation's problems will be used by Republicans in hearings to beat up on liberal foundations that give money to

organizations and causes that Republican leaders oppose.

Jill Gerber, spokeswoman for the Senate Finance Committee, said Grassley has been investigating the practices of several charitable foundations, and "there isn't any political bent" to the investigations.

"The questions raised about the Ford Foundation and terrorist-front organizations obviously must be answered," she said.

"The chairman of the Finance Committee will be investigating the matter to determine if the tax code is properly structured to penalize tax-exempt foundations for making such donations."

No final decision on scheduling hearings has been made, Gerber said.

Hannah Rosenthal, executive director of the Jewish Council for Public Affairs, said hearings into Ford's practices could set a bad precedent.

"I think that it is ill-advised for Congress to do oversight hearings on how a foundation gives its money," she said.

Certainly, there are things for the Jewish community to gain from good relations with a foundation as big as Ford, whose assets are estimated at \$10 billion, even as it criticizes its support for Palestinian non-governmental organizations.

Abraham Foxman, national director of the Anti-Defamation League, said he believes Jewish groups previously avoided Ford because of its ties to Palestinian groups, but may be interested in seeking its aid in the future.

Susan Berresford, the foundation's president, suggested in a letter Monday to the Wall Street Journal that the Ford Foundation would work with Jewish organizations to create a new program to combat anti-Semitism, specifically in Europe.

Foxman says he does not believe suggestions by some that Ford is buying peace from the Jewish community.

He said Jewish support is not based on the opportunity for money but on Ford's position as a key international player.

Meanwhile, Malcolm Hoenlein, executive vice chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, said he believes the hearings should continue.

He said new rules should be considered

to prevent foundations from funding hate, either knowingly or by accident.

The rules could be similar to new guidelines for NGOs that receive grants from the United States Agency for International Development, which provides government funds for humanitarian projects around the world, including the West Bank and Gaza.

But the Palestinian NGOs, which already had balked at signing a pledge not to support terrorism, went

a step further this week in announcing they would not accept U.S. aid because of that requirement.

Officials from the Palestinian NGOs, known as PNGO, said they were boycotting USAID funds for fear that they would not be able to work with Palestinian groups that are identified as terrorist organizations, such as Hamas and the Islamic Jihad.

Nadler said he hoped the United States would put diplomatic pressure on Europe and Japan to also refuse to fund Palestinian groups linked to terror, since they may become more enticing avenues of support from Palestinians given the new restrictions being enacted by USAID and Ford.

A senior PNGO official in the Middle East said, "This certificate is against Palestinian law, which makes it illegal to accept conditioned funds."

"According to the certificate process," the official said, "most of the national Palestinian parties we work with are terrorists."

"We consider the Israeli occupation to be the terrorists," the official said. "Therefore, under international law, we have the right to armed resistance."

As for its Ford funding, the official said, "We do not think Ford will stop funding us — of course not. There may be new conditions, but Ford will not stop funding us — even though we know the Zionist lobby has made special pressures against Ford and the Congress."

Alex Wilde, vice president for communications at the Ford Foundation, said grantees will receive their guidelines on improper use of aid imminently.

"We will not fund any groups that do not sign," Wilde said.

*(Investigative reporter Edwin Black contributed to this report.)*

Ford 'seems to be making good-faith efforts.'

Rep. Jerrold Nadler

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JTA WORLD REPORT is published five days a week, except holidays, by the Jewish Telegraphic Agency Inc., 330 Seventh Ave., New York, N.Y. 10001-5010. For more information about how to subscribe by e-mail, fax or regular mail, call (212) 643-1890, or visit our Web site at [www.jta.org](http://www.jta.org).  
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# After incident, anger management for rabbi

By MARC BALLON AND GABY WENIG  
*Los Angeles Jewish Journal*

LOS ANGELES (JTA) — The UCLA Hillel rabbi who allegedly lost his temper and assaulted a freelance journalist who called him a derogatory name has agreed to a recommendation that he undergo 36 hours of anger management and write a letter apologizing to his reported victim.

Rabbi Chaim Seidler-Feller also said he will place himself on paid administrative leave from UCLA's Hillel while an attorney appointed by the group's national office investigates the Oct. 21 incident.

Seidler-Feller agreed to the recommendations, made by a Los Angeles city attorney hearing officer.

Eric Moses, spokesman for the city attorney's office, said Seidler-Feller would take the anger management courses through Pacific Educational Services and would pay the \$450 course fee himself. The city attorney's office will be notified when he completes the course.

Donald Etra, Seidler-Feller's attorney, said the rabbi had accepted the recommendations because it was "the expedient way of resolving the case."

He said Seidler-Feller would only apologize for "the fact that there was an incident." Etra went on to say that Seidler-Feller was the aggrieved party in the case.

Rachel Neuwirth, the rabbi's alleged victim, "called him names, she physically stuck her hand in his face," Etra said. "The evidence at the hearing was that he did not

do anything to offend her."

As of press time, Seidler-Feller could not be reached for comment.

Moses said an apology had to be heartfelt and genuine, though he offered no specific guidelines. Neuwirth said she would accept only an apology in which the rabbi showed true contrition.

"I can't get over this," she said. "I relive this all the time. I never in my life thought a rabbi would behave in such a violent manner."

On Nov. 20, Neuwirth filed a civil suit against Seidler-Feller, UCLA Hillel, Los Angeles Hillel Council and Hillel: The Foundation for Jewish Campus Life, seeking undisclosed damages for battery, intentional infliction of emotional distress, negligent infliction of emotional distress and negligent retention.

Seidler-Feller and the local and national Hillels have until late January to respond.

It all started following a recent speech at UCLA by attorney and Harvard law professor Alan Dershowitz, who was promoting his new book, "The Case for Israel."

As the audience left, Seidler-Feller noticed a few pro-Palestinian demonstrators and went over to talk to them. He invited the protesters to attend a discussion the next day on a peace plan proposed by Ami Ayalon, a former Shin Bet director, and Palestinian intellectual Sari Nusseibeh.

Overhearing the conversation, Neuwirth, a journalist and pro-Israel activist, took Seidler-Feller aside and said Nus-

seibeh had advised Saddam Hussein to launch Scud missiles at Israeli cities during the 1991 Persian Gulf War.

An argument ensued, and Seidler-Feller allegedly grabbed Neuwirth's arm. Either before or after the arm-grabbing incident, Neuwirth called the rabbi "worse than a kapo," referring to Nazi-appointed Jewish administrators who oversaw fellow concentration-camp inmates.

Seidler-Feller then allegedly pushed and kicked Neuwirth.

Neuwirth's attorney, Robert Esenstein, said the hearing officer's recommendations about anger management bolster the civil suit. However, Etra said that the suit has no merit, especially since the city attorney's office decided not to pursue criminal charges against Seidler-Feller.

Rabbi Mark Diamond, executive vice president of the Board of Rabbis of Southern California, said he hoped the dispute could be settled in a *beit din* — a Jewish court of law — or through mediation or arbitration, rather than in court.

"Rabbi Seidler-Feller has shown a genuine desire to do the appropriate *teshuvah*," or repentance, he said. "I very much hope and pray we can resolve the issues and tone down the rhetoric."

Neuwirth said she is not open to resolving the case in a *beit din*.

Gary Ratner, executive vice president of the American Jewish Congress, Western Region, said Seidler-Feller's actions should permanently disqualify him from working with college students.

But Emily Kane, co-president of UCLA Hillel's student board, said Seidler-Feller was important to the students. "This is just a temporary thing," she said.

I never in my life thought a rabbi would behave in such a violent manner.

## European leaders, Jews make up

NEW YORK (JTA) — A European Commission meeting on anti-Semitism appears to be back on track.

The chairman of the World Jewish Congress and the European Commission's president are to meet Thursday in Brussels to set a date for the meeting. Israel Singer's trip comes after several days of tension.

The tensions surfaced earlier this week when the WJC's president, Edgar Bronfman, and the president of the European Jewish Congress, Cobi Benatoff, published a letter in Britain's *Financial Times* newspaper accusing the European Commission of anti-Semitism.

The letter led the commission's president, Romano Prodi, to cancel a seminar on anti-Semitism planned for February, but Prodi indicated Wednesday that the seminar would be held after all.

The letter from Bronfman and Benatoff "did precisely what it should have: It brought the issue to the forefront of the European agenda and, frankly, shocked them into action," Elan Steinberg, the WJC's executive vice president, told JTA. "It was a wake-up call not only to the European leadership but to European and world public opinion. Now we are going to refocus our energies to where they should be — on the problem of anti-Semitism." ■

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### NORTH AMERICA

#### HIAS praises Bush reforms

The immigrant aid group HIAS applauded an immigration reform proposal from President Bush.

The Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society, which generally has opposed the Bush administration's immigration policies — especially post-Sept. 11 detentions of some foreigners — lauded Bush's proposal to increase the number of work permits for foreigners and offer special three-year visas to foreign workers taking some jobs not filled by Americans.

"We've been pushing hard for the president to raise the prominence of this issue, and so today undeniably marks a milestone for the millions of immigrants whose hard work has shown them to be worthy of America's respect and fair treatment," said HIAS' CEO and president, Leonard Glickman.

#### Muslim paper fomenting hate?

The Canadian Jewish Congress wants a Muslim newspaper investigated for hate speech.

The *Miracle*, published in British Columbia, published an article accusing the Jews of masterminding the Great Depression, both World Wars, the Holocaust, the Kennedy assassination, the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks and dozens of other evils.

Written by Idaho-based Edgar J. Steele, the article was published in the Dec. 19 issue of *The Miracle*. Editor Nusrat Hussain said he did not necessarily agree with the article but defended its publication as freedom of speech.

#### High schoolers for Israel

Jewish high school students in the New York area will learn how to advocate for Israel. Some 200 high school seniors are participating in a Jan. 15 event kicking off the program, which is being sponsored by 20 Jewish organizations and is being organized by the Jewish National Fund.

### MIDDLE EAST

#### Israel passes budget

Israel passed its 2004 budget. Voting on the budget was delayed slightly Wednesday after claims that a plan to transfer \$10 million to the National Religious Party for use in yeshivas and settlements was kept secret.

Debate over the roughly \$60 billion budget had centered on Finance Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's austerity program.

#### High hopes for Gadhafi

An Israeli lawmaker who held contacts with Muammar Gadhafi's son said Libya could make peace with Israel.

"My impression is that Gadhafi has made a strategic decision — and he is not a man to take small steps," Labor Party lawmaker Ephraim Sneh said. Sneh met Saif al-Islam Gadhafi, who is widely expected to succeed his father, in Europe last summer. "He will not stop midway and could even go as far as forging ties with Israel," Sneh said.

Israeli media on Tuesday revealed that Israel and Libya have been holding secret talks on normalizing ties, but a Libyan official denied that any meetings took place.

#### West Bank sweeps

Israeli soldiers killed three Palestinians during sweeps for terrorists in the West Bank. In a predawn raid to arrest fugitives in Nablus, troops shot dead a Palestinian who drew a pistol and another who resisted capture, the army said. Soldiers in a separate operation in Tulkarm killed a Hamas gunman who tried to ambush them.

### WORLD

#### Kenyan bombers' day in court

Three suspects in a conspiracy to blow up a Kenyan tourist hotel and shoot down an Israeli airliner went on trial Wednesday.

Witnesses are expected to testify that Said Saggar Ahmed, Salmin Mohammed Khamis and Kubwa Mohammad Seif took part in the Nov. 28, 2002, bombing of a Kenyan hotel that killed 15 people, including three Israelis, and a simultaneous attempt to shoot down an Israeli airliner.

The trio also faces charges of conspiring to destroy the new U.S. embassy in Nairobi in June 2003, and are accused of taking part in the 1998 bombing of the U.S. embassy there that killed 219 people, including 12 Americans.

#### Dumb diplomacy?

British Jews say the new Israeli ambassador to London is a diplomatic liability because of his poor English.

Ha'aretz reported that British Jewish community representatives, led by Board of Deputies President Henry Grunwald, met Sunday with Prime Minister Ariel Sharon to appeal against the appointment of envoy Zvi Hefetz. Sharon's office was quoted as saying it would look into the matter.

Hefetz already is under investigation for allegedly falsifying details on his resume in applying for the ambassador's job.

## Settler slurs U.S. envoy

JERUSALEM (JTA) — An Israeli settler leader called the U.S. ambassador to Israel a "Jew boy."

The leader of the Yesha Council of settlers, Adi Mintz, made the accusation against Daniel Kurtzer in an interview published Wednesday in *Day to Day* magazine. Kurtzer is a "Jew boy sitting in the American Embassy and I'm not ashamed to utter the term — he receives reports from Peace Now and runs to the State Department with them," Mintz said.

He added that Kurtzer "interferes in internal politics and is damaging both the strength and independence of Israel."

Tensions with Israeli settlers in the West Bank and Gaza

Strip have increased in recent weeks following Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's remarks that he is willing to withdraw from some settlements as part of his plan to disengage from the Palestinians.

Israel reportedly has designated 28 illegal West Bank settlement outposts for removal.

They include 18 inhabited outposts and 10 that have only temporary buildings. Several of the outposts on the list already have been identified publicly.

Migron is the largest of the outposts, most of which were set up after Sharon took power in March 2001.