

## IN THE NEWS

## Clinton: Arafat made a mistake

President Clinton said he believed Yasser Arafat made an "error of historic proportions" by not agreeing to peace with Israel.

In a wide-ranging interview that aired Sunday on CBS' "60 Minutes," before Clinton's autobiography, "My Life," goes on sale Tuesday, Clinton said the Palestinian Authority president was solely responsible for the breakdown of peace negotiations.

Clinton said he regretted granting a pardon to Jewish businessman and philanthropist Marc Rich in the closing hours of his administration because of the controversy that erupted.

Several Jews had advised Clinton to pardon Rich, angering other Jews who wanted Clinton to pardon former Navy intelligence analyst Jonathan Pollard, who is serving time in a U.S. jail for spying for Israel.

## Annan: Fight anti-Semitism

U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan said the United Nations should fight anti-Semitism.

"We owe it to ourselves, as well as to our Jewish brothers and sisters, to stand firmly against the particular tide of hatred that anti-Semitism represents," Annan told 400 people at an unprecedented U.N. conference on anti-Semitism in New York on Monday.

"The U.N. record on anti-Semitism has at times fallen short of our ideals," Annan acknowledged.

## Anti-nuke officials: Peace will help disarm

It will take peace to disarm Israel, Iran and other states with presumed nuclear capabilities or intent to develop them, two top disarmament officials said.

Mohammed ElBaradei, the top U.N. nuclear inspector, and Hans Blix, the top U.N. arms inspector until 2003, said Israel and Iran are unlikely to abide by existing non-proliferation treaties without peace incentives.

# WORLD REPORT

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## For Israel, agency stance on Iran could help temper a grave threat

By RON KAMPEAS

**W**ASHINGTON (JTA) — These days, it's unusual to get the United States and Britain to agree with France and Germany on any Middle East-related U.N. resolution.

When Israel also is on board, it's downright extraordinary.

Israeli officials are elated at the tough language in a resolution passed last week by the board of the U.N. nuclear watchdog rebuking Iran for not cooperating with nuclear inspectors.

Last Friday's International Atomic Energy Agency resolution "deploring" Iranian stonewalling of IAEA inspectors has far-reaching implications for containment of a radical Islamic regime that successive Israeli administrations have called the greatest threat to the Jewish state.

The resolution, drafted by Britain, France and Germany, expresses special concern about Iran's refusal to end its uranium-enrichment activities, a condition for European assistance to Iran in developing a peaceful nuclear program.

Josh Block, a spokesman for the American Israel Public Affairs Committee, said the resolution was welcome but that more was needed.

"They're playing a game of hide and seek and they want to draw this out diplomatically as long as possible," Block said.

Adding to U.S. and European frustration was confirmation this year that Iran tried to buy black-market magnets necessary for the centrifugal process that enriches uranium.

The single area of disagreement between the United States and the European nations was over a deadline for Iranian compliance.

The Europeans kept mention of a deadline out of the resolution, but Mohammed ElBaradei, the IAEA's director-general, suggested that Iran does not have an endless amount of time to come clean.

"I have been asking, as the board also has been asking, Iran to become proactive, to become transparent and to be fully cooperative, and I hope I'll see that mode of cooperation in the next few months," ElBaradei said Monday after meeting with U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell.

"I think the international community is urgently seeking assurance from the agency that Iran's program is exclusively for a peaceful purpose," he said.

The IAEA board is set to meet again in September, and U.S. officials have suggested that it could decide on further action if Iran doesn't give way.

The resolution was a success for the Bush administration, which has been urging greater scrutiny of Iran.

A number of congressional initiatives also are under way.

Getting on board the same wealthy Western European states that Iran hopes will sustain its faltering economy means that the Islamic republic is spending time fighting diplomatic battles that divert its attention from backing terrorist operations against Israel.

Not that Ariel Sharon's government wants to make a lot of noise about the IAEA resolution — a high Israeli profile in any

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### NEWS ANALYSIS

## ■ For Israel, agency stance on Iran could help temper a grave threat

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rebuke of Iran could galvanize Arab support for a regime that most Arab leaders revile — but much of Israel's defensive activity is taken with Iran in mind.

Israel is spending hundreds of millions of dollars to expand its Arrow missile defense program to cover the entire country by the end of the decade.

It is doing so primarily because of Iranian missiles that are capable of delivering non-conventional materials to the Jewish state.

Israel long has taken such long-term threats into account in dealing with Iran.

In recent years, however, Iran's influence has seeped into even the day-to-day threats Israel faces.

Hamas and Islamic Jihad have looked to Iran for greater support now that their traditional sources of funding in Saudi Arabia and elsewhere have dried up because of tough scrutiny of terrorist financing and an increased willingness, after the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, to avoid groups the U.S. government deems as terrorists.

Israeli intelligence believes Hezbollah, a Lebanese terrorist militia that gets strong Iranian support, now is behind up to 80 percent of terrorist activities against Israel.

It also is particularly active in recruiting Israeli Arab citizens — a development Israeli officials consider especially troubling.

Of course, not all the impetus for the

tough language has to do with the threat Iran poses to Israel.

Bush administration officials increasingly are frustrated with the support Iran has given to Shi'ite Muslim insurgents in U.S.-occupied Iraq, and working for a nuclear-free Middle East long has been part of European strategy.

Still, it's significant that Iran's nuclear potential is seen as posing a greater threat than Israel's, and that this realization is penetrating even international forums, which traditionally are bastions of moral equivalence.

Hans Blix, the former top U.N. arms inspector, suggested that Israel's reported nuclear arsenal could prove to be an important element in the effort to get the Iranians to back down.

"Looking at the rationales and incentives at work, it must be assumed that Tehran is aware not only that Israel has nuclear weapons and that a sovereign Iraq would inherit the know-how to make them, but also that Iranian enrichment, even if it were to remain consistent with the Non-Proliferation Treaty, would further exacerbate the situation," Blix said Monday at a Carnegie Endowment conference he attended with ElBaradei, his old friend.

For the moment, Iran is hardly acting conciliatory.

Learning of the draft resolution last week, Iranian President Mohammed Khatami warned that "if Europe has no commitment toward Iran, then Iran will not have a commitment toward Europe."

Iran appeared to back up the threat Monday when it seized three British naval vessels and eight crewmen who were in the area to help train Iraqi police.

Given the toughness of the IAEA resolution, such grandstanding is unlikely to

have much impact.

The United States is maintaining its pressure, as President Bush heads to NATO meetings in Europe this weekend.

At the NATO meetings, Bush is likely to make containment of Iran a priority.

The president is backed by a letter signed by 66 senators and 208 members of the U.S. House of Representatives.

John Bolton, the U.S. undersecretary of state for arms control, is testifying on Capitol Hill on Wednesday about the Iranian nuclear capability and its implications for terrorism.

The message from the West is clear, Powell said Monday.

"With respect to Iran, they have been put on notice once again rather firmly and strongly in this new resolution that the international community is expecting them to answer its questions and to respond fully," he said.

**'If Europe has no commitment toward Iran, then Iran will not have a commitment toward Europe.'**

**Mohammed Khatami**

Iranian President

## Toronto school's honoree protested

By BILL GLADSTONE

TORONTO (JTA) — Some students walked out as a university in Toronto honored an anti-Israel law professor.

Richard Falk, an international law professor at Princeton, was given an honorary doctorate last Friday at Toronto's York University.

Falk has compared Israel to a Nazi state and blasted Jews' alleged control of the media.

He also implicitly offered justification for Palestinian terrorist attacks against

Israeli citizens, according to officials from B'nai Brith Canada.

The group had asked York University not to honor the controversial professor because of those comments.

A biography on the university's Web site called Falk, who recently wrote a book on the American response to the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, "one of the great legal minds of the 21st century."

In keeping with a university request to be orderly and not to disrupt the ceremony, students handed out leaflets and organized a silent protest.



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# On kosher laws, Israel is a house divided

By DAN BARON

JERUSALEM (JTA) — Winston Churchill famously described Britain and the United States as two nations divided by a common language.

For Israel's Jews, the country is a nation divided by a common religion.

It's not only Orthodox hegemony over events such as weddings, conversions and burials that frustrate many secular Israelis, it's the debate over the more prosaic matter of food.

The latest battle in the fight over Israel's kosher laws resulted in a legal precedent that may forever change the policies and politics of pork, known euphemistically in Israel as "white meat." Earlier this month, the High Court of Justice suspended longstanding bans that three cities had placed on the sale of pork.

The panel of nine justices instructed the municipalities of Tiberias, Carmiel and Beit Shemesh to assess which of their neighborhoods are sufficiently secular to warrant the full-time operation of non-kosher butcher shops, which petitioners had demanded.

"The court accepted that the opinion of the majority of people in each area should be taken into account," Interior Minister Avraham Poraz told Israel Radio. For pork, "that means no in religious neighborhoods, but yes in secular ones."

That drew the disdain of religious groups that long have accused Poraz's

centrist Shinui Party, one of the petitioners of the High Court, of waging a secularist crusade for the soul of Israel.

"The High Court has driven a big nail into the coffin of the country's Jewish character," said Eli Yishai, head of Shas, an Orthodox party.

Pork actually is not that hard to come by in Israel. Boosted by the influx in the last decade and a half of a million immigrants from the Soviet Union, many of them secular Jews and some of them non-Jews, butcher shops throughout Israel sell bacon, ham or spare ribs. The meat either is imported or quietly procured from Christian Arab slaughterers. Religious Muslims also do not consume pork products.

But importers who wanted to market pork in Israel on an industrial scale, and health and tax authorities who sought better regulation of non-kosher establishments, were not satisfied with the status quo, and they were behind petitions to the High Court.

Despite its landmark ruling, the court chose to emphasize reconciliation rather than revolution.

"We should all remember that communal living is not a matter of all or nothing," Chief Justice Aharon Barak wrote. "Communal living should be made manifest in mutual concessions that reflect

coexistence in a diverse society."

In response to the ruling, Israel's chief Ashkenazi Rabbi, Yona Metzger, argued that tolerance should only go so far in a democracy — particularly one whose Jewish character is enshrined in its Declaration of Independence and laws.

"Let us imagine that the majority in this or that neighborhood pursue drug dealing," Metzger said in

a statement. "Would we allow it? Or perhaps there is another town, where most residents are Thai workers sustained by the flesh of dogs and cats they killed. Can anyone conceive of this 'majority opinion' making it permissible?"

The chief rabbi added an appeal to the memory of Israelis' ancestors.

"A people whose war of independence in Hasmonean times stemmed from a rejection of pork eating, and which endured no little suffering over 2,000 years for not yielding to those who wanted to force them to eat pork, must honor this ancient custom and a Hebrew city must forbid the selling of pork within its boundaries."

The High Court ruling allows for municipal bylaws to change over time. Given the natural growth rate of religious communities, it's possible that even neighborhoods with authorized non-kosher butchers eventually could be forced to close down shops that sell pork. ■

**Pork actually is not that hard to come by in Israel.**

## Israel ponders a moat for the Gaza-Egypt line

By DAN BARON

JERUSALEM (JTA) — With its latest proposal for the Gaza Strip, Israel is assuming that the principle that good fences make good neighbors also applies to moats.

Last week, Israel's Defense Ministry ran newspaper ads calling for contractor bids to build a 2.5-mile long moat along the Gaza-Egypt boundary in an attempt to halt arms smuggling through tunnels from Egypt into Rafah, a Palestinian refugee camp on Gaza's southern border.

Officials in Jerusalem insisted Sunday that the trench would not go ahead without Cairo's consent. "There is still no decision on what exactly we will carry out," the ministry's director general, Amos Yaron, told Israel Radio, calling the half-page advertisement in Thursday's Ha'aretz merely a "feasibility study."

That was news to any contractors who had paid the \$65 fee to place a bid on constructing the multimillion-dollar moat. The Defense Ministry even set a July 12 deadline for the bidding

process, suggesting urgency for the project.

But sources in Jerusalem said that as soon as the media picked up on the development, politics came into play — specifically, the need to avoid offending Egypt, which only recently expressed a willingness to help train Palestinian security forces to take over Gaza after an expected Israeli withdrawal in 2005.

Egypt has made its participation in Israel's Gaza withdrawal process conditional on a consensus among Palestinians in Gaza.

The Egyptians "don't want to look bad" if there is violence in Gaza, "and they don't want it to backfire," Palestinian Authority Foreign Minister Nabil Sha'ath told Reuters on Sunday. "They also don't want to feel they're a foreign power intruding on anybody."

The Rafah project would be dug inside the Philadelphi Corridor, a buffer zone that has been under Israeli control since the 1978 Camp David accords with Egypt. The remaining 5 miles of the border would remain untouched.

Palestinians say Israel's moves to seal off Gaza ahead of a withdrawal constitute an attempt to turn Gaza into a "prison." ■

# NEWS IN BRIEF

## MIDDLE EAST

### Report: Mossad active in Kurdistan

Israel reportedly has angered Turkey by training Kurdish separatists in northern Iraq.

This week's New Yorker magazine said hundreds of Mossad agents have been operating since last year among Kurds in northern Iraq, using them to spy on nearby Iran and Syria. According to reporter Seymour Hersh, Israel also has helped form Kurdish commando units, to the alarm of the Turkish government, which sees them as a separatist threat.

"A declaration of" Kurdish "independence would trigger a Turkish response — and possibly a war — and also derail what has been an important alliance for Israel," Hersh wrote. Israeli officials declined comment. The revelations come as Turkey has become increasingly vocal in its support for the Palestinians and its condemnation of Israeli anti-terrorist operations in the Gaza Strip.

### 'Quartet' to meet in Egypt

Representatives from the diplomatic "Quartet" seeking Israeli-Palestinian peace will meet in Egypt this week.

William Burns, the top U.S. State Department envoy to the region, and his counterparts from the United Nations, the European Union and Russia will convene in Taba to discuss economic, political and security issues, State Department spokesman Richard Boucher said Monday. Palestinian reform will be on the agenda.

Burns also will meet with Egyptian officials to discuss the Egyptian role in helping secure the Gaza Strip after Israel withdraws.

### Thai worker killed

Palestinian gunmen killed a Thai worker in an Israeli settlement in the Gaza Strip. The man was fatally wounded Monday during a mortar bombing of Kfar Darom, where he worked. Hamas claimed responsibility for the attack.

### Outpost evacuation delayed

Israel's evacuation of a West Bank outpost was postponed by court order.

The High Court of Justice found Monday in favor of a petition by the Yeshiva settlers council asking for a stay on the evacuation of Givat Haroeh, near Ramallah. The High Court agreed to examine settler claims that former Defense Minister Benjamin Ben-Eliezer authorized the outpost's construction.

### Sharon survives no-confidence votes

Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon survived two no-confidence votes in the Knesset.

On a motion lodged Monday by left-wing and Arab parties against a security fence being built around the West Bank settlement of Ariel, 55 lawmakers voted for the government and 28 abstained, leaving just 15 in favor.

The vote was closer on a motion over growing unemployment in the country. Fifty expressed no confidence in the government, while 55 supported it.

## NORTH AMERICA

### Diaspora leaders lobby Israel on conversion

Top Diaspora leaders lobbied Israel's president and justice minister Monday to open up the conversion process in the Jewish state. The delegation said it was especially concerned about the plight of as many as 300,000 immigrants from the former Soviet Union who are not Jewish according to Jewish law but may want to convert.

"Obstacles are being thrown in their place," said Robert Goldberg, chairman of the United Jewish Communities federation umbrella group of North America. Goldberg headed the delegation, which included the leaders of Reform, Conservative and Orthodox movements in North America as well as an official from Canada representing Keren Hayesod.

Conversion in Israel is overseen by the Orthodox-run Chief Rabbinate, which has been criticized for being overly stringent in its conditions for converting immigrants from the former Soviet Union, a charge the rabbinate denies.

### Canadian synagogue vandalized

Swastikas and racial epithets were spray-painted on a Canadian synagogue.

Caterers arriving Saturday morning to set up for a Bar Mitzvah at the Beth Shalom West Synagogue near Ottawa found the vandalism. The synagogue desecration is at least the fifth across Ontario in recent months.

### Civil rights murders remembered

Speakers called for justice in the 1964 killing of three civil rights workers, including two Jews, during a 40th anniversary commemoration of the murders.

James Chaney, Andrew Goodman and Michael Schwerner were killed in Mississippi on June 21, 1964. The murders, which have never been solved, are believed to have been carried out by Ku Klux Klansmen.

The three men, whose deaths were marked in Philadelphia, Miss., on Sunday, were killed after visiting members of Mt. Zion, a black church that had been torched during "Freedom Summer," when civil rights workers organized a voter registration drive for blacks across the South.

A newly established Philadelphia Coalition plans a permanent memorial in the county where the murders took place.

### More pomp than circumstance

A possible confrontation was avoided between Jewish and Muslim students during graduation ceremonies at a California university.

At Saturday's ceremony, several members of the Muslim Student Union at the University of California at Irvine wore over their graduation gowns strips of green cloth inscribed with the Arabic word for "martyrdom."

## WORLD

### Christianity out of E.U. Constitution

The European Union Constitution will not contain a reference to Christianity.

E.U. leaders meeting last Friday in Brussels left untouched the draft preamble of the constitution, which recognizes Europe's "cultural, religious and humanist heritage," despite calls from some countries to include a reference to Christianity.

### London Jewish building destroyed

A London Jewish communal building was fire-bombed less than 24 hours after a separate attack on a London synagogue.

The offices of the Orthodox outreach organization Aish Hatorah were gutted by fire late Friday evening, and two Torah scrolls in the center's synagogue were torn and desecrated.

Jewish security and police sources say nobody has claimed responsibility for the attack. Sources say the attack is not believed to be connected to an arson attack the previous day at London's South Tottenham Synagogue.