



IN THE NEWS

Palestinian rocket fire kills two in Israel

Two Israelis were killed by rockets fired at their town from Palestinians in the Gaza Strip.

Hamas launched at least four rockets at the Israeli town of Sderot on Monday, killing a 4-year-old boy and a man. Ten other Israelis were hurt, including the boy's mother, who was walking him to school when the rocket struck.

Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon called a special session of top Cabinet ministers to decide on a response to the incident, the first time Palestinian rocket fire has claimed lives inside Israel proper.

NATO offers Israel, Arabs upgraded ties

Israel is among seven countries offered upgraded relations with NATO. The decision is to be released during this week's NATO summit in Istanbul.

Along with Jordan, Egypt and several other nations in the "Mediterranean dialogue," Israel will be able to send foreign and defense ministers to NATO meetings and strengthen military relations with NATO. For example, Israel's navy may join in operations designed to prevent weapons smuggling. [Story, Pg. 3]

ADL supports detainee ruling

The Anti-Defamation League praised a Supreme Court ruling upholding military detainees' rights to U.S. courts.

No branch of the federal government should be excluded from the war on terrorism, the group said in a statement Monday, the day of the decision.

"We see this decision as proof that our constitutional system is clearly capable of effectively balancing the threat of terrorism with the need to uphold the rule of law," the group's national chairwoman, Barbara Balser, and its national director, Abraham Foxman, said in the statement.

WORLD REPORT

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

A shtetl grows in Toronto: Jewish federation makes own city

By BILL GLADSTONE

TORONTO (JTA) — Toronto's Jewish federation has launched a building project so large that one official says it will create a Jewish mini-city.

Budgeted at more than \$180 million, the UJA Federation of Greater Toronto's Tomorrow campaign, billed as the largest non-profit community development project in Canadian history, involves the construction of a massive new Jewish complex north of the city, as well as dramatic infrastructure upgrades to two major Jewish sites in the city center and the historic downtown core.

"We began planning for this in 1999 when we realized that the infrastructure of our Jewish community hadn't kept pace with our growth," said the federation's president, Ted Sokolsky.

The Jewish population in the Toronto area has approximately doubled over the last two generations.

"Our institutions were built for a community of 90,000, and here we were with a community approaching 200,000," Sokolsky said.

The community has grown by leaps and bounds in recent decades, with the arrival of tens of thousands of Israelis and Jews from Montreal and the former Soviet Union.

Continuing a demographic shift that began about 75 years ago, when downtown Jews began moving to the suburbs, Toronto Jews are still moving north along the historic Bathurst Street corridor and its comforting array of bagel shops, synagogues, kosher butchers, small synagogues and delicatessens.

"The community seems to have a genetic

coding that says, 'Locate near Bathurst Street,'" said Patricia Tolkin Eppel, the federation's director of planning for the York Region, north of the city.

The federation plans to build a huge Jewish campus called City North on a 50-acre tract of land it has purchased along Bathurst Street.

The campus will include a complex of service agencies, a health-and-fitness pavilion, conference facilities, four elementary schools and a high school in an environment of vast public gardens, courtyards and streets.

Federation planners hope the high density of Jewish organizations in the complex will generate the sort of liveliness and energy that was common in the shtetls of Eastern Europe, Sokolsky said.

The 1,200-student branch of the Community Hebrew Academy of Toronto high school is expected to be one of the first institutions to open on the site, in 2006.

An ambulatory clinic of the large downtown Mount Sinai hospital also is planned, as is a day-care center for adults with dementia.

"We'll have summer schools, summer camps, day care, places to eat and all sorts of other facilities," Eppel said. "This is so diverse that it's truly like a Jewish city."

Communal officials, who already have gathered 40 percent of the total needed, expect to raise the entire amount through private donations. "We don't have the luxury of turning to government to build our institutions, centers and schools, so we have to do it on our own, as we have done for generations," Sokolsky said.

A new style of philanthropy is helping

Continued on page 2

FOCUS
ON
ISSUES

■ *A shtetl grows in Toronto: Jewish federation makes own city*

Continued from page 1

make the Tomorrow campaign a reality, and many professionals are “doing more than opening their checkbooks — they’re also rolling up their sleeves,” Sokolsky said.

Besides encouraging new levels of volunteerism, federation officials say they are seeking to “raise the bar” on Jewish giving. Sokolsky says they are preparing to announce several major gifts in the coming months.

York Region is a political entity above Toronto’s northern boundary that includes the cities of Vaughan, Richmond Hill, Thornhill and Newmarket.

It is home to 60,000 Jews, mostly young families. Eppel called it “one of the fastest growing Jewish communities in the world.”

Rabbi Ezriel Sitzer, who recently opened a Jewish learning center in a strip plaza near the northern campus site, told JTA that an adjacent 5,000-home development called Thornhill Woods “is about halfway built and about 90 percent Jewish.”

“This is about the fastest-growing Jewish area in Canada,” Sitzer said. “You’d be hard-pressed to find a house without a mezuzah.”

Reform congregation Temple Kol Ami is one of numerous groups planning to build a synagogue in the area.

While federation planners are focusing much of their efforts in the York Region, they also are planning extensive upgrades of Jewish infrastructure in Toronto proper.

The second phase of the Tomorrow campaign calls for a major redevelopment of the existing Bathurst Jewish Community Center near the demographic center of the community.

The central campus will feature eight “centers of excellence” that focus on arts, culture, history, heritage, and health and fitness. The blueprints call for a central atrium, a new theater, art gallery, health club, library and other facilities in a ravine setting that will be landscaped with a reflecting pool, amphitheater, tennis courts and a baseball diamond.

A new Center for Collective Memory and Understanding will replace the existing Holocaust center. A Jewish military archive and a museum of Toronto Jewish history also are under discussion.

Construction is due to start in 2007.

Another phase of the project, centered in the historic Spadina district, near where the Jewish community took root more than a century ago, already is largely completed.

The focal point of a downtown Jewish community that presently stands at about 21,000 people, the Miles Nadal JCC recently completed a multimillion-dollar renovation. Several blocks away, the gleaming new Wolfond Center for Jewish Campus Life recently opened its doors on the University of Toronto campus.

Mayors, civic officials and government ministers have hailed the Tomorrow campaign as a welcome venture that will add vibrancy to Toronto’s social, economic and cultural life.

The federation’s three campuses have been compared to other major civic projects like the massive renovations currently under way at the Art Gallery of Ontario and the Royal Ontario Museum, and the building of the city’s first Opera House.

“Through the Tomorrow campaign, we believe we’re giving something back to the city,” said Howard English, the federation’s director of communications. “This is our contribution to the greater Toronto area.”

‘This is about the fastest-growing Jewish area in Canada.’

Ezriel Sitzer

Toronto area rabbi

Slave laborers to get more funds

By **TOBY AXELROD**

BERLIN (JTA) — A breakthrough agreement will bring an additional \$174 million to Jews who worked as slave laborers during the Holocaust.

After a year of negotiations that ended June 24 in Berlin, the funds — just over half the interest earned on the original compensation settlement with German government and industry — will be distributed by the Claims Conference to some 140,000 Jewish survivors by the end of August.

Remembrance, Responsibility, and the Future, a German foundation, will turn over the rest of the money, about \$169 million, to seven other organizations, including the International Organization for Migration, and groups representing non-Jewish slave and forced laborers in Poland, the Czech Republic, Russia, Ukraine and Belarus.

“There was a lot of money and all the

organizations wanted a large share of the funds, so there was a lot of pressure on the foundation,” said Gideon Taylor, the Claims Conference’s executive vice president.

“We now have enough reserve money to make the second payment,” Taylor said. “This final agreement is tremendously important.”

Once administrative requirements are complete, the German foundation will release the money to the Claims Conference, making possible a payment of about \$3,000 each to living former slave laborers. A first installment of some \$6,000 was made in June 2001.

The interest was earned on the original fund because the money gathered from German companies and the government was held a year longer than anticipated before the government approved its release.

Heirs of slave laborers who were alive on Feb. 16, 1999, and had applied for compensation also will be eligible to receive payments starting at the end of 2004.

JTA WORLD REPORT

Howard E. Friedman
President

Mark J. Joffe
Executive Editor and Publisher

Lisa Hostein
Editor

Michael S. Arnold
Managing Editor

Lenore A. Silverstein
Finance and Administration Director

Paula Simmonds
Marketing and Development Director

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.
© JTA. Reproduction only with permission.

NATO strengthens ties with Israel, Arab states

By YIGAL SCHLEIFER

ISTANBUL, Turkey (JTA) — NATO is trying to set a new direction as the security organization expands its relationship with seven Middle Eastern countries, including Israel.

For the past decade, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization has maintained what it calls its Mediterranean Dialogue with Jordan, Mauritania, Algeria, Morocco, Tunisia, Egypt and Israel. The program has consisted until now of limited political consultations with the countries involved, rather than deep engagement.

But organization officials said NATO plans to expand the program to the level of a "partnership." The plans were discussed at the security organization's summit in Istanbul, which was due to end Tuesday.

"We're talking about a major upgrade of the Mediterranean Dialogue program, that involves both the political dimension of the dialogue" and "the announcement of practical areas of cooperation," a senior NATO official said.

"We're not talking about NATO membership and we're not talking about backdoor membership. We are talking about

cooperating in the security sphere in fighting terrorism, in sharing intelligence possibly in joint military activities, crisis management operations," the official said. "These countries will not be part of NATO but will be working with NATO as part of a special partnership."

For example, the navies of Israel and the other dialogue countries will be invited to join NATO operations aimed at ending the smuggling of arms and materials used in weapons of mass destruction.

Analysts said NATO's plans to increase its engagement with Middle East countries are indicative of the organization's search for a new identity in the post-Cold War world.

"NATO is not what it used to be. It used to be a passive defensive alliance. Now it's an active security alliance," said Chris Donnelly, a senior fellow at the Defence Academy of the United Kingdom. "NATO recognizes that if countries want it to solve their external security problems, it has to go to where their problems are coming from."

NATO is modeling the enhanced dialogue on the Partnership for Peace

program, which helped bring the former Soviet bloc countries into the security organization's orbit. Most of those countries subsequently joined NATO.

"We see this dialogue as very positive, and we think it can be expanded and widened," said Oded Eran, Israel's ambassador to the European Union, in Brussels. "I think both sides have an interest in increasing their cooperation and that's what we are going to see."

The dialogue will be bilateral, with NATO dealing with each of the seven countries on an individual basis. Eran said greater cooperation with NATO also could have a positive effect on the region.

"I think we could see improved relations with all these countries, including ones that we don't have formal relations with," he said.

NATO also announced at the Istanbul summit an initiative to expand its engagement with countries in the "broader Middle East region." The first step in this initiative will be increased security cooperation with the six members of the Gulf Cooperation Council: Bahrain, Kuwait, Qatar, Oman, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates.

In a first, rocket attacks from Palestinian area kills Israelis

By DAN BARON

SDEROT, Israel (JTA) — For more than two years, residents of this economically depressed southern Israeli town considered themselves blessed as they survived salvo after salvo of rockets from the nearby Gaza Strip.

This week, Sderot's luck ran out.

Four Kassam rockets fired by Hamas terrorists slammed into the road Monday outside one of the town's kindergartens. Two people were killed, one of them a 4-year-old boy.

Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon called a special session of top Cabinet ministers to decide on a response to the incident, the first time Palestinian rocket fire has claimed lives inside Israel proper.

The attack turned a quiet summer morning into a nightmare of wrecked lives.

"I still can't believe it. What a disaster — my darling boy," cried Yitzhak Ohayon, whose son, Afik Zahavi, was killed by shrapnel.

A passerby, Uzbek immigrant Mordechai Yosepov, 49, also was killed.

At least four other people, including Afik's mother, Ruti, were wounded in the rocket attack. The barrage came only hours after

Hamas and Fatah terrorists used a secret tunnel to blow up an Israeli fort on Gaza's Kissufim highway, killing Sgt. Ro'i Nissim and hurting four others.

Any Israeli retaliation appeared likely to receive support across Israel's political divide.

"Nothing justifies hurting a child and an innocent," said Labor Party leader Shimon Peres. "Palestinian attempts at justification have no validity after the government of Israel made the decision to withdraw," he said, referring to Sharon's pledge to pull troops and settlers out of Gaza by the end of 2005.

But Israel's options for retaliation are limited. Since Hamas introduced Kassams into the Palestinian arsenal in late 2001, the Jewish state regularly has hit the Gaza rocket factories from air, ground and sea.

Despite these operations, the Islamic terrorist group's roving rocket crews still manage to carry out regular forays in which they set up and fire their rockets within minutes.

Short of a full-scale invasion of the Gaza Strip, akin to its April 2002 sweep of the West Bank, Israel likely will have to make do with continued pinpoint operations. Its challenge will be to offset the spike in attempted attacks by Palestinian groups keen to paint the impending Israeli pullout as a Palestinian victory. ■

An Israeli response appeared likely to receive support across Israel's political divide.

NEWS IN BRIEF

MIDDLE EAST

Sharon barely survives vote

Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's government survived three no-confidence motions, but with a dwindling Knesset majority.

Fifty-four lawmakers voted with the government and 52 against in a motion brought by the Labor Party on Monday to protest Finance Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's economic policies. Two similar motions brought by fervently Orthodox parties and left-wing parties were voted down by 55-54 and 53-44 votes, respectively.

Holocaust inspired slain soldier

An Israeli soldier slain in the Gaza Strip had volunteered for a combat unit after visiting Holocaust sites in Poland.

Sgt. Ro'i Nissim, 20, was killed Sunday when Palestinians bombed the fort where he was serving in Gaza.

On Monday, Nissim's relatives said a high-school trip to Poland where he studied the Holocaust led him to volunteer for the Givati infantry brigade.

"When he came back from there he was firm, saying 'I have to defend the country,'" Nissim's stepfather, Aharon, told reporters.

Settlers invited to leave

Ariel Sharon called on Israeli settlers in the Gaza Strip to leave voluntarily and collect compensation.

"Whoever wants to can come forward, and we will evacuate them," the Israeli prime minister told the Knesset's Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee on Monday, referring to his plan to remove all settlements from Gaza and four from the West Bank in 2005.

Israeli officials said dozens of settlers already have applied for government relocation packages.

Universities to hold terrorism conferences

A U.S. and an Israeli university will run a joint conference annually on the psychological effects of terrorism.

The Universities of Haifa and Pennsylvania held the first such conference in Washington on Monday and said they planned to make it an annual event.

NORTH AMERICA

U.S. defended Gaza plan to evangelicals

President Bush's top Middle East adviser met with evangelical Christians to defend U.S. support for Israel's plan to withdraw from the Gaza Strip.

Bush's evangelical liaison, Timothy Goeglein, arranged meetings in April between Elliott Abrams and evangelical leaders who were concerned that the withdrawal undermined biblical prophecies related to Israel, The New York Times reported Monday.

Jewish voter guide ready

Major U.S. Jewish groups issued a Jewish voter's guide.

Get Out the Vote 2004, produced jointly by the Reconstructionist, Reform, Conservative and Orthodox movements, as well as the Jewish Council for Public Affairs, offers Jewish organizational leaders tips on conducting voter registration drives and educating people about the issues.

The guide is available at www.rac.org/pubs/vote04.html.

JNF tops online fund raising

The Jewish National Fund raised more money online than any other Jewish non-profit last year.

A June 10 survey by the Chronicle of Philanthropy found that JNF

ranked first among Jewish non-profits and environmental organizations for the second straight year, raising \$1.15 million, an 81 percent increase over the previous year.

The Jewish Federation/Jewish United Fund of Chicago ranked second among Jewish non-profits, raising \$882,418 via the Internet in 2003.

The United Jewish Communities federation umbrella organization placed third with \$793,656.

Catholic group rips Forward

The Catholic League blasted the Forward for an editorial criticizing a threat to deny religious rites to pro-choice politicians.

In its front-page editorial last Friday, the Forward said a call by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops for Catholic institutions to deny honors to pro-choice politicians is "an affront to democracy" and a "capricious application of church morality."

William Donohue, president of the Catholic League, called the editorial "anti-Catholic" and said "it is none of the Forward's business what disciplinary measures the bishops decide."

WORLD

Bush meets Turkish rabbi

President Bush met with a delegation of Turkish religious leaders that included the country's chief rabbi.

Bush met with the delegation Sunday during his visit to Istanbul for the NATO summit. Chief Rabbi Isak Haleva joined leaders of the Armenian Orthodox, Syriac Orthodox, Greek Orthodox and Muslim communities in the meeting.

They discussed the balance of religion and secularism in Turkey.

Report: Good news, bad news

The number of Diaspora Jews is declining and the Israeli-Palestinian conflict is used as an excuse for anti-Semitism, a new study said.

But world Jewry is economically well-off, educated and politically involved, according to the report, presented to the Israeli government Sunday by the Jewish People Policy Planning Institute.

The institute is a think tank chaired by a former U.S. Middle East peace envoy, Dennis Ross, and funded in part by the Jewish Agency for Israel.

Report: Israel ties led to Italian's death

An Italian was executed by Iraqis because he had ties to Israel, a British newspaper reported.

The Sunday Times of London reported that one of the Iraqis involved in killing Fabrizio Quattrocchi in April defended his murder because of Quattrocchi's alleged ties to the Jewish state.

Student court: Israel's security barrier is just

A student court in New York ruled recently that Israel's West Bank security barrier is legal and that The Hague lacks jurisdiction in the matter.

Students at New York University's law school represented the parties involved in the International Court of Justice's hearing held earlier this year at The Hague on the legality of Israel's security fence.

The real court will announce its ruling July 9.

German police probe cemetery desecration

German police are seeking leads in the desecration of a Jewish cemetery in Dusseldorf.

Some 40 police combed the Ulmenstrasse cemetery Monday after swastikas and SS symbols were found scrawled across 45 stones on June 24.