

## IN THE NEWS

**Rafah blast kills 3**

Three Palestinians died when a bomb they planted to hit Israeli troops exploded prematurely.

The blast in Rafah, on the Gaza Strip border with Israel, took place Tuesday as Israeli forces were hunting for weapons-smuggling tunnels in the Palestinian town. There were no Israeli casualties.

**Israel to Egypt: Thanks for the help**

Israel is happy with Egyptian efforts to clamp down on arms smuggling.

Daniel Ayalon, Israel's ambassador to Washington, told William Burns, the top Middle East official at the U.S. State Department, that Israel is pleased with Egyptian plans to facilitate Israel's withdrawal from the Gaza Strip.

"The Egyptians are very much interested in the success of the disengagement and they have been stepping forward in terms of blocking smuggling through the Philadelphia corridor," Ayalon told JTA after his meeting Tuesday with Burns, referring to a strip along the Gaza-Egypt border. Israel ultimately would like to pull out of the Philadelphia strip, Ayalon said.

**Mecca Cola comes to Israel**

An anti-Zionist cola is going on sale in Israel.

Mecca Cola, whose French makers donate some 20 percent of the product's profits to Palestinian causes, is to be marketed in the Lower Galilee region where the majority of Israel's 1.2 million Arab citizens live, French media reported Tuesday.

The company, which is based in the Paris region, is owned by a French Muslim entrepreneur who runs the anti-Zionist radio station Radio Mediterranean.

The cola already is sold in a number of Arab and European countries and is adorned with a design showing mosques on Jerusalem's Temple Mount.

# WORLD REPORT

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## Dropping low profile, Israel goes on offensive against Iranian nukes

By LESLIE SUSSER

**J**ERUSALEM (JTA) — After months of keeping a low profile on Iran's nuclear program, Israel has launched an intensive diplomatic campaign to convince the international community to pressure Teheran to drop its efforts to produce a nuclear bomb.

Israeli officials say the campaign, involving the United States, the European Union and the International Atomic Energy Agency, is focusing on a September meeting of the IAEA board of governors in Vienna.

That body has the power to refer the "Iranian nuclear dossier" to the U.N. Security Council, where international sanctions could be imposed.

The Israeli diplomatic move has been accompanied by a veiled threat of attack on Iranian nuclear facilities if the international community fails to stop Teheran's nuclear weapons drive.

But the Iranians, undeterred, are continuing to pursue an ambivalent and potentially military nuclear program.

Like Israel, the United States is seeking stiffer international action.

The E.U. position has been less decisive, however, and it is not clear whether the union will back a U.S. demand for sanctions. Europe's position could be crucial.

Israel stopped its public criticism of Teheran after Iran and Libya intimated a readiness late last year to cooperate with the international community in dismantling their nuclear weapons programs.

At the time, Israeli experts said Libya was serious, but they didn't trust Iran. Still,

given the new situation and not wanting to draw attention to its own alleged nuclear capabilities, Israel decided to adopt a low profile on Iran, and let the United States and Europe take the lead in pressuring Teheran to drop its nuclear weapons drive.

Now Israel feels the international community has not been firm enough, and has allowed Iran to get away with a pretense of cooperation while clandestinely furthering its nuclear ambitions.

In late June, Israeli leaders decided to change tack.

As a first step, Foreign Minister Silvan Shalom initiated a July 2 meeting in Washington on the Iranian issue with the U.S. national security adviser, Condoleezza Rice.

Afterward, Shalom declared that the international community "cannot allow the Iranians to move forward in their efforts to develop nuclear weapons."

Less than a week later, the IAEA's director general, Mohammed El-Baradei, came to Israel, where all his interlocutors, including Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, stressed the danger to world peace of nuclear weapons in Iranian hands.

On July 22, when the E.U.'s foreign policy boss, Javier Solana, visited Israel, his hosts made sure his itinerary included a meeting with Mossad chief Meir Dagan, who provided Israeli intelligence material purporting to show Iran's nuclear duplicity.

The day before, the head of Israeli military intelligence, Maj. Gen. Aharon "Farkash" Ze'evi, briefed the Cabinet, delivering an assessment — immediately made public

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ANALYSIS

## ■ Israel steps up campaign against Iran's acquiring the bomb

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— that unless Iran was stopped, it would go nuclear by 2007 or 2008.

Hawkish legislators Ephraim Sneh of the Labor Party and Ehud Yatom of Likud took their cue.

"If the international community continues to show ineffectiveness, Israel will have to consider its next steps — and fast," Sneh said.

Yatom was more explicit.

"Israel," he said, "must destroy the Iranian nuclear facility just as we did the Iraqi reactor in 1981."

Earlier there had been what appeared to be a calculated leak to the press.

On July 18, the London-based Sunday Times reported that the Israeli Air Force had completed military preparations for a pre-emptive strike at Iran's Bushehr nuclear facility and would attack if Russia supplied Iran with fuel rods for enriching uranium.

An Israeli defense source, who confirmed that military rehearsals had taken place, was quoted as telling the paper, "Israel will on no account permit the Iranian reactors — especially the one being built in Bushehr with Russian help — to go critical."

By breaking its silence on Iran, Israel was indicating that it does not take the Iranian threat lightly — and neither should the West.

Beside the obvious warning to Iran, the subtext of the Israeli message seemed to be directed at the international community: Act to stop Iran going nuclear or

Israel may feel it must take preemptive military action, with all the potentially destabilizing consequences.

Then, on July 29, Israel conducted a successful test off the California coast of its Arrow 2 anti-missile system. Some observers saw the test as yet another message to Iran: In a conflict situation Israel would have the overwhelming strategic advantage of being able to intercept and destroy incoming missiles, another reason for Iran to reconsider its nuclear program.

The Iranians, however, are showing no signs of backing down.

On July 25, Seyed Masood Jazayeri, commander of Iran's Revolutionary Guards, warned that if Israel attacks, "it will be wiped off the face of the earth."

A week later, Iranian Foreign Minister Kamal Kharrazi confirmed that Iran had resumed building centrifuges that can produce weapons-grade uranium.

His statement followed a meeting in Paris in which Britain, France and Germany failed to persuade Iran to stop making the centrifuges and allow spot inspections of its nuclear facilities as promised.

The Europeans had offered to close the "Iranian nuclear dossier" if Iran cooperated with spot inspections and stopped all production of weapons-grade uranium.

But Iran has been delaying the inspections, and — though it repeatedly has insisted that it was not making weapons-grade uranium — it acknowledged that it was continuing to make centrifuges that could be used for uranium enrichment.

It also has said nothing will stop it from joining the world's nuclear club.

Like Israel, the United States says Iran is dissembling, pretending to run a civilian-use nuclear program while clandestinely conducting a full-scale nuclear weapons drive. With huge oil reserves, U.S. officials note, Iran hardly needs nuclear energy for civilian purposes.

Israeli officials say much will depend now on how the Europeans respond to the latest Iranian rebuff in Paris, and what line they take at the September IAEA board meeting.

If they back the American position, the result could well be a U.N. Security Council debate on a joint resolution threatening Iran with sanctions.

That would be a new phase in the international community's efforts to stop Iran from getting the bomb. And if that happens, Israel may feel that its new more aggressive campaign had something to do with it.

*(Leslie Susser is the diplomatic correspondent for the Jerusalem Report.)*

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## Burns meets Ayalon on settlements

WASHINGTON (JTA) — The State Department's top Middle East envoy met with Israel's ambassador to the U.S. and pressed him on settlement expansion.

"We're having discussions with the Israelis and we'll stay in close touch with them on their commitments to end settlement activity," spokesman Richard Boucher said after William Burns, the U.S. assistant secretary of state, met Tuesday with Ambassador Daniel Ayalon.

Israel is "aware of our concerns, and we continue to press them to live up to the statements of the 'road map' peace plan," Boucher said.

The Bush administration is frustrated by Israel's slowness in dismantling unap-

proved settlement outposts and by reports that Israel is building inside existing settlements. Ayalon said he told Burns that Israel was committed to dismantling the outposts and that plans to build in existing settlements — more units were just announced for the Jerusalem suburb of Ma'aleh Adumim — were launched before Prime Minister Ariel Sharon pledged to President Bush that he would freeze new construction.

"We will keep this process of removing the unauthorized outposts as promised," Ayalon told JTA.

Burns and Ayalon also discussed Israel's planned withdrawal from the Gaza Strip and part of the West Bank.

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# Jewish institutions prepare for threats

By RACHEL POMERANCE

NEW YORK (JTA) — With financial institutions in New York and Washington rattled by a reported Al-Qaida threat, Jewish groups are continuing to craft long-term responses to a variety of potential threats.

But except for the World Jewish Congress — which issued security alerts to Jewish communities worldwide — most Jewish groups said Sunday's warning that Al-Qaida had threatened some major U.S. financial institutions didn't affect their already high state of alert.

"I'm not detecting any panic or any alarm" as a result of the recent warnings, said Betty Ehrenberg, director of international and communal affairs for the Orthodox Union, whose office is located in New York City's financial district.

"We stay alert and we're fully aware that Jewish institutions have been designated targets by terrorists, but we're not trying to act alarmed or be alarmed and doing our best to go about our daily business," she said.

Instead, Jewish groups are turning their attention to general emergency preparedness for the long haul.

A 200-plus-page manual called "Emergency Planning: Disaster and Crisis Response Systems for Jewish Organizations" aims to give them a good start.

The manual, which will be officially released in the next few weeks, provides tips for dealing with disasters from floods to terrorism, and asks groups to plan according to their individual risks.

The document was produced by the United Jewish Communities, the coordinating body for the North American Jewish federation system, and the Jewish Community Relations Council of New York, which contracted the John Jay College of Criminal Justice to aid in the effort.

The manual was written in partnership with the Anti-Defamation League, which has authored its own guide on securing Jewish institutions against hate crimes, and which authored one section of the emergency guide.

The manual aims to be a "catalyst to action," said Barry Swartz, who staffs the UJC's emergency committee.

"We want to impress upon local institutions and organizations the need for them to develop an emergency plan," he said.

The manual comes as Jewish institutions have worked to fortify their facilities following the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks.

It also comes after recent passage of a bill in the U.S. Senate that would provide federal aid to secure religious sites, a balm to many Jewish groups facing heavy security costs.

The manual will accompany another national Jewish communal security initiative — the SCAN emergency network recently put in place by the UJC and the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations.

The network operates through an outside firm, which would notify Jewish communities about threats by contacting organizational officials by cell phone or beeper.

Producers of the new manual stress that it goes beyond the threat of terrorism.

The manual stresses that "man-made disasters are far less likely than natural ones. Tornadoes, blackouts, fires and even water-main breaks occur on a regular basis. So do micro-events such as layoffs, a sexual harassment charge or the death of a beloved teacher. Any one of these can have a detrimental impact on your organization."

The goal is for local federations or their community relations councils to use the manual to train local groups.

David Pollock, associate executive director of the JCRC of New York and the lead author of the manual, has conducted training sessions with schools and synagogues in the New York area over the past two years.

Now he is starting to share pieces of the manual, which he says makes emergency planning easier.

Intended to equip groups with emergency preparedness, response and recovery, the manual includes a host of tips in user-friendly language.

It contains sections on risk analysis and management, hypothetical situations for discussing emergency strategy,

flow-charts and checklists for emergency response, and ideas for drills.

In the case of an in-house lockdown, the guide lists the ingredients needed — plastic sheeting and duct tape — to help secure a room against biochemical agents, and says that "when a sheltering-in-place order is given, it should be given in 'plain English.' Do not use codes!"

It also offers pricing estimates for hiring security personnel, information on "go kits" — grab bags of valuables that employees should have on hand to take quickly before exiting the building — a glossary of emergency terms, tips for preserving documents and links to other sources of emergency response information.

In addition to sharing life-saving strategies, the manual "provides a mechanism to plan for business continuity," Pollock said.

Planning for post-disaster strategy is as important as prevention, said Richard Raisler, director of community-wide security for the Jewish Federation of Greater Atlanta and a retired U.S. Secret Service agent.

Raisler, who has seen sections of the manual, thought it would aid local federations' emergency committees, many of which are comprised of lay leaders without professional security experience.

He praised "anything to facilitate planning and training that goes beyond the basic security that's already in place."

Barbara Kessel, director of administration for the Board of Jewish Education of Greater New York, also lauded the manual.

"It covers all kinds of situations that can in fact occur in a school, and the truth is no matter how many times you give thought to different situations, you really do need to have a document in hand that you can refer to because in the midst of chaos not everything comes to mind," she said.

"So you need checklists and you need constantly updated information, which is what this document encourages you to do," she said.

**When a sheltering-in-place order is given, it should be given in 'plain English.' Do not use codes!**  
Emergency planning manual

# NEWS IN BRIEF

## MIDDLE EAST

### Palestinian 'collaborators' purged

Hamas gunmen attacked suspected Palestinian "collaborators" in a Gaza Strip jail and hospital. Monday's grenade attack on a cell in a Gaza City prison was claimed by the Islamic terrorist group Hamas. It killed a Palestinian held on suspicion of collaborating with Israeli forces and wounded four other men.

Two of the wounded later were executed by masked gunmen who burst into their hospital rooms.

### Abrams to Israel

President Bush's top Middle East adviser is meeting with Israeli leaders this week.

Elliott Abrams, who runs the Middle East desk on Bush's National Security Council, will arrive in Israel on Thursday to meet with Prime Minister Ariel Sharon and other Israeli leaders.

He will discuss plans for Israel's withdrawal from the Gaza Strip and part of the West Bank.

### Hamas threatens Sderot

Hamas threatened to intensify its rocket attacks on the Israeli town of Sderot.

"We will continue to shell you every day to see what your defeated army will do for you," a masked Hamas spokesman said in a video statement released Tuesday, referring to homemade Kas-sam rockets the terrorist group regularly fires from the Gaza Strip at Sderot, just over the boundary with Israel. The salvos prompted Israeli forces last month to occupy the Gaza town of Beit Hanoun, a favorite rocket-launch site, but the attacks have continued.

Israeli security sources dismissed the statement as mere rhetoric. "Hamas is already doing its best to hit Israel, so there is really no room for 'escalation,'" a source said.

### Palestinian terrorist sentenced

A Palestinian affiliated with the Al-Aksa Brigade was given two life sentences and 35 years in prison.

The sentence was handed down by Israel's Hebron Military Court on Tuesday.

Ya'acoub Kadri, 32, of Bir el-Basha in the West Bank, was convicted of taking part in the killing of two Israeli citizens, firing at Israeli civilians and security forces and planning terrorist attacks against Israeli targets.

### Strategic vulnerability seen

Israel's main airport is vulnerable to terrorist attacks, a Knesset panel found.

The committee, which undertook a survey of security at strategic sites in Israel after a double suicide bombing at the Ashdod port in March, released its report Tuesday.

Ben-Gurion Airport and Haifa's seaport were cited as vulnerable to terrorist infiltration.

### Fund to help Israeli Arab businesses

A fund was established in Israel to assist Arab businessmen and encourage partnerships with Jewish businesses.

The \$6 million fund, the only one of its kind in Israel, will grant up to \$30,000 at the regular interest rate to open new businesses or expand existing ones, the Center for Jewish-Arab Economic Development said in a statement, according to the Jerusalem Post.

The fund, a joint project among the center, the Koret Israel Economic Development Funds and Mercantile Discount Bank, is to start giving loans in a month.

## WORLD

### E.U. rips settlement plans

The European Union criticized Israel's plans to expand a West Bank settlement.

The group joins both Britain and the United States in criticizing plans to build 600 new homes in the Jerusalem suburb of Ma'aleh Adumim.

"Such plans run counter to both the letter and the spirit of the 'road map' for peace that Israel has accepted," the Dutch president of the European Union said Tuesday in a statement, referring to an internationally backed peace plan.

Ma'aleh Adumim is one of Israel's largest West Bank settlements.

### Israel helps after Paraguayan disaster

Israel is sending emergency aid to Paraguay after a fire there killed more than 450 people.

A Foreign Ministry spokesman said the aid will include medicine and medical supplies to treat the injured in Sunday's disaster at a supermarket in Asuncion.

The ministry also is considering dispatching a medical team to the South American nation.

Israel does not have an embassy in Asuncion, so the effort is being coordinated with Paraguayan officials through Israel's ambassador to Argentina, who also serves as ambassador to Paraguay.

### Lebanon pressures France over TV ban

Lebanese radio and TV channels are to hold a day of solidarity with a Hezbollah-run satellite TV station.

The planned solidarity day on Aug. 12 follows moves by France to ban Al-Manar for broadcasting anti-Semitic material.

The chairman of the Lebanese broadcasting authority, Abdel Hadi Mahfouz, said he hopes the French courts "would not bow to pressure" from France's CRIF Jewish umbrella group.

CRIF had asked the French broadcasting authority to ban the channel.

## NORTH AMERICA

### Reform: Withdraw, but note Palestinians

The U.S. Reform movement endorsed Israel's planned withdrawal from the Gaza Strip, but also pressed for humanitarian relief for the Palestinians.

The Union for Reform Judaism's board of trustees passed a resolution strongly endorsing the unilateral withdrawal plan, Rabbi David Saperstein said in a letter Tuesday to U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell.

"For peace to emerge, unilateral Israeli withdrawal from Gaza and parts of the West Bank must be matched by the United States' vigorous pursuit of a return to the peace process," Saperstein, the Religious Action Center's director, said in his letter.

Saperstein also criticized two recent congressional measures endorsing the withdrawal because they "fail to address the troubling humanitarian conditions of the Palestinians."

### Past B'nai B'rith leader dies

Jack Spitzer, 86, a Jewish leader known for his work in promoting social justice, died Saturday following cardiac arrest.

Spitzer was president of B'nai B'rith from 1978 to 1982 and was a member of Hillel's international board of governors.

Spitzer spread his passion for social justice by training college student leaders in an annual conference called the Charlotte B. and Jack J. Spitzer B'nai B'rith Hillel Forum on Public Policy.