

IN THE NEWS
Jews join massive anti-Bush rally in NYC

Tens of thousands of protesters marched against President Bush in New York City on Sunday in advance of the Republican convention. Before an official celebration on Sunday touting Jewish ties to the GOP, anti-Bush Jews joined in a massive march through the streets of Manhattan. Denouncing U.S. policy toward Iraq and Bush's domestic policy, some protesters also turned their ire on Israel. Other Jewish protesters said they hated to share a platform with the anti-Israel crowd, but thought it was important to build opposition to Bush. [Story, Pg. 3]

Pentagon suspect served in Israel

The Pentagon analyst under investigation for providing Israel with classified information served as a U.S. Air Force reservist in Israel, according to a report.

The report, published Sunday in the Washington Post, also said the FBI is widening its investigation of Lawrence Franklin.

Officials and Franklin's colleagues said Franklin, who is not Jewish, visited Israel on tours of duty as a specialist in foreign affairs for the U.S. Air Force Reserve.

The FBI believes Franklin passed classified information about U.S. policy deliberations on Iran to the American Israel Public Affairs Committee, and that the material was then passed to Israeli officials.

Israeli officials and AIPAC denied any wrongdoing.

Hundreds rally to recall victims of terror

About 700 people turned out in New York on Sunday for a reading of names of Israeli terror victims.

Volunteers held aloft photos of nearly 1,000 victims of terrorism. Survivors of attacks and families who lost loved ones joined Jewish community representatives and Israeli diplomats in addressing the crowd.

WORLD REPORT

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

Charges against Defense official roil Washington, shake Israel lobby

By MATTHEW E. BERGER

WASHINGTON (JTA) — Allegations that a Pentagon official passed sensitive documents to Israel through a pro-Israel lobbying group have shaken Washington and drawn intense attention to the close relationship between the Bush administration and the Jewish state.

Reports surfaced last Friday that a Defense Department official was being investigated by the FBI for passing secrets to Israel, and two staffers at the American Israel Public Affairs Committee are accused of serving as intermediaries, receiving the documents from the Pentagon aide and passing them to Israel.

Media reports have identified the Pentagon employee as Larry Franklin, but the AIPAC staffers have not been named.

Israeli officials and AIPAC both denied the allegations, and Pentagon officials said they believed the investigation was limited in its scope.

The allegations, first reported by CBS News, come just days before Republicans and AIPAC leaders were expected to tout close ties between the United States and Israel at the Republican National Convention in New York.

But the suspicion that Israeli officials gained access to classified information could hurt the close coordination the two countries officially share, and make governmental officials wary of dealing with Israeli representatives.

If found true, the allegations could harm the reputation of AIPAC, considered the

most successful foreign policy lobbying group in Washington, with numerous advocates in Congress and in the American Jewish community.

Jewish officials were downplaying the story Sunday, standing behind AIPAC and suggesting that business at the Republican convention would proceed as normal, with more than a dozen Republican legislators and party leaders expected to address closed-door AIPAC forums.

At AIPAC's first pre-convention event Saturday evening, Sen. John McCain (R-Ariz.) and Rep. Eric Cantor (R-Va.) addressed the crowd, and New York Gov. George Pataki (R) made a surprise appearance, saying he wanted to show his solidarity with the pro-Israel lobby.

Other lawmakers and Jewish leaders were contacting AIPAC staff to find out how they could help or express their support.

"All of us will go on with our business," said Malcolm Hoenlein, executive vice chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations. "There is no change because of this story, and we should wait to see what happens in the coming days."

The charges evoked memories of Jonathan Pollard, the American Jew and former Navy intelligence officer who was sentenced to life in prison in 1987 for spying for Israel.

While some American Jewish officials now work to free Pollard, his spying for the Jewish state temporarily strained relations between the allies.

It also placed Jewish officials in the U.S.

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**BEHIND
THE
HEADLINES**

■ Israel lobby shaken by accusations against Dept. of Defense official

Continued from page 1

government under the microscope for suspicions of dual loyalty.

Franklin is not Jewish, however, and no motive for his alleged actions has been presented.

Israeli sources said Saturday that Franklin's work relations with Israeli officials did not exceed the boundaries of accepted diplomatic contact, Ha'aretz reported.

The sources said checks conducted over the weekend negated all possibility of espionage or unacceptable conduct and that no Israeli had received classified information from Franklin.

Because of the impact of the Pollard case had on U.S.-Israeli relations, Israel made a strategic decision afterward not to spy in the United States, Israeli officials told JTA.

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No arrests in the investigation have been made, but according to the CBS News report, the FBI has wiretaps, undercover surveillance and photography that show the exchange of a classified document regarding the formulation of Bush administration policy for Iran.

Israel has grown increasingly concerned about Iran, with officials saying the country is a larger threat to the Jewish state than the former Iraqi regime of Saddam Hussein.

Israel has stressed the threat Iran's nuclear weapons program poses to the stability of the Middle East.

Franklin is a desk officer on Iran within the Near East and South Asia bureau

at the Pentagon.

The division is overseen by Douglas Feith, the undersecretary of defense for policy, who was considered a strong advocate for the Iraq war.

Feith also was one of several Jewish "neo-conservatives" inside the government whom war critics have sought to portray as instigating the war in Iraq.

Sources inside and outside the administration said Franklin was a career official who was close to retirement and not considered a main architect of policy within the office.

According to media reports, some federal officials have suggested that the charges against Franklin may not rise to espionage, and rather may be limited to mishandling or improper use of classified materials, a more common charge.

Reuters quoted one former AIPAC official as saying the group made it a matter of policy to hire former Pentagon staffers to keep Israel informed of U.S. policy.

"It's a standard feature of the lobbying scene," the staffer said, according to Reuters. "How do you draw the line between a lobbyist briefing and spying? It's not as clear-cut as it should be."

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Jewish leaders seemed relieved that newspaper stories Sunday suggested the case might not rise to the level of criminal intent, and could instead focus on the mishandling of documents. Some suggested that because of the close coordination that goes on between U.S. officials and Israeli and American Jewish leaders, it was possible that a barrier to criminal conduct was inadvertently crossed.

"It's starting to sound more like a case of leaking than a case of spying," said Abraham Foxman, national director of the Anti-Defamation League. "Both are violations of trust, but one is serious and one is less serious."

Federal officials, who have been investigating this case for more than a year, suggest arrests could come as early as next week.

It's unclear whether any AIPAC staffers could be charged as well. The organization says it has made information

available to federal investigators, and staff members have been interviewed.

"Any allegation of criminal conduct by AIPAC or our employees is false and baseless," the pro-Israel lobby said in a statement last Friday. "Neither AIPAC nor any of its employees has violated any laws or rules, nor has AIPAC or its employees ever received information they believed was secret or classified."

Jewish leaders questioned the motives behind the leak to the media last Friday, and the timing.

The statement goes on to stress that AIPAC is made up of "proud and loyal U.S. citizens committed to promoting American interests." The statement was placed on the front page of AIPAC's Web site Saturday.

David Siegel, spokesman for the Israeli Embassy in Washington, also denied the allegations.

"The United States is Israel's most cherished friend and ally," Siegel said in a statement last Friday. "We have a strong, ongoing, working relationship at all levels and in no way would Israel do anything to impair this relationship."

One AIPAC official said the office conducted a thorough investigation last Friday after learning of the federal investigation.

Jewish leaders questioned the motives behind the leak to the media last Friday, and the timing.

"This thing smells," one former senior AIPAC staffer told JTA. "The Pentagon does not need AIPAC to carry messages to the Israeli government for them. They have continuous high-level channels of communication."

Israeli officials in Washington say they were not officially approached by investigators in this case, and learned of it through media accounts.

The Bush administration has touted its strong record on Israel and coordination with Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's government. The administration is credited with shutting out Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat and for saying that Palestinian refugees do not have the right to return to Israel. In recent weeks, administration officials also have moderated their opposition to some Israeli settlement construction in the West Bank.

JTA
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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.
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THIS WEEK**MONDAY**

■ The American Jewish Committee brings together congressional Republicans and political analysts on the first day of the Republican National Convention in New York to discuss "The Republican Party and the Jewish Community."

■ The Anti-Defamation League hosts a breakfast in New York with Sen. Gordon Smith (R-Ore.).

■ At the convention, the Republican Jewish Coalition hosts a "Salute to the Republican Congress" in the afternoon, featuring House Majority Leader Tom DeLay (R-Texas), Sens. Norm Coleman (R-Minn.), Rick Santorum (R-Penn.) and Arlen Specter (R-Penn.), and Republican National Committee chairman Ed Gillespie.

TUESDAY

■ The American Jewish Committee launches a series of policy forums examining ties between Jews and other minorities, all held around the Republican convention. The agenda includes encounters with the American-Indian, Korean, Turkish and Hispanic communities.

■ The Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations hosts a reception with the Republican Jewish Coalition in the afternoon at New York's Museum of Jewish Heritage. Republican leaders in Congress are expected to attend.

■ The Arab American Institute hosts an "Arab American Tribute to the Republican National Convention" at night, with appearances by Secretary of Energy Spencer Abraham, Sen. John Sununu (R-N.H.) and Rep. Darrell Issa (R-Calif.).

■ The National Jewish Democratic Council hosts a New York party to "Celebrate the Jewish Community in American Politics."

WEDNESDAY

■ The American Jewish Committee issues "A Call to Action on Darfur" during the Republican convention, focusing on the ethnic cleansing of Africans in western Sudan carried out by government-backed Arab militias.

■ The Arab American Institute hosts an examination of the impact of the Patriot Act on civil liberties against the backdrop of the convention of the Republican Party, which overwhelmingly favors the legislation.

■ The Jewish Community Center in Manhattan joins Friends of the Earth in hosting "Imagine04," a series of panels and films on the environment.

THURSDAY

■ The federal Argentine court deciding on 22 local defendants in the 1994 bombing of the AMIA community center in Buenos Aires delivers its verdict. Insiders anticipate a non-guilty ruling.

Jews join massive anti-Bush rally

By CHANAN TIGAY

NEW YORK, (JTA) — Nestled among the effigies of President Bush and posters of Che Guevara that anti-Republican protesters held aloft through the streets of midtown Manhattan were banners deriding another leader: Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon.

"Sharon is a murderer, the intifada will win!" several marchers chanted — in Hebrew.

A few feet away, another group of drum-banging, banner-waving protesters shouted: "Free, free Palestine," "Intifada, intifada!" and "Long Live Palestine."

Nearby, marcher Yori Yanover shook his head.

"The fact that I have to march

with people who stupidly carry signs about ending the occupation and who misunderstand the settler movement saddens me," said Yanover, 50, who fought for Israel in the Yom

Kippur War. "But I'm driven to cooperate with whoever is out there to help me get rid of Bush, this stain on America."

The organized Jewish community was to hold an event celebrating Jews' ties to the GOP later Sunday afternoon, in honor of the Republican National Convention to be held this week at Madison Square Garden.

And earlier Sunday, about 700 people turned out elsewhere in the city to read names of Israeli terror victims. Survivors of terrorist attacks and families who lost loved ones joined top Jewish community representatives and Israeli diplomats in addressing the crowd afterward.

But at the anti-Bush protest, among the tens of thousands who flooded by Madison Square Garden on a hot and muggy day were numerous Jews who did not believe that speaking out against Israel's presence in the West Bank and Gaza Strip was at all stupid.

"People should be outraged at what's going on. My tax dollars are paying for the massacre of Palestinians," said Terry Weber, 57, who was holding a sign reading, "Another Jewish Mets fan

against the occupation."

Though both Weber and Yanover hope to see President Bush ousted in November, their different takes on the situation in the Middle East highlight a dilemma facing many Jews as the presidential election draws near.

Over the three-plus years of his presidency, Bush has maintained extremely close ties with Israel and has made several historic decisions favoring the Jewish state. Many supporters of Israel see him as the most pro-Israel U.S. president in history.

But some Jews think Bush's approach to the Middle East has dampened the prospects for peace, and his domestic policies have flown in the face of American Jews' traditionally liberal takes on social and domestic issues.

"Even

though the Bush administration does support the Israeli government, there are too many other things they are doing domestically and internationally that are outrageous and

impossible to ignore," said Andrew Moers, 33, who works for an Internet company.

Bonnie Hulkower, 30, who studied in an Israeli yeshiva several years ago, agreed.

"Even though Israel is very important to me, that doesn't override health care, education, the environment, jobs," she said.

According to a recent poll by the National Jewish Democratic Council, likely U.S. Jewish voters favor the Democratic candidate, Sen. John Kerry of Massachusetts, over Bush by 75 percent to 22 percent.

But Kate Itzkowitz, 22, says Bush is too pro-Israel.

"Being absolutely pro-Israel isn't necessarily a good thing," she said. "I think Bush is not listening to all sides of the issue."

Several Jewish groups took part in the protest. Among them were Jews for Racial and Economic Justice, Jews Against the Occupation, Camp Kinderland of Tolland, Mass., and Heeb Magazine.

JTA Washington bureau chief Ron Kampeas contributed to this story.

Anti-Bush anger is high on both Israel and social issues

NEWS IN BRIEF

NORTH AMERICA

Orthodox rabbi probed for harassment

The main association of centrist Orthodox rabbis is investigating a high-profile cleric for sexual harassment.

The Rabbinical Council of America is investigating allegations made against Rabbi Mordecai Tendler, son of leading Yeshiva University Rabbi Moshe Tendler, according to the Forward newspaper.

A spokesman for Mordecai Tendler, who also is the grandson of the famed late Orthodox scion Rabbi Moshe Feinstein, denied the allegations that Tendler, a father of eight, had propositioned several women while serving as a rabbinic counselor or religious judge.

None of the women has filed a criminal complaint against Tendler, the report said.

Oregon Holocaust memorial opens

The Oregon Holocaust Memorial, complete with a replica of a European town square, was set to open Sunday.

A group of survivors proposed the monument a decade ago, but opposition by neighbors, including at least one Holocaust survivor, stalled the plan.

"When you get up now to get the morning paper, the first thing you see is a memorial to the Holocaust," said Doris Carlsen, a member of a neighborhood group that opposed the construction, The Associated Press reported.

The memorial consists of a town square replica strewn with artifacts left behind by deported Jews, a nine-foot wall bearing quotations by Holocaust survivors and the names of victims, and a vault filled with soil from several Nazi concentration camps. It is located in Portland's heavily wooded Washington Park.

Nazi's U.S. citizenship revoked

A U.S. federal judge revoked the U.S. citizenship of a former Nazi concentration camp guard.

The government said that Joseph Wittje, 84, who lives in Illinois, served as a guard with the SS Death's Head Guard battalion at Sachsenhausen during the war — and that he lied about his service when he applied for U.S. citizenship in 1959.

Last Friday, Judge Suzanne Conlon canceled Wittje's certificate of naturalization and ordered him to turn it over to the attorney general.

Group intervenes in Rwandan case

The Canadian Jewish Congress was granted intervener status in the case of Leon Mugesera, who allegedly delivered a speech in Rwanda in 1992 that incited hatred, murder and genocide.

Canada's Ministry of Citizenship and Immigration is contesting Mugesera's application for residence because of the alleged speech.

"CJC has strong feelings of empathy with the Rwandan community as fellow victims and survivors of genocide," said Manuel Prutschi, the group's national executive director. "We wanted to participate to ensure that those involved in any way in perpetrating the atrocities which took place in Rwanda are brought to justice and are prevented from entering and remaining in Canada."

The CJC has made numerous submissions to Canadian courts and has appeared as an expert witness on many ground-breaking cases involving hate speech, war crimes and human rights.

MIDDLE EAST

Israelis, Palestinians protest

Some 2,000 Israelis and Palestinians protested the Israeli presence in the West Bank and Gaza Strip last Friday.

Protesters at the march along the West Bank security fence called

for peaceful opposition to Israel's control over Palestinian-populated areas. Palestinian Authority Prime Minister Ahmed Qurei addressed the crowd, as did Arun Gandhi, the grandson of the late Indian leader Mahatma Gandhi, an advocate of non-violent resistance.

Palestinian militants kill 'collaborator'

Palestinian militants killed a man Saturday they said had collaborated with Israeli security forces.

Al-Aksa Brigade members gunned down the accused collaborator in front of onlookers in a Ramallah refugee camp, Ha'aretz reported.

IDF kills Palestinian gunman

Israeli soldiers killed a Palestinian gunman early Sunday trying to breach the Gaza Strip security fence, the army said.

Two other Palestinians accompanying the man fled, according to media reports.

The attempted penetration into southern Israel near the Karni crossing in Gaza came hours after the Israeli army lifted blockades on Gaza's main highway, which had been imposed following rocket attacks on the southern Israeli town of Sderot.

Triple murder shocks Israeli Ethiopians

An Ethiopian Israeli killed his stepmother, stepbrother and an Ethiopian community leader in the Israeli city of Afula on Saturday.

Yaakov Abu-Chai, 23, apparently shot the three to death after a family argument.

Tasama Muligta, 80, the head of Afula's Ethiopian community and a family friend, apparently had the fatal misfortune of being at the family's house when the argument ensued.

Abu-Chai, a security worker, used a pistol issued to him by his employer. He was wounded during a subsequent standoff with police and is under arrest at an Israeli hospital, news reports said.

The killings stunned Israel's Ethiopian community and prompted discussion in Israeli media about the need for more social-service outreach to the community.

WORLD

E.U. seeks WMD clause in Syria pact

The European Union wants to condition a trade accord with Damascus on a Syrian pledge to renounce weapons of mass destruction.

"It is crucial that the clause about weapons of mass destruction will be also accepted," German Foreign Minister Joschka Fischer said Saturday after meeting with Syria's foreign minister, Reuters reported. The executive European Commission had negotiated the accord with Syria in December 2003, but several nations complained that it fell short of an E.U. commitment to press countries like Syria to abandon programs to develop weapons of mass destruction.

The accord has grown in importance since the United States imposed sanctions on Syria in May in part due to its arms programs.

Swiss community leader dies

Sigi Feigel, a Swiss Jewish leader, died in Zurich on Saturday at age 83. Feigel, a lawyer, helped fight racism and anti-Semitism and championed the cause of minorities, the Swiss news outlet NZZ reported. Feigel served as president of the Zurich Jewish community for many years before becoming its honorary president in 1987.

Born in Zurich in 1921 to a family of Russian immigrants, Feigel studied law and became president of the Jewish students' society at the city's university.

"It is a big loss for the Jews of Switzerland and particularly for the Jewish community of Zurich," said Beni Witztum, secretary general of the city's community.