

IN THE NEWS
Bush makes Israel part of U.N. speech

President Bush called on the world community to end its support of 'corrupt' Palestinian leaders.

In remarks Tuesday in front of the U.N. General Assembly in New York, Bush also called on Israel to impose a freeze on settlements in the West Bank.

"Israel should impose a settlement freeze, dismantle unauthorized outposts, end the daily humiliation of the Palestinian people and avoid any actions that prejudice final negotiations," Bush said.

"And world leaders should withdraw all favor and support from any Palestinian ruler who fails his people and betrays their cause."

Strike in Israel strands thousands

Thousands of travelers in Israel were stranded by a general strike that grounded planes at Ben-Gurion Airport.

Three incoming El Al flights had to be rerouted to Europe after the open-ended public strike began Tuesday.

Government ministries, financial markets, courts and even religious burial services joined the action declared to protest non-payment of municipal salaries.

The Manufacturers Association put the price of the strike at \$214 million a day. Israel's main labor court was slated to discuss a Finance Ministry request for emergency back-to-work injunctions against some 400,000 striking workers.

Islamic forum banned in Germany

German officials banned an Islamist conference calling for resistance against "American and Zionist terror."

The Senate of Berlin announced Monday that the Congress of Islamists, whose Web site contained these statements, would not take place as planned in early October.

WORLD REPORT

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Official heading AIPAC probe linked to anti-Semitism case

By EDWIN BLACK

WASHINGTON (JTA) — David Szady, the senior FBI counterintelligence official currently heading the controversial investigation of the American Israel Public Affairs Committee, is well-known to senior Jewish communal officials, who assert he has targeted Jews in the past.

Now, an investigation reveals that Szady was involved in a well-publicized case involving a Jewish former CIA staff attorney who sued the FBI, the CIA and its top officials for religious discrimination.

Although not named in the suit, Szady headed the elite department that former CIA Director George Tenet admitted in 1999 was involved with "insensitive, unprofessional and highly inappropriate" language regarding the case of the attorney, Adam Ciralsky.

INVESTIGATIVE REPORT

The AIPAC investigation, which CBS broke last month on the eve of the Republican convention, is believed to focus on a Pentagon official suspected of passing a classified draft policy statement on Iran to AIPAC, the pro-Israel lobby, which allegedly then passed it on to Israel.

AIPAC denies any wrongdoing and has called the alleged charges "baseless." But the case cast a spotlight on the venerable lobbying organization and has sent shock waves through the Jewish community.

Many questions remain unresolved, including who initiated the investigation, believed to have begun two years ago, and why.

Szady, who was appointed by President Bush in 2000 to head a little-known intelligence interagency unit known as the National Counter Intelligence Policy Board, returned

to the FBI about two years ago, becoming assistant director for counterintelligence.

Jewish communal officials familiar with Szady assert he has targeted Jews, blocked or slowed their clearances and squeezed minor security violators.

"He's bad, very bad," declared one senior Jewish organizational executive, who like all those familiar with Szady declined to speak for the record.

According to exclusively obtained documents, Szady was directly involved in the Ciralsky case. He is identified in the documents as the chief of the CIA's Counterespionage Group, known as CEG, which was later accused of targeting Ciralsky for being Jewish and a supporter of Israel.

Szady would not respond directly to a request for an interview, but FBI spokeswoman Cassandra Chandler said, "David Szady has informed me that he has no anti-Semitic views, has never handled a case or investigation based upon an individual's ethnicity or religious views, and would never do so."

Of the AIPAC investigation in particular, Chandler said: "Investigations are predicated upon information of possible illegal or intelligence activity. The suggestion that the FBI or any FBI official has influenced this investigation based on moral, ethnic or religious bias is simply unfounded, untrue, and contrary to the very values the FBI holds highest."

Ciralsky's problems began as soon as he joined the CIA's legal staff as a junior member in early December 1996. Within days, CIA security personnel began creating a special file on Ciralsky and his Jewish background, according to the documents.

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■ AIPAC prober linked to anti-Semitism case

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By Jan. 15, 1997, the agency had created a four-page annotated "Jewish resume" of Ciralsky, which was classified "secret." The resume listed Ciralsky's teenage trips to Israel in 1987 with the Milwaukee federation and for Passover in 1988, his camp counselor stint at the Milwaukee JCC's day camp, and his minor in Judaic studies at George Washington University. His major in international affairs was not mentioned.

By May 1997, Szady, a 32-year veteran of the FBI, had joined the CIA as chief of the Counterespionage Group within the CIA's Counterintelligence Center. A presidential directive mandates that an independent FBI official serve as chief of the CIA's Counterespionage Group.

Although Szady was not in his post when Ciralsky was hired, shortly after Szady assumed his new position, the counterespionage group appeared determined to terminate Ciralsky.

On June 12, 1997, a memo entitled, "Spot Report-Next Steps in the Adam Ciralsky Case" was circulated by Szady's department, outlining what would be done to force Ciralsky from the agency.

Although Szady's name is blocked out, his bureaucratic initials, C/CEG/CIC, on two routing pages plus the hand-written acknowledgment next to his initials, show he received the "Spot Report" the day it was written, according to sources with personal knowledge of the case.

By September 1997, unable to find any incriminating information on Ciralsky,

Szady's CEG assigned teams of investigators to ramp up the pressure with multiple interrogations, according to documents.

A Sept. 12, 1997, memo suggested, "Maybe his family has donated money to Israeli government causes."

A week later, Sept. 19, 1997, before a security polygraph had even been administered, Szady's CEG circulated a secret memo saying that former CIA director "Tenet says this guy is outta here because of lack of candor... Once that's over, it looks like we'll be waving goodbye to our friend."

Szady was third on the distribution list to receive that Sept. 19 memo, according to the routing slip and sources.

A handwritten note on the routing slips comments, "Great job — we should have Ciralsky's report in the security file... This will definitely...result in termination by cancellation of contract! Thx."

Ciralsky complained to the CIA's inspector general, the Office of Equal Employment Opportunity, to senior administration officials and to Malcolm Hoenlein, executive vice chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations.

After the outlines of the Ciralsky story broke in 1998, the CIA launched an internal and external review of Szady's department, the CEG, to determine whether it had engaged in anti-Semitism.

As a result of that review, Tenet conceded in a letter to Abraham Foxman, the Anti-Defamation League's national director, that "some of the language used by some of the investigators in this case was insensitive, unprofessional and highly inappropriate."

After the review, the CIA hired the ADL to conduct "sensitivity training" within the ranks of Szady's CEG.

Foxman said, "The sensitivity training in the CIA was not directed at one individual. It was directed at a situation. There was a concern in the agency at that time that the world was changing and the agency itself needed its staff to be sensitive to diversity."

After he left the CIA in 1998, when his contract was not renewed, Ciralsky filed a lawsuit against the CIA, the FBI and others, alleging that he was "unjustly singled out for investigation and subsequently interro-

gated, harassed, surveilled and terminated from employment with the CIA solely because he is a Jew and he practices the Jewish religion," according to the complaint.

Ciralsky's case was not isolated within the intelligence community, according to senior officials at Jewish organizations who declined to speak for the record. One Jewish official stated that he knew of as many as 10 other CIA employees who had been harassed or pressured because of their Jewish background, but they were afraid to come forward.

Postings on the CIA's internal Jewish-only bulletin board — the agency allows various ethnic groups within its ranks to share company tidbits — reflect that numerous

employees feel anti-Semitism is rampant. One such posting in 2000, obtained from sources, asks, "Does anyone know how one would go about informing the D/CI [director of central intelligence] 'directly that some incidents of anti-Semitism...are tolerated?'"

Despite Szady's direct involvement in the Ciralsky case, Szady was decorated twice by the CIA for distinguished service, once with its Seal Medallion and once with the Donovan Award.

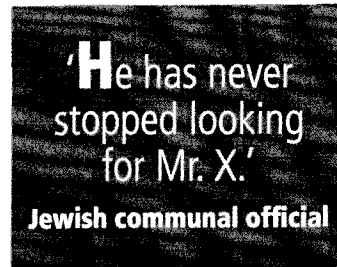
One Jewish communal official said of Szady, "He has never stopped looking for Mr. X," the elusive individual some FBI officials hypothesized worked with Jonathan Pollard, who was sentenced in 1987 for spying for Israel.

At least one senior Jewish official cautioned against concluding too much. "Szady might just be over-zealous. I know Jews who have been to his house and they assure they saw no evidence of prejudice."

On Szady's link to the Ciralsky case, American Jewish Congress chairman Jack Rosen said, "The FBI, in recent years, has been criticized for many things, and if the story is true, I would urge that an outside and independent individual or group come in to investigate."

Ciralsky, now a TV network newsmen, declined to comment on his case. His lawsuit has been caught up in pre-trial legal limbo, hampered by a series of preliminary motions, according to attorneys familiar with the case.

(Investigative reporter Edwin Black has covered allegations of Israeli spying in the United States.)



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Poll: Bush's Jewish outreach leads to minor gains

By MATTHEW E. BERGER

WASHINGTON (JTA) — A survey published less than two months before the presidential election shows a small bump for President Bush in the American Jewish vote, despite his campaign's energetic outreach to the community.

The nonpartisan poll, commissioned by the American Jewish Committee, found Jews backing Democratic presidential candidate Sen. John Kerry (D-Mass.) over Bush by nearly a 3-to-1 margin.

Bush received 24 percent of respondents' support in the poll, just a 5 percent increase from his performance among Jewish voters in the 2000 presidential election. Kerry received 69 percent support among those polled in the new survey.

Democrats say the poll is another sign that Bush's messages to the Jewish community are not resonating, while Republicans say it shows Kerry lagging behind recent Jewish support for the Democratic Party's candidate.

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The annual poll of Jewish views showed a majority of American Jews disapprove of the U.S. government's handling of the war against terrorism and the war in Iraq.

It also found wide support in the Jewish community for Israel's current policies in the Middle East, such as unilateral withdrawal from the Gaza Strip and the West Bank security barrier.

Still, backing for Bush administration policy in the Middle East is not turning into votes for the president.

The Bush/Cheney campaign has been working hard to garner additional Jewish support this election season, capitalizing on support within the Jewish community for Bush's policies on Israel.

But while many tout anecdotal shifts to the Bush camp among Jews, polling data continues to suggest that Jews will not change their traditional alliance with the Democratic Party in November.

Market Facts conducted the American Jewish Committee poll, in which 1,000 Jews were surveyed during the course of two weeks last month. Three percent of respondents backed independent candidate Ralph Nader and 5 percent were undecided.

The results of the poll, which has a 3 percentage point margin of error, are similar to other surveys of the Jewish vote done within the last year.

A National Jewish Democratic Council

poll last month had Kerry garnering 75 percent to Bush's 22 percent, and last year's American Jewish Committee poll, taken before the Democratic primaries, had Bush getting 31 percent to Kerry's 59 percent in a theoretical matchup.

The American Jewish Committee polls did not seek likely or registered voters, only survey respondents. Market Facts maintains a pool of respondents who have said they are Jewish, and randomly dials from that pool to reach Jews. Democrats say the latest poll shows Jews remain loyal to the party.

"It looks pretty similar to our poll," said Ira Forman, executive director of the National Jewish Democratic Council. He said he believes Kerry could accumulate more Jewish support as the candidate continues to define himself to voters and noted that incumbents rarely do well among undecided voters.

But Republicans see the numbers differently, touting Bush's improvement in Jewish support from 2000.

"If these numbers hold, the president will do" significantly better than he did in 2000," said Matt Brooks, executive director of the Republican Jewish Coalition. "Thirty percent movement is by any measure a significant measure."

■
And in an apparent change of strategy, Republicans are highlighting what they describe as Kerry's relatively weak support among Jewish voters, when comparing him to other Democratic presidential candidates of the last 12 years.

Vice President Al Gore garnered 79 percent of the Jewish vote in 2000, and President Clinton won 80 percent in 1992 and 78 percent in 1996.

But the 1988 Democratic candidate, Michael Dukakis, got 64 percent of the Jewish support, and Walter Mondale won 67 percent in 1984.

Republicans have been engaged in a strong effort to woo Jewish voters. The White House published a 23-page booklet touting Bush's support for Jewish issues and the party held events geared toward the Orthodox community at the Republican National Convention last month in New York.

In recent weeks, however, Bush backers have minimized expectations, acknowledging that Bush will likely not hit the 30 percent threshold some had predicted a year ago.

"We've never come out and said, 'We'll achieve X amount of the vote,'" Michael Lebovitz, Jewish liaison for the Bush/Cheney campaign, said Monday. "We have a long-term commitment."

The goal is now more focused on making a substantial dent in key states such as Florida and Ohio, where the race is close and there are a large percentage of Jews.

"The Republicans were never going to win a majority of Jewish

voters," said Ken Goldstein, professor of political science and Judaic studies at the University of Wisconsin. "It was always going to be about trying to steal a few, and it matters where those eight, nine, 10 are coming from."

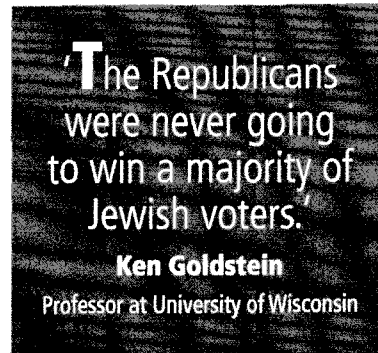
■
The poll shows Jews distancing themselves from Bush precisely on issues like foreign policy where the Bush campaign hoped to take traction.

Most respondents were not happy with the country's foreign policy direction, with 52 percent disapproving of the handling of the campaign against terrorism, and 66 percent disapproving of the war in Iraq.

By contrast, the latest Gallup poll shows 57 percent of Americans believe the United States did not make a mistake in sending American troops in Iraq. In addition, 59 percent of Americans said they were at least somewhat satisfied with the United States' handling of the war in Iraq.

The AJCommittee survey found that 63 percent of American Jews support the Israeli government's handling of relations with the Palestinian Authority. The unilateral withdrawal plan had 65 percent support, and the security fence garnered 69 percent support.

Fifty-seven percent of Jews said they favored the creation of a Palestinian state, and 69 percent of respondents said Israel should be willing to dismantle all or some Jewish settlements in the West Bank to reach a permanent settlement. ■



NEWS IN BRIEF

MIDEAST

Israel eyes Iran reactors

The United States reportedly plans to sell Israel bombs capable of destroying Iranian atomic facilities.

Citing Israeli sources, Ha'aretz said Tuesday that the Pentagon would sell Israel guided air force munitions, including 500 "bunker busters," after the November presidential elections.

U.S. officials did not immediately comment on the reported \$319 million deal.

Earlier this month, Ha'aretz said Israel sought to buy the bombs for a possible future strike against Iran's atomic facilities, many of which are underground.

Hamas: Stop Iraqi kidnappings

A Hamas leader called on Iraqi insurgents to stop taking hostages.

"We are against kidnappings and we wish the Iraqi resistance would stay away from this behavior and concentrate on its natural right in defending its land and people, by resisting the occupation forces, foremost the American occupation," Khaled Meshaal said Monday in an interview with The Associated Press in Cairo.

Hours later, a video was shown on a Web site showing the beheading of a man identified as kidnapped American construction contractor Eugene Armstrong. Meshaal is in Egypt as part of efforts to unite Palestinian groups before Israel withdraws from the Gaza Strip.

Israeli 'refuseniks' dishonorably discharged

Five Israeli conscientious objectors were kicked out of the Israeli army after spending almost two years in the stockade.

The army cited "conduct unbecoming" soldiers as the reason for the dishonorable discharge Tuesday of the five men, who were jailed in 2002 for refusing induction orders.

The activists remained firm in their opposition to Israel's handling of the Palestinians.

Gay marriage fight hits Israel

A gay Israeli who is a former member of Knesset married his partner in Canada.

Uzi Even married Amit Kamah last Friday in Toronto.

Now the couple is planning to fight to win legal recognition for their union from Israel's Interior Ministry, the Jerusalem Post reported. Interior Minister Avraham Poraz has voiced sympathy for "alternative" unions, but he still faces opposition from religious Israelis for whom gay marriage is anathema.

Even and Kamah said they would petition the High Court of Justice should the Interior Ministry not come through.

NORTH AMERICA

Senate panel extends loan guarantees

A U.S. Senate panel has given Israel two more years to use its loan guarantees.

The Senate Appropriations Committee honored an Israeli request last week to extend until fiscal year 2007 the opportunity to take out up to \$5.5 billion in loans at a lower rate, guaranteed by the United States.

Rising interest rates have stopped the Jewish state from seeking all of the \$9 billion it received in loan guarantees in 2002.

The bill also laid out \$360 million in economic aid and \$2.2 billion in military aid for Israel, as well as allowing for reduced rates for the training of Israel Defense Forces officials on American soil.

The bill still needs to be approved by the full Senate, and brought to a conference committee.

Palestinian-born imam going to jail

A Palestinian-born leader of a U.S. mosque was sentenced to jail for lying about his connection to terrorist groups when he applied for citizenship.

Fawaz Damra, the imam of the Islamic Center of Cleveland, received two months in prison and four months of house arrest on Monday.

Damra was convicted in June of lying about his ties to terrorist groups, including Islamic Jihad. U.S. District Judge James Gwin did not comment on a prosecutor's request that Damra be deported.

Bus exhibit a problem in Dallas

The arrival of an Israeli bus hit by terror at a "messianic Jewish" congregation in Dallas is creating an uproar.

Jews in Dallas say use of "Bus No. 19" at Baruch HaShem's Yom Kippur commemoration is offensive.

The bus tour was an attempt to bring Christians and Jews together.

The bus was blown up in a Palestinian terror attack in January.

N.Y. man arrested for 'hateful recruitment'

A U.S. man was arrested for recruiting children to post pro-Nazi and pro-white supremacist stickers on buildings, including a synagogue.

The New York Times reported Tuesday that Thomas Zibelli, who lives in New York City, was charged with criminal mischief and aggravated harassment.

The prosecutor recommended the charges be labeled as hate crimes.

WORLD

Sentence urged in attack on Soviet Jews

German prosecutors called for a 12-year jail sentence for a woman in connection with a failed bombing of a busload of Soviet Jews in Hungary.

Andrea Klump, 47, who has been linked with the Red Army Faction terrorist group, is charged with aiding and abetting attempted murder in the 1991 attack in Budapest on a bus carrying Soviet Jews on their way to Israel or the West.

Klump is currently serving a nine-year sentence for attempting to set off a bomb at a NATO base in Rota, Spain, in June 1988.

Prosecutors are asking for the new sentence to run concurrently.

Israeli wins gold at Paralympics

Itzhak Mamistalov won Israel's first gold medal at the 2004 Paralympics in Athens.

On Tuesday, Mamistalov set a Paralympics record in the men's 100-meter freestyle swim. Earlier Tuesday, Israeli Doron Shaziri won a bronze in the men's free rifle contest.

Beit Din ruling upheld in South Africa

A South African judge upheld a Jewish court's right to excommunicate a man from the Jewish community.

On Sept. 15, Frans Malan dismissed a case brought by a man who said a Beit Din in Johannesburg had exceeded its authority by excommunicating him for not paying child support.

Excommunication, Malan ruled, is part of Orthodox Judaism, and if a person wants to be part of an Orthodox community, he has to abide by its disciplines and guidelines.

The judge said the excommunication order was not contrary to the South African Constitution's principles on freedom of religion, since that right also allowed for the autonomy of a particular faith to set guidelines for admission of members.