

IN THE NEWS

Powell to push peace during visit to Israel

Colin Powell went to Israel for a last peace mission as U.S. secretary of state.

Powell arrived in Tel Aviv on Sunday and was expected to meet with Israeli and Palestinian leaders on Monday.

Sources close to Prime Minister Ariel Sharon said they expected Powell to ask Israel to scale back its military operations in the West Bank and Gaza Strip to facilitate Palestinian elections there on Jan. 9.

The Palestinians said they would press the outgoing U.S. secretary of state to keep Washington's pledge to see a Palestinian state created by the end of 2005.

Clash in the casbah

Israeli forces killed three Palestinian youths in West Bank and Gaza Strip clashes.

Troops in the Gaza Strip opened fire on a gunman in Gaza on Sunday, killing him.

On Saturday, two Palestinian teenagers were killed in the Nablus casbah as troops dispersed hundreds of rock throwers.

Supreme Court nixes Demjanjuk's appeal

The U.S. Supreme Court recently declined an appeal from John Demjanjuk to restore his U.S. citizenship.

A judge stripped the Ukrainian-born Cleveland man of his citizenship in 2002, ruling that he had lied and hid his past as a Nazi concentration camp guard in order to gain citizenship.

Demjanjuk, 84, does not face deportation until all his appeals are exhausted; at least one other is still working its way through the courts.

Demjanjuk was acquitted in Israel in 1993 of being "Ivan the Terrible," but has been unable to refute evidence that he was a Nazi guard.



WORLD REPORT

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With G.A. remarks about Bush, leader shows election rift unhealed

By RACHEL POMERANCE

NEW YORK (JTA) — Washington spin-masters William Kristol and James Carville traded their typical quick-witted takes on the presidential election in a plenary session at the annual gathering of the North American Jewish federation system.

But the real zinger came from the master of ceremonies.

Shoshana Cardin dismayed some members of the audience — and delighted others — with her prepared remarks on the challenges the Jewish community faces under the Bush administration.

"There is a contradiction between our agenda and the Republican sweep," said Cardin, a past president of the federation system and of JTA. "The struggle to adapt to an agenda that is as Christian" as the Republican agenda, she said, "is our struggle."

She also said President Bush's comments in his first news conference after re-election, when he pledged to "reach out to all who share my goals," were troubling.

"That doesn't exactly include me," Cardin said in her remarks Nov. 15. "To reach out means to all, not only to those who share his goals."

Cardin's speech was one of two clear ripples the presidential election sent through the United Jewish Communities' General Assembly, held Nov. 14-17 in Cleveland.

The second controversy, over whether to send Bush a letter congratulating him on his election victory, was further proof that the Jewish community hasn't completely come together in support of the administration a few weeks after a bitterly divisive election.

Cardin is a registered Democrat, but she

told JTA that she voted for Bush because she believes he understands the importance of the war on terrorism and has the strength to wage it.

Though some in the audience took offense at Cardin's comments, she said they weren't meant to bash the president but to stress the need for the Jewish community to emphasize its own values, which sometimes may clash with Christian ones.

"We have to recognize that we are in a wonderful host country, but the calendar is Christian and the values that are being espoused now by 'Middle America,' if you will, are Christian values, and we have to speak up and express our values, which are not identical," she told JTA. She noted, for example, the difference in religious Christian and Jewish views about when life begins.

Not everyone took Cardin's remarks at the G.A. as she intended them.

At least one federation director, who asked to remain anonymous, walked out of the session because he found the talk inappropriately partisan. While Cardin's words did win some applause, several in the audience said Cardin had exploited her role, using the stage as a bully pulpit.

"I don't believe the G.A. is the forum for it," Robert Goldberg, chairman of the UJC's board of trustees, said of Cardin's comments.

Cardin, who was recognized as "an exceptional volunteer leader" at the General Assembly — the quarterly Journal of Jewish Communal Service was dedicated to her — is known for speaking her mind.

The most famous example of that came under the first President Bush, when Cardin told

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**BEHIND
THE
HEADLINES**

■ Controversy at the G.A. highlights post-election gap among American Jews

Continued from page 1

him during a White House meeting that his depiction of himself fending off pro-Israel activists in a dispute over U.S. loan guarantees fueled anti-Semitism.

The president not only apologized to Jewish officials for his comment, but reportedly also shed a tear over it.

The second political controversy came at a joint meeting of the UJC governing bodies, the board of trustees and Delegate Assembly, during debate on a motion to congratulate Bush on his re-election.

The motion passed the Delegate Assembly nearly unanimously, but not before a round of public comments showed that some took issue with the idea.

The debate shows "that there are lingering tensions within the Jewish community, which I think reflect the fact that there are lingering tensions within the American community," said Eric Stillman, executive director of the Jewish Federation of Greater New Orleans.

Stillman reminded those present that Bush had congratulated former UJC President and CEO Stephen Hoffman when he took over the organization in 2001.

The idea of sending a letter was meant as "a positive gesture that UJC and the federations wanted to demonstrate to whoever won the presidency that we were looking forward to working with that person," Stillman told JTA.

Daniel Chejfec, executive director of the Central Kentucky Jewish Federation, said he voted against the motion because the federation system should be non-partisan.

"Our main trust is not to support one party or the other" but "to keep the community together and to build consensus," Chejfec said. Sending Bush a letter of congratulations would polarize the community, he said.

Others said a congratulatory letter was not a political statement.

Bush "should know that he has the support of the Jewish community through the federation system," Goldberg told JTA. "It's a message to the president: 'Now that you're elected, we're going to all support you.'"

John Ruskey, executive vice president and CEO of the UJA-Federation of New York, received widespread applause when he noted that the country already had chosen its leader, and the Jewish community would need his aid on numerous matters.

Richard Wexler of Chicago, UJC's vice chairman, said he doubted whether the letter to Bush is likely to "make a whole lot of difference in how his administration deals with issues that relate to the things we value."

Still, he noted, "every Shabbat we say a prayer for the leader of our country, and maybe this resolution was in keeping with that."

But Wexler noted the importance of

impartiality in the federation system, and had strong words for Cardin.

"The leadership of our communities need to be impartial in public gatherings, and when she was given this program to moderate I'm sure it was given with the expectation that she would keep the trust that was imposed on her by her selection," he said. "Instead, she chose to use it as her personal political forum."

Cardin, however, said she "was told to give my perception of the result of the election for the Jewish community."

She was not told to be controversial, though "giving my perspective would automatically be controversial," she admitted.

"It's not at all my personal agenda," she said. "I believe this is what we're experiencing."

She knew that Carville and Kristol would provide both sides of the partisan debate, she said, and "I would explain what I thought are our challenges."

Cardin added that she thought the debate over congratulating Bush was superfluous.

"It's appropriate that we acknowledge the victory in the election," she said, "and the fact that he is our president for the next four years."

(JTA Washington Bureau Chief Ron Kampeas contributed to this story.)



Lawsuit filed over Al-Durrah case

PARIS (JTA) — French television channel has filed a defamation lawsuit over claims that the station faked the infamous shooting of a Palestinian child.

Arlette Charbot, head of news at the publicly owned France 2, which filmed the death of Mohammed Al-Durrah in his father's arms in the Gaza Strip in 2000, said last Friday that certain Internet sites, most notably the Franco-Israeli Metula News Agency claimed that "Al-Durrah wasn't dead, his father had never been injured and the whole thing was set up and filmed by France 2."

Such claims form the basis of a book published earlier this year in France by Stephane Juffa, MENA's editor in chief.

The death of Al-Durrah in a firefight between Israeli soldiers and Palestinian

Authority troops helped inflame anti-Israel passions throughout the Arab world at the start of the intifada.

Israel apologized for the incident, though subsequent investigations showed it is unlikely the boy was shot from the Israeli side. Juffa did not return JTA requests for comment.

Stephane Friedfeld, deputy director of the Union of French Jewish Employers and Professionals, which has distributed in France a German film about the event, told JTA that France 2 had used its film in a biased way by stating that Israel was responsible for the boy's death.

Friedfeld described the German film as "more nuanced" than Juffa's claims, saying he did not expect his own organization to be cited in the defamation action.

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THIS WEEK**MONDAY**

■ The Yad Vashem Holocaust memorial in Jerusalem opens its new central database of Shoah victims' names. The database, which will allow public interaction and contributions of new names and materials, can be accessed at www.yadvashem.org. Also, researchers from around the world take part in an international conference on Holocaust research through Wednesday at Yad Vashem.

■ The first international meeting of Generations of the Shoah to be held in Spanish continues through Wednesday in Buenos Aires. The annual event generally is held in the United States or Israel. This year's event, which will have wide non-Jewish participation, will focus on Holocaust rescuers. Between 300 and 1,000 people are expected. There will be conferences and workshops as well as eight films with Holocaust-related themes.

TUESDAY

■ The Orthodox Union kicks off a two-day Israel advocacy seminar in Jerusalem. The seminar, which includes briefings from diplomats and Israel Defense Forces officers, precedes the group's Thanksgiving weekend convention. The Orthodox Union aims to create a national grass-roots Israel advocacy network in its synagogues in North America.

WEDNESDAY

■ Some 800 people from the United States and Canada are expected in Jerusalem for the Orthodox Union's Biennial National Convention, which runs through Sunday and will determine the direction the organization will take over the next two years. Stephen Savitsky of Long Island, currently chairman of the group's board, will succeed Harvey Blitz as O.U. president.

THURSDAY

■ The International Atomic Nuclear Agency meets in Vienna to consider whether to refer Iranian violations of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty to the U.N. Security Council for sanctions. Iran recently agreed once again to freeze uranium enrichment in exchange for the backing of some European nations at the IAEA meeting, but the United States and Israel say the agreement does not go far enough — and Iranian opposition groups have since said Iran is continuing programs to develop nuclear weapons.

SATURDAY

■ More than 150 intellectuals and world leaders from the United States, Europe, Asia and Israel will take part in the second Jerusalem Summit, through Nov. 30. This year's meeting will examine challenges in the aftermath of Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat's death.

Overhauling Israel's spy game

By DAN BARON

HERZLIYA, Israel (JTA) — On a stormy night in 1950, 5-year-old Holocaust survivor Meir Huberman perched atop the bucking stern of an immigrant ship and prayed to reach Israel's shore safely. He did.

Now renamed Dagan and toughened by almost a half-century defending the Jewish state, that son of Russian refugees heads one of the world's most fearsome secret services: the Mossad.

Evidence is mounting that Dagan has restored the Mossad's reputation for deadly derring-do — despite the diplomatic risks for Israel.

Since Dagan was made spymaster in 2002 by his old army buddy, Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, at least four Arab terrorists have died in foreign operations widely attributed to the Mossad.

Most recently, Hamas military strategist Izzadin Sheikh Khalil was killed in Damascus in a car bombing for which Israeli security sources admitted responsibility — the first time Jerusalem had mounted an assassination in Syria's capital.

A retired general of compact build and few words, Dagan has stayed in the shadows since taking over the Mossad. But an interview he gave in 1998, while serving as counterterrorism adviser in the Prime Minister's Office, was instructive.

"In my opinion, no terrorist should feel immune, anywhere," he told Channel Two television. "I think that a person's life is forfeit the moment he decides to adopt" terrorist tactics.

It was an attitude that, to many, seemed warranted after Al-Qaida blew up an Israeli-owned hotel and tried to shoot down an Israeli passenger jet in Kenya in November 2002. More than a dozen people died in the hotel bombing, but the toll easily could have been hundreds more had the plane been hit. Sharon gave Dagan a new mandate to hunt down Israel's enemies abroad.

The news was not well received in Europe, which after the massacre of Israeli athletes at the 1972 Munich Olympics had weathered Mossad assassinations of Palestinian fugitives on its soil.

The Swedish Parliament held an emer-

gency session at which some lawmakers urged that Israel be told that as a civilized country it should not resort to hit teams.

Dagan was undeterred. The Mossad tripled its recruitment, even launching a Web site where would-be spies can apply. And, security sources say, much of the agency's annual budget of some \$350 million has been diverted to field operations and "special tasks."

"As someone who is privy to the facts, but is not at liberty to divulge them, I can say this with complete authority: The Mossad under Meir Dagan has undergone a revolution in

terms of organization, intelligence and operations," Ehud Yatom, a member of the Knesset Subcommittee on Secret Services, wrote in the Ma'ariv newspaper. "And he is far from done."

Over the past two years, the Mossad has foiled three major Islamist attacks intended against Israeli targets in Africa, and another in Thailand, according to sources.

But the counterterrorist quest has not been allowed to supercede another Israeli priority — tracking Iran's nuclear program. The result is a caseload that, on at least one occasion, appears to have caused the Mossad an embarrassing slip-up.

Earlier this year, two Israelis were caught in Auckland trying to obtain a New Zealand passport by assuming the identity of a bedridden local man. They pleaded guilty and spent six months in jail.

Intelligence experts speculated that the Israelis were under pressure to obtain a New Zealand passport, with the relatively free access it would grant its holder to Arab countries and Iran, for an impending mission.

"Our zest to get the enemy at all costs sometimes costs us dearly in terms of international standing," said Yigal Eyal, a former Mossad operative.

The price in prestige has had ramifications closer to home, within the high walls of the Mossad's Herzliya headquarters.

A Channel Two expose said around 200 Mossad operatives, including seven section heads, had resigned in protest since Dagan took over. This was contested by one former spy, who attributed most of the walkouts to a change in Israeli pension laws that made early retirement attractive to senior staff. ■



NEWS IN BRIEF

WORLD

France allows Al-Manar

French Jewish leaders slammed a French broadcasting authority decision to allow satellite transmission of a Hezbollah TV channel.

A French court had ordered the Lebanese-based Al-Manar channel to re-submit its application for broadcasting rights after the channel transmitted a virulently anti-Semitic TV series in November 2003 based on the Protocols of the Elders of Zion.

Last week, however, the authority said Al-Manar could continue broadcasting.

Survivors fete French town

A group of Holocaust survivors honored a French village that saved more than 100 Jews during World War II.

Around 30 survivors and their families unveiled a plaque at Chateaumeillant in central France on Saturday in homage to the village that provided a refuge for around 40 Jewish families from the Paris region between 1940 and 1944.

Adopted by the local population, the refugees worked with artisans in the region while children attended the local school.

Apart from a few Jews who were arrested and sent to Nazi death camps, Jews in the village were able to remain in Chateaumeillant throughout the war thanks to a system whereby the local police officers warned the local population in advance of planned round-ups.

Jews, Muslims have forum in Paris

Jewish and Muslim groups held an interfaith conference and exhibition in Paris.

The event, held Sunday at the City of Science and Industry museum, marked the launch of the Jewish-Muslim Friendship Association, an organization sponsored by official groups from the two faiths.

The group was formed on an initiative from Rabbi Michel Serfaty, who heads the Commission for Relations with Muslims at the Paris Consistoire.

Photographer's family to sue Israel

The family of a British cameraman killed in Gaza last year is to launch a civil action against the Israeli government over his death.

James Miller was shot in May 2003 while filming a documentary about Palestinian children living in refugee camps in Gaza.

Miller's sister, Anne Waddington, said she did not believe that the Israeli military police had conducted a proper inquiry into the incident.

She added: "We will be issuing a civil action not only for my brother's murder but also for contributory negligence to our compounded grief."

The film Miller had been making was completed after his death and won him a posthumous film award earlier this month.

Neo-Nazi rally protested

Germany's Jewish community is protesting plans by neo-Nazis to demonstrate on the 60th anniversary of the end of World War II.

Right-wing extremists say they will demonstrate "against 60 years of liberation lies" and for an "end to the cult of guilt," on May 8, 2005, at Berlin's Brandenburg Gate.

The city landmark, located in the government quarter, is only steps away from the new Holocaust memorial which is to be dedicated at that time.

Calling the planned demonstration a "scandalous provocation and slap in the face of democracy," Paul Spiegel, head of the Central Council of Jews in Germany, urged politicians not to ignore the threat.

Belgian team banned

Belgium's national soccer association banned a junior team after its members shouted anti-Semitic slogans at Jewish opponents.

The ban, which will last until the end of the season, was imposed last Friday on the FC Harlem junior side, a mainly Turkish team from the Brussels area, after they greeted members of the Maccabi Brussels junior side with anti-Semitic chants at an Oct. 30 game.

MIDDLE EAST

Abdullah wants Israel to talk

Jordan's King Abdullah called on the Israeli government to reopen peace talks with the Palestinians.

"After Palestinian President Yasser Arafat's death, there is no longer an excuse for the Israelis and some members of the U.S. administration" not to revive peace talks "on the grounds that there is no peace partner," Abdullah said last Friday via satellite to a global media meeting in Portugal.

Abdullah said he would speak with President Bush in the next two weeks in Washington about how to restart peace talks.

Eighth plague redux

Israel's Agriculture Ministry declared war on millions of locusts that swarmed over southern parts of the country.

Farms in the Negev Desert were sprayed with insecticide by plane Sunday in hope of banishing the locusts, swarms of which arrived over the weekend from North Africa.

Agriculture Ministry officials said there was no significant damage, but residents of Eilat complained that the port city was overrun by locusts that had apparently fled the farms.

Most observers believe that the locusts will soon spread eastward, to Jordan.

NORTH AMERICA

Brouhaha at York

A Canadian professor came under fire for asserting that "staunch pro-Israel lobbyists" were unduly influencing the university's fund-raising foundation.

York University professor David Noble, who is Jewish, also distributed a flier listing board members and their affiliation with Jewish groups.

The university's president, Lorna Marsden, condemned the "highly offensive material" and the attempt to single out "certain members of the York community on the basis of their ethnicity and alleged political views."

The Ontario region of the Canadian Jewish Congress, Hillel and the UJA Federation of Greater Toronto also condemned Noble's actions, as did a spokesperson for the campus group Solidarity for Palestinian Human Rights. "This is anti-Semitism, vaguely disguised as anti-Israel rhetoric," said Joel Richler, chair of CJC's Ontario Region.

Noble defended his actions.

"Whenever you shed any light on anything, they point the flashlight somewhere else and want you to look there," he told the Globe and Mail newspaper.

Jewish baseball exhibit up

An exhibit on Jews in baseball is up at the Center for Jewish History in New York.

"Pioneers, Superstars and Journeymen: American Jewish Baseball Players, 1871-2004" is based on the best-selling set of trading cards produced and marketed by the American Jewish Historical Society.

The exhibit will run through Dec. 30.