

IN THE NEWS

**Diskin takes
over Shin Bet**

Yuval Diskin became chief of Israel's Shin Bet security service.

Diskin, 49, formally assumed command of the Shin Bet on Sunday from Avi Dichter, who is heading to the United States to study.

Like many of his predecessors, Diskin is believed to favor territorial concessions for peace with the Palestinians, and champions Israel's policy of assassinating terrorist leaders in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

**NACOEJ
in jeopardy**

The main relief organization for Jews in Ethiopia may lose its operating ability.

The Ethiopian government is reviewing the North American Conference on Ethiopian Jewry's application for NGO status, a NACOEJ official said.

Since 1992, NACOEJ has funded community programs in Addis Ababa and Gondar without an NGO license, but the Ethiopian government recently stopped the group from operating in Addis without a license.

NACOEJ has applied for NGO status through the Ethiopian Justice Ministry, but the Foreign Ministry argued against it.

**Palestinians
mark "Catastrophe"**

Palestinians marked "Nakba Day" on Sunday with sirens, rallies and speeches.

Sirens wailed at midday as Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip stood silently for two minutes to mourn the establishment of the Jewish state in 1948, Reuters reported.

"The very fact that the Palestinians celebrate May 15, which was the day of the proclamation of the State of Israel, as the day of disaster is very discouraging, because it shows a state of mind still disposed to looking at the State of Israel as an obstacle that must be removed rather than a reality that must be reconciled with," said Ehud Olmert, Israel's deputy prime minister.

WORLD REPORT

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Sixty years after WWII, Argentines want answers about ministry's role

By JOE GOLDMAN

BUENOS AIRES (JTA) — Argentina's Foreign Ministry is under scrutiny as historians, researchers, Jewish organizations and a broad swath of the country's cultural elite demand the repeal of a controversial 1938 order prohibiting visas for Jews fleeing the Holocaust.

They also are demanding that the ministry justify a commemorative plaque it placed in honor of 12 Argentine diplomats who critics say did not do enough to help Jews trying to flee the Nazis.

The so-called "Directive 11," issued in 1938 by Foreign Minister Jose Maria Cantilo, was transmitted to all Argentine embassies and consulates around the world. It instructed diplomats to deny visas to "undesirables or the expelled," a reference to European Jews.

A few years ago, while on a research project, historian Beatriz Gurevich discovered a copy of Directive 11 in the archives of the Argentine Embassy in Stockholm.

"We knew of the existence of this order, but until Gurevich found it we had no physical evidence," said Uki Goni, an Argentine journalist who has written two books investigating former President Juan Peron's assistance to fleeing Nazi war criminals in the 1940s and '50s.

The plaque in the front lobby of the Foreign Ministry building is a tribute to 12 Argentine diplomats who, according to the text, "showed solidarity with those who were victims of Nazism."

However, the image of at least one of the diplomats, Luis Irigoyen, is being re-evaluated as Nazi documents show that he refused

to accept the repatriation of some 100 Argentine Jews rounded up by the Nazis in France, Germany, Greece, Poland and the Netherlands. They later were sent to the Auschwitz and Bergen-Belsen death camps.

In September 2003, Goni and officials of the International Raoul Wallenberg Foundation met with Foreign Minister Rafael Bielsa and asked that Directive 11 be formally repealed. They also asked Bielsa for the ministry's justification for the names on the controversial plaque.

A similar appeal was presented to Bielsa by the Simon Wiesenthal Center. The Foreign Ministry has not acted on the requests.

Asked about these two matters in late April, Bielsa said, "The plaque was not placed there during this administration, but if there is evidence to the contrary, we would certainly act to remove it."

However, Gustavo Jalife of the Wallenberg Foundation said Bielsa was given that evidence at the 2003 meeting.

"Investigations by Uki Goni and Haim Avni," an Israeli professor, "have shown that Irigoyen, instead of aiding Jews, in fact did nothing to save them from a certain death," Jalife said. "As far as the other 11 diplomats, there is no indication that they did anything more than aid Argentine Jews — or said in another manner, they just did their job."

In his research, Goni found several documents of Nazi official Eberhardt Von Thadden, who acted as Adolf Eichmann's go-between with the various diplomatic representations in Berlin.

In the documents, Von Thadden describes

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AROUND THE JEWISH WORLD

■ Argentines pressing their foreign ministry about its WWII role

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months of effort to get Irigoyen to repatriate 100 Argentine Jews living in various European countries under Nazi rule. Von Thadden explained that Irigoyen had no interest in dealing with these Jews, and in fact steadfastly refused to intercede on behalf of 59 Argentine Jews from Warsaw whom the SS was willing to hand over for deportation to Argentina.

Ignacio Klich, head of CEANA, the Foreign Ministry's Commission to Clarify Nazi Activities in Argentina, defended the commemorative plaque. The names on it were chosen in large part based on CEANA recommendations.

"One has to understand the context within which these diplomats were working," Klich said. "Given that extreme situation, these 12 diplomats stood out among their colleagues."

Klich said some of the diplomats even saved Jews who were not Argentines.

Klich says Goni's book "The Real Odessa" is unfair since it doesn't show that despite the government's restrictions, "Argentina was the Latin American country which took the largest number of Jewish refugees between 1933 and 1945."

That caused an outcry from Jewish

groups, especially among Holocaust survivors.

"It's absurd to talk about Argentina in a positive way regarding taking in Jewish

refugees before, during or after the war," said Diana Wang of Generations of the Shoah in Argentina, a group of survivors and their children. "Jews had to swim across the river from Uruguay and cross the dangerous border with Bolivia." Her family, like many others, "had to lie and say we

were Catholics before they would allow us to enter."

Klich also said Goni should go after people like his own grandfather, Santos Goni, a former Argentine consul in Bolivia, whom Klich accused of refusing Jews visas to Argentina during the 1930s and '40s.

'It's absurd to talk about Argentina in a positive way regarding taking in Jewish refugees before, during or after the war.'

Diana Wang
Generations of the Shoah in Argentina

Goni readily admits this.

"There's a very personal factor in my request" to repeal Directive 11, he said. "My grandfather was one of those who directly applied this order" and turned Jews away in accordance with Directive 11.

"Certainly there is that factor that my grandfather played a terrible role," Goni said. "But it's about time the Argentine government opened all files and rectified past errors."

For almost half a century, Argentine governments refused to open files related to the entry of Nazi war criminals and other questionable activities during and after World War II.

In the last decade there have been many promises, but still a limited opening of the archives. The current president, Nestor Kirchner, also has made commitments but seems to have fallen short of arranging for a complete release of documents.

Neither Kirchner nor his interior minister or foreign minister responded to repeated requests for interviews for this article. ■

Latino tourism to Israel booming

By TOM TUGEND

LOS ANGELES (JTA) — Missions to Israel are a staple of Jewish organizational life, but when Pepe Barreto leads a group tour there in the near future it will represent something new.

Barreto is the most popular talk-show host on Spanish-language radio in Los Angeles and a major player in a new drive to boost travel to Israel by California Hispanics.

The campaign is a key part of a program outlined by Daniela Aharoni, the recently arrived director of the Israel Government Tourist Office for the Western United States.

With Hispanics/Latinos making up nearly half the population of Los Angeles County and one-third of the state of California, this group will be of ever-growing importance in coming years.

"We have found that Latinos are free-spending tourists, with a strong religious interest in the Holy Land," said Aharoni, sitting in her office with an expansive view of midtown Los Angeles.

Aharoni was deputy director of the

Israel tourist office here from 1994 to 1998, and has been amazed by how the Latino community's economic status has risen and its influence has increased during the seven years she was gone.

While American Jews remain Aharoni's main clientele, she is putting increased effort into attracting Christians.

"If we can convince the pastor of a church to go, his congregants will follow him," she said.

She's now organizing seminars and promotional materials specially tailored for pastors and ministers.

Next year, Aharoni plans to explore the possibility of increasing tourism from the large Korean community in Southern California.

After a disastrous slump in tourism to Israel during the past four years — the Palestinian intifada scared away many tourists — the statistics are beginning to look better.

"Tourism is absolutely vital to Israel and its economy," Aharoni said. "For every additional 100,000 visitors, 4,000 new service jobs are created." ■

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THIS WEEK**MONDAY**

■ Rabbis, kosher food producers, kashrut supervisors and other representatives of major kashrut agencies from around the world meet through Wednesday in Jerusalem for the first International Convention for Torah, Kashrut and Technology. New kosher food products and technologies will be presented, along with discussions of the challenges facing the growing kosher food industry.

TUESDAY

■ Egyptian Prime Minister Ahmed Nazif comes to Washington to lobby for a free trade agreement with the United States. The Bush administration has held out the incentive of increased trade to draw Egypt into helping facilitate Israel's Gaza Strip withdrawal this summer.

■ The Leo Baeck Institute at the Center for Jewish History opens an exhibit called "Starting Over: The Experience of German Jews in America, 1830-1945." The Center for Jewish History also opens its exhibit, "Greetings from Home: 350 Years of American Jewish Life," presented by the American Jewish Historical Society in cooperation with the Yeshiva University Museum and the American Sephardi Federation with Sephardic House.

THURSDAY

■ An exhibit on the late pope and the Jewish people opens at Xavier University, a Jesuit school in Cincinnati. The exhibit, "A Blessing to One Another: John Paul II and the Jewish People" chronicles Karol Wojtyla's life, from growing up in an apartment owned by a Polish Jewish family to his papacy.

■ The Israeli, Swiss and German embassies join the U.S. National Academy of Sciences in celebrating the life and work of Albert Einstein.

FRIDAY

■ This year's annual Washington Institute for Near East Policy Soref symposium assesses the forces for democratization in the Middle East and how they might affect Arab-Israel relations.

SUNDAY

■ Lay and professional Jewish leaders and educators convene at the United Jewish Communities' Hadesh: Israel Engagement to explore ways to weave Israel education and experiences into North American Jewish life. The conference continues through Monday in Philadelphia.

■ The American Israel Public Affairs Committee opens its annual policy conference. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice and Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon will address delegates, and participants are expected to lobby lawmakers to support Israel's disengagement plan and tougher sanctions on Iran.

Professor may get security job

By **MATTHEW E. BERGER**

WASHINGTON (JTA) — A Middle East expert from Princeton University is expected to be named to the staff of the National Security Council, JTA has learned.

Michael Doran is considered a democratic reformist and closely aligned with the thinking of many in the White House, including the man he will replace, Elliott Abrams, who was promoted earlier this year to deputy national security adviser for global democratic strategy.

A protege of Bernard Lewis, a pre-eminent Middle East historian whose views on tyranny in the Arab world are favored by the Bush administration, Doran has raised some eyebrows at Princeton. His main thesis in many journal articles has been that the Arab world must focus on issues other than Israel.

Doran could not be reached for comment, and the White House does not comment on appointments before they are announced.

In recent years Doran has written several articles in Foreign Affairs defending the Bush administration's choice to invade Iraq and work to democratize the Middle East.

"He has really good insight into domestic Arab politics and interstate relations in the Middle East, an especially good hold on Saudi politics and Gulf politics," said Robert Satloff, director of the Washington Institute for Near East Policy.

Doran's appointment suggests that the White House will maintain its emphasis on encouraging Arab states to become more open and pluralistic.

"Given the administration's emphasis on political reform in Arab countries and the promotion of democracy in Arab countries, Mike would be especially valuable in trying to translate that objective into the Arab world," Satloff said.

Some argue that the hiring of a little-known academic also suggests that Abrams will remain active in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict in his new post.

Doran has been a professor of Near Eastern studies at Princeton since 1999. He has drawn controversy at the school for ad-

vocating democratic reform in the Middle East and is not yet tenured.

In a National Review Online article in March, Doran was described as a "rising star," but the article focused on criticism from some graduate students and history professors at the school who consider Doran too politically conservative.

Doran recently told Inside Higher Education that the field of Middle East studies is divided over the question of what went wrong in the Arab world.

"And the field is divided between those who say what went wrong was Western imperialism and Zion-

ism, and those who think indigenous factors more than the policies of the great powers are responsible for what went wrong," he said. "I'm in the latter group."

He was offered the position of director of Brandeis University's new Center for Middle East Studies last year, but turned it down to remain at Princeton.

"He truly understands the Middle East differently than most of the Arabists do," said Jonathan Sarna, a professor of American Jewish history at Brandeis, who led the school's search committee. Sarna said he was impressed that a non-Jewish man spoke fluent Hebrew and Arabic and started each day by viewing Hamas' Web site.

"Precisely because he comes from a different place, he is able to see the area from distinctive eyes, and I expect he will bring great creativity to the position," Sarna said. "He is somebody who has both great scholarly credentials and great fearlessness."

"He is very well educated on these matters, but he has a particular point of view," said Stephen Cohen, a former visiting professor at Princeton, who is the Israel Policy Forum's national scholar.

"He has argued that from the earliest days, the origin of the hostilities toward Israel had more to do with rivalries with the United States and Britain rather than a unified view against Israel," Cohen said.

Cohen said Doran's appointment shows the White House will continue to demand reforms from Arab states.

'Precisely because he comes from a different place, he is able to see the area from distinctive eyes, and I expect he will bring great creativity to the position.'

Jonathan Sarna
Brandeis University

NEWS IN BRIEF

MIDDLE EAST

Immigration cap extended

Israel's Cabinet extended regulations limiting citizenship eligibility for Palestinians who marry Israelis.

By a vote of 16-2 on Sunday, a cap placed on the Civic Law in 2002 was approved.

That means that only about half of some 1,200 "mixed" families divided by the past four and a half years of violence can be reunited.

Israeli officials called the measure a security precaution meant to prevent the infiltration of potential terrorists from the West Bank and Gaza Strip, but some observers suggest there is another motive: reducing the demographic threat posed by the growing Arab population in Israel.

Hezbollah rockets IDF in north

Hezbollah rocketed Israeli army positions on the Golan Heights on Friday.

The incident, the third attack in the region in less than 48 hours, caused no casualties. Israel responded by firing artillery shells at a Hezbollah position and fighter jets bombed three Hezbollah outposts in southern Lebanon, Ha'aretz reported.

"We view Lebanon as responsible for everything that happens on its soil," Israeli Defense Minister Shaul Mofaz told Israel Radio on Friday. But Mofaz hinted that Israel would respond cautiously, if at all.

Activists leave fake bombs

Israeli right-wingers left fake bombs at Tel Aviv's two main train stations Sunday in a "warning" about the Gaza Strip withdrawal plan.

Police said two suitcases were left, prompting authorities to clear the area until sappers could confirm that they were harmless.

The suitcases contained leaflets reading "The withdrawal will blow up in your face," a reference to the planned evacuation this summer of all Gaza settlements and another four in the West Bank.

Shalom, envoy clash

Israel's ambassador to Washington accused the foreign minister of meddling in embassy affairs.

Ambassador Danny Ayalon wrote recently to Attorney General Menachem Mazuz to complain about Foreign Minister Silvan Shalom's decision to cut short the tenure of Ayalon's assistant in the Washington embassy, political sources said Sunday.

According to Israeli media, Shalom was angry at the aide because he failed to secure an audience for his wife, Judy Shalom-Nir-Mozes, with Madonna when the pop star visited Israel last year.

Poll: Palestinians support pullout

A majority of Palestinians believe Israel's Gaza withdrawal plan is a positive step for peace, according to a new poll.

Nearly 53 percent of Palestinians polled said they think the pullout is good for the peace process, while only 33 percent see it as a negative, according to a poll released Friday by the Palestinian-run Jerusalem Media and Communications Center.

The poll surveyed 1,200 Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip from May 2-7, and has a 3 percent margin of error.

WORLD

Trouble in Tashkent

Security guards killed a suspected suicide bomber outside the Israeli embassy in Uzbekistan.

No Israeli diplomats were hurt in Friday's shooting in Tashkent, which was triggered when a man who appeared to be wearing an explosives belt approached the mission.

Wounded by warning shots, he refused orders to halt and then was killed. Israeli media said the man, who it turned out was not carrying explosives, may have been mentally disturbed.

Berlin memorial to remain toothless

One of the driving forces behind Germany's new Holocaust memorial dropped her plan to place the tooth of a Holocaust victim there.

At the Berlin memorial's dedication on Tuesday, Lea Rosh announced her plan to put a tooth she found at another memorial, at the Belzec extermination camp, in the new Berlin installation, outraging and disgusting members of Germany's Jewish community.

Meanwhile, a vandal scratched a swastika into one of the 2,711 steles at the new Berlin memorial Thursday, the first day it was open to the public.

Moscow cemetery struck

Moscow's main Jewish cemetery was vandalized Saturday.

Vandals damaged 15 tombstones and left anti-Semitic graffiti on two graves in the Vostryakovskoe Jewish cemetery in a Moscow suburb, police said.

Prosecutors opened a criminal case, treating the incident as a hate crime. In a separate development Sunday, Jews held a ceremony in another Jewish cemetery in the Moscow area for books damaged by a May 10 fire that destroyed a historic wooden synagogue.

Arson is suspected.

Glazer buys Manchester United

A Florida Jewish businessman bought Britain's most revered soccer team.

Malcolm Glazer bought a controlling stake in Manchester United on Friday for nearly \$1.5 billion. Many ManU fans expressed outrage and protested the sale to a foreigner.

Glazer has a reputation for cutting costs and raising ticket prices, but he is credited with making a success of his Tampa Bay Buccaneers football team, which won the 2003 Super Bowl.

Jewish sites in Dublin vandalized

Vandals daubed swastikas on the Irish Jewish Museum in Dublin, the second such incident in two weeks.

Anti-Semitic graffiti also appeared at a Jewish cemetery and at Orthodox and Progressive synagogues in the city.

NORTH AMERICA

Air Force chaplain says she was fired

An Air Force chaplain who complained about evangelicals targeting Jews and others at the Air Force Academy says she was fired.

"They said I should be angry about these outside groups who reported on the strident evangelicalism at the academy," Capt. Melinda Morton, a Lutheran minister, told the Washington Post last week.

"The problem is, I agreed with those reports," Morton was told May 4 that her term at the Colorado academy was over, effective immediately.

Congress speaks out against boycott

A U.S. lawmaker asked Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice to sever U.S. ties with British schools that voted last month to boycott Israeli universities.

Rep. Henry Waxman (D-Calif.) wants schools and professors who abide by the boycott to be made ineligible for U.S. grants and exchanges.

Haifa University has threatened to sue the Britain's Association of University Teachers, and Bar-Ilan University, the other school slated for boycott, has opened a Web site to build support.