

## IN THE NEWS

## Don't harm chance for Palestine, Rice warns

Israel must refrain from actions that affect the viability of a future Palestinian state, Condoleezza Rice told AIPAC.

"To strengthen our present opportunities, all nations must meet their obligations," the U.S. secretary of state said Monday, addressing the annual conference of the American Israel Public Affairs Committee, the pro-Israel lobby.

"Israel must take no actions that prejudice a final settlement or jeopardize the true viability of the Palestinian state, and Israel must help to create the conditions for the emergence of that democratic state. The Palestinian Authority must advance democratic reform, and it must dismantle all terrorist networks in its society. Arab states must end incitement in their media, cut off all support for terrorism and extremist education and establish normal relations with Israel."

## Impressed by Israeli coexistence

U.S. first lady Laura Bush praised an Israeli town for its religious coexistence.

"In this Arab town, Christians, Arabs and Jews live here in peace," Bush told reporters Monday while visiting Abu Ghosh on the last leg of a visit to Israel.

"I think Abu Ghosh can show us what people can do to live together in peace." Bush then left Israel for Egypt.

## Teen bomber nabbed at checkpoint

Israeli troops captured a Palestinian youth wearing an explosives belt.

The 15-year-old was stopped at a checkpoint outside the West Bank city of Nablus on Sunday and found to be carrying two pipe bombs with fuses attached.

Military officials said he planned to detonate the bombs in a suicide attack on the soldiers.

# WORLD REPORT

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

## Ariel Sharon cheered, protested as he defends Gaza plan in New York

By RACHEL POMERANCE

**N**EW YORK (JTA) — When Ariel Sharon spoke here this week, he met the fury of Jewish protesters vociferously opposed to his plan to withdraw from the Gaza Strip and parts of the West Bank.

"Jews don't expel Jews," yelled a heckler — one of three who sporadically interrupted the Israeli prime minister and were forcibly removed from the Baruch College auditorium where some 1,100 Jewish leaders and activists were gathered on Sunday.

During his talk, Sharon enjoyed overwhelming cheers of support for his withdrawal plan.

Outside, however, several hundred primarily Orthodox protesters rallied in the street.

On one curb, demonstrators for Israel's continued control over Gaza wore orange T-shirts stating support for Gush Katif, a block of Jewish settlements in Gaza, and chanted "Not one inch. Shame on you."

On an opposite curb, a group of Neturei Karta, Orthodox Jews opposed to the man-made creation of the State of Israel, held signs with slashes through an Israeli flag.

Inside, Jewish officials stressed Jewish unity.

"The noisy minority does not reflect the view of the vast majority," said James Tisch, chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, apologizing to the prime minister for the hecklers after his speech.

But Sharon, who was slated to deliver the keynote speech at the annual American Israel Public Affairs Committee conference in Washington on Tuesday, took it in stride.

"Thank you so much for your help," Sharon told audience members, one of whom apparently yelled an expletive at the offending interrupter.

"Usually, I handle these things by myself," he joked.

The Israeli prime minister stressed the importance of Zionist education and bringing more immigrants to Israel.

He also defended his withdrawal plan, which is slated to begin in mid-August.

"The future of the Jewish people depends also on Israel's character as a Jewish and democratic state. In this spirit we initiated the disengagement plan," he said. "This plan will improve our security and offer a chance to start a political process with the Palestinians. It will guarantee a Jewish majority in the State of Israel. It is thanks to this plan that we can make certain that important parts of the cradle of the Jewish heritage will remain part of Israel forever."

The event was Sharon's first visit to New York, the metropolitan area with the largest concentration of Jews in the world, in four years.

More importantly, it marked his first major gathering with Jewish officials here since he announced his withdrawal plan.

The event was sponsored by the Conference of Presidents, UJA-Federation of New York and the United Jewish Communities, the umbrella group for the North American Jewish federation movement.

The Presidents Conference had come under fire from some of its members, most vocally by the Anti-Defamation League, for failing to issue a clear statement of support for Sharon in the wake of his plan to withdraw.

*Continued on page 2*

## ■ *As crowds cheer or protest, Ariel Sharon defends Gaza withdrawal*

*Continued from page 1*

draw from the Gaza Strip and parts of the West Bank.

During the group's mission to Israel in March, Tisch explicitly told Sharon that he had American Jewry's backing.

Sunday's event was the first major gathering of New York Jewry "not only to embrace the prime minister but to embrace his leadership and his policies," Abraham Foxman, the ADL's national director, told JTA.

"The Jewish community has not been provided with opportunities to express their support of the prime minister and his initiative," Foxman said.

On Sunday, Sharon's audience, which was dotted with kipot, reflecting a broad swath of Jews, expressed jubilant support, rousing applause and standing ovations.

Jewish officials also delivered high praise for the prime minister.

"We will work to build even greater understanding for the disengagement plan" with a Web site and by submitting editorials to newspapers, Tisch said.

Tisch added his hope that the Palestinians take steps to "end the vicious incitement and to uproot the corruption that has made progress toward peace so difficult."

■

Before a banner depicting rippling U.S. and Israeli flags and huge lettering that read, "We Stand With Israel, Now and Forever," leaders of the Reform, Conservative and Orthodox movements offered their prayers of support for Sharon's disengagement plan.

An all-male Orthodox a cappella group introduced the event with the Israeli and American national anthems; the group later sang a Hebrew song for peace.

"You have stymied the intifada and re-initiated the peace process with the courageous decision to pull out of Gaza," said Rabbi Ismar Schorsch, chancellor of the Conservative movement's Jewish Theological Seminary.

Schorsch also warned against fractures in the Jewish community, saying that "deep internal divides hastened the destruction of the First and Second Temples," and reminding the audience of the 1995 murder of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin by another Jew.

In his speech, Sharon stressed the importance of Jewish continuity.

He highlighted the importance of education to combat the twin threats of intermarriage and assimilation.

"The very essence of Zionism is aliyah. It is the primary goal of my government," Sharon said, adding his hope to bring 1 million Jews to Israel in the next 15 years. "It is the best way to ensure the future of the Jewish people and the State of Israel."

Sharon also stressed the strength of the Jewish people, exemplified in the state of Israel.

"I am willing to make painful compromises for peace," he said. However,

"there is one thing on which we will not make any compromises — not now and not in the future — and that is our security."

Sharon departed from his prepared remarks to note that he had stressed this point in his discussions with the Bush administration — "maybe the most friendly leadership we have had here."

But plenty of Jews think Sharon's plan will undo Israel's strength.

The protesters, organized by groups that included Americans for a

Safe Israel and the Zionist Organization of America, rallied in the rain Sunday against Sharon.

People came out "to send a message to Sharon and more importantly to the Jews of Gush Katif to tell them you're not alone, and Jews around the world are fighting with you in your fight," said Gil Margulis, one of the protest's organizers.

"We know that if they stay strong, Sharon's plan will fail," Margulis said.

For others, staying in Gaza is a biblical imperative.

"If we give them land, it won't make them more peaceful," said Chaim Cohen, an Israeli studying at a Crown Heights yeshiva. "And why should we? God gave the land of Israel to the Jews. It says in the Bible, God promised the land to the children of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob." ■

**'The future of the Jewish people depends also on Israel's character as a Jewish and democratic state. In this spirit we initiated the disengagement plan.'**

**Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon**

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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](http://www.jta.org).  
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## Non-Jews in Canada fight anti-Semitism

NEW YORK (JTA) — A group of non-Jews in Canada formed an organization to combat anti-Semitism.

The coalition, known as Fighting Anti-Semitism Together, placed a full-page ad in the Canadian Jewish News, headed "WHY WE MUST SPEAK OUT — Non-Jewish Business Leaders Stand Up Against Anti-Semitism in Canada."

The ad announces the launch of "a vigor-

ous new offensive against anti-Semitism in Canada," and explains that the group exists "to honor every Jewish child and promise the Jewish people they are not alone and on their own in Canada in this new century."

The ad is signed by 23 top Canadian executives, mostly from the financial sector but also including representatives from the manufacturing, telecommunications, grocery and academic worlds. ■

# OSCE meets to talk about anti-Semitism

By CHANAN TIGAY

NEW YORK (JTA) — To say that actions speak louder than words is cliché. But to Jewish groups preparing for an international conference on anti-Semitism, the axiom is entirely current.

That's because the upcoming meeting of the Organization of Security and Cooperation in Europe is the third such gathering in three years — and many of the commitments made in last year's declaration from Berlin have yet to be fulfilled, Jewish officials say.

"We're interested in not having more nice words," said Betty Ehrenberg, who will be attending the conference as director of international and communal affairs at the Orthodox Union. "We're interested in having countries actually taking the steps, the concrete steps."

"Implementation" is the buzzword among Jewish nongovernmental organizations prepping for the meeting, the Conference on Anti-Semitism and on Other Forms of Intolerance, slated for June 8-9 in Cordoba, Spain.

At last year's Berlin conference, participants committed to hone their legal systems to better combat hate crimes and to promote academic exchange and educational programs, including Holocaust studies. They also pledged to collect data on anti-Semitic and other hate crimes in their countries. They further agreed to report such crimes to the OSCE's Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, which is charged with monitoring anti-Semitism.

Finally, the OSCE's human-rights branch agreed to collect "best practices" on addressing anti-Semitism from regional nongovernmental groups.

But while the Berlin conference's condemnation of anti-Semitism was significant, many of these commitments have yet to be put into practice, those familiar with the situation say.

"We have serious concerns," said Israel Singer, chairman of the World Jewish Congress' governing board, who noted that the WJC is working with Spanish Foreign Minister Miguel Moratinos and other European leaders "to remind them of their obligations to combat anti-Semitism."

The WJC will hold its governing board meeting in Cordoba just before the conference and will take part in a June 7 forum of

NGOs in Seville, preparing for the Cordoba meeting.

"I hope the conference will build momentum behind the efforts of the OSCE and its tolerance unit and mobilize support for implementation of commitments that states have made to combat anti-Semitism," said Stacy Burdett, associate director of governmental affairs for the Anti-Defamation League.

The OSCE says it's seeking to ensure that member states live up to their commitments.

"The purpose of the conference is to analyze the status of implementation of OSCE commitments in the field of tolerance and nondiscrimination, and operational follow-up at the national level throughout the OSCE region," Simona Drenik, an official with the Permanent Mission of Slovenia to the OSCE, told JTA by phone from Vienna.

Slovenia now holds the rotating chairmanship of the OSCE.

Meanwhile, the Organization of American States will hold its general assembly from June 5 to 7 in Ft. Lauderdale, Fla. Among resolutions expected to be passed at the assembly is one on intolerance that for the first time will mention anti-Semitism by name, while also referring to this year's 60th anniversary of the end of World War II.

Until this year, the OSCE addressed anti-Semitism and other forms of intolerance in separate conferences — in 2003 both took place in Vienna; last year, a conference on intolerance took place in Brussels while the anti-Semitism meeting was in Berlin. This year, one conference will tackle both subjects.

Some Jewish observers expressed concern that merging the conferences may reflect Western Europeans' "holistic" approach to addressing intolerance. Western European nations, they say, are willing to view anti-Semitism as a phenomenon dis-

ting from other forms of intolerance, but prefer to deal with it in conjunction with other types of hatred.

That could be a stumbling block to implementation of any decisions, observers say.

"If the holistic approach means avoiding the acknowledgment of the uniqueness of anti-Semitism, it's troubling," said Rabbi Andrew Baker, director of international Jewish affairs at the AJCommittee. But "if the holistic approach means 'We're going to deal with it in parallel with other forms

of racism, xenophobia and intolerance,' " then it's less troubling, he said.

Observers say the OSCE's non-European Union members generally lack monitoring systems for hate crimes, and the Eastern Europeans largely don't distinguish between hate crimes and other crimes.

In addition, some European governments appear to rely on the European Monitoring Center on Racism and Xenophobia, a Vienna-based E.U. agency — which has contracted people on the ground in E.U. nations to collect hate-crimes information rather than gathering hate crime data themselves.

But Baker said some progress has been made. Last December, special representatives for anti-Semitism, Islamophobia and Christianophobia were appointed to represent the OSCE chairman — now Slovenian Foreign Minister Dimitrij Rupel — and to advocate for implementation and lobby OSCE governments to follow through on the Berlin declaration.

Further, Baker said, OSCE's human rights office has created a tolerance unit focusing on anti-Semitism and is now funding a pilot program in which law enforcement agents train other police in responding to hate crimes. Spain and Hungary have taken part so far, and a report on the program's results will be given in Cordoba.

Baker called these positive developments. But, he added, "If it ended here, I think we'd all be disappointed."

I hope the conference will build momentum behind the efforts of the OSCE and its tolerance unit and mobilize support for implementation of commitments that states have made to combat anti-Semitism.

Stacy Burdett

Anti-Defamation League

BEHIND  
THE  
HEADLINES

# NEWS IN BRIEF

## WORLD

### British demonstrators want Israel boycott

Demonstrators at a pro-Palestinian rally in London demanded that their country launch a wide-ranging boycott of Israel.

The event, which drew British lawmakers, trade unionists and Muslim leaders, saw newly elected legislator George Galloway, a vociferous critic of the Jewish state, call for Israeli-made goods to be shunned and for stores selling such items to be picketed.

"It's about time that the British government made some reparations for the Balfour Declaration," he told the crowds, referring to the 1917 declaration that Jews deserve a homeland in Palestine.

### Bombing victim honored

The mother of a Scottish teen killed in a 2002 suicide bombing in Israel presented the first annual scholarship in his name.

Yoni Jesner of Glasgow was one of six people killed when a bomb ripped apart a Tel Aviv bus in September 2002.

The 19-year-old was a youth leader and educator who was spending a year studying in Israel, and the foundation his family set up in his name launched a plan to enable other youngsters to study in Israel before starting college.

At an event this week at London's St. John's Wood synagogue, Yoni's mother, Marsha Gladstone, presented four teenagers with scholarships to fund their studies.

### Algerian Jews visit home

A group of 130 Algerian-born Jews, who were expelled from their town in 1962, went back to visit Sunday.

The Tlemcen exiles, who now live in France, were welcomed by the town's mayor and its residents.

The group's leader, Andre Charbit, met informally with Ahmed Ben Bella, a former president of Algeria.

"I welcome you warmly," Ben Bella said.

Abdelaziz Bouteflika, Algeria's president, whose family is from Tlemcen, encouraged the visit. About 140,000 Jews fled Algeria in 1962, when France lost its colony.

Only a handful of Jews live there today.

### Ancient scroll exhibited in Germany

One of the Dead Sea Scrolls is being displayed at a museum in Berlin.

The Israel Museum in Jerusalem loaned the Temple Scroll from Qumran to the Martin Gropius-Bau Museum for display through Sept. 5.

It's believed to be the first time the scroll, which is 2,000 years old, has left Israel.

## MIDDLE EAST

### Dollars for the dead

Israeli police arrested two men on suspicion of trying to sell 2,000-year-old Jewish remains.

The Arabs from eastern Jerusalem offered to sell the Zaka burial society four Roman-era ossuaries containing human remains, police said this week.

Mindful of Jewish reverence for the dead, they are alleged to have demanded \$4,000 for the burial boxes.

Zaka alerted police, who arrested the two men in a sting operation.

### Dead Sea diplomacy

Israeli and Arab officials mingled at the World Economic Forum in Jordan.

Israel's trade minister, Benjamin Ben-Eliezer, chatted with Iraqi

Foreign Minister Hoshair Zebari at the Dead Sea conference Sunday.

The meeting produced no immediate diplomatic dividends, but the Baghdad-born Ben-Eliezer passed a message of Israeli goodwill, in Arabic, to the new Iraqi government.

At a separate meeting in nearby Amman, Israel's tourism minister, Avraham Herschson, said he and the United Arab Emirates' economy minister, Lubna Al-Qasimi, discussed ways "to improve the situation of all nations in the region."

### Vanunu limits eased

An Israeli court loosened internal travel limitations on nuclear whistle-blower Mordechai Vanunu.

On Sunday, a Jerusalem court threw out a Justice Ministry order barring Vanunu from traveling to the West Bank.

Since ending an 18-year prison term for treason last year, Vanunu has been kept in Israel, with officials alleging he plans to leak more state secrets if he goes abroad.

But the court said this ban cannot be extended to the West Bank because it is not a sovereign entity.

Vanunu, a Christian convert, was arrested last Christmas while trying to travel to the West Bank city of Bethlehem to celebrate the holiday.

### Holocaust museum opens for Israeli Arabs

An Israeli Arab opened a Holocaust museum in Nazareth.

Lawyer Khaled Mahameed said that if more Arabs understood how Jews were murdered in Europe, and how that genocide led to the founding of the Jewish state, they would be able to work for peace — and grateful Jews would be more inclined to meet the Arabs' demands.

Most Arabs know little about the Holocaust and often do not believe the facts, he said.

### In the name of the uncle

A nephew of the late Moshe Dayan entered Israeli politics.

Uzi Dayan, a former army general, announced Monday that he was forming a new political party named Tafnit — Hebrew for "Turning Point."

Like his cousin Yael, a veteran liberal politician, Dayan has been noted for his left-wing views on dealing with the Palestinians.

He follows in the footsteps of his uncle, an Israeli military chief who later served in Cabinet posts.

## NORTH AMERICA

### Jewish Revolutionary War vets honored

Pioneers of American Jewish life were memorialized in Manhattan.

Twenty-two Jews who defended New York in the American Revolution were remembered Sunday at America's oldest Jewish cemetery.

The Veteran Corps of Artillery of the State of New York performed a color-guard ceremony and American flags were placed at the graves of the Revolutionary War veterans at the burial ground at Chatham Square, given to the Jews by New York Gov. Peter Stuyvesant in 1656.

Many of the 35 people there were descendants of the war veterans.

The ceremony was sponsored by the 1654 Society, which celebrates the first Jews in America.

### Kosher Chinese at the ol' ballgame

The Florida Marlins will host a Jewish day at the ballpark.

At Sunday's game against the New York Mets in Miami, Israel's national anthem will be sung in addition to "The Star-Spangled Banner."

Glatt kosher snacks, including hot dogs, falafel and Chinese food, will be served at the game.