



IN THE NEWS

Jews missing after London attacks

Two Jews are feared to be among the victims of the London bombings.

Israeli expatriate Anat Rosenberg, 39, was aboard a bus that was blown up by suspected Islamist terrorists in the British capital on July 7.

Her boyfriend, John Falding, told Israeli media that Rosenberg was speaking to him by cell phone when the blast occurred.

Also among some two dozen people unaccounted for after the attacks is Miriam Hyman, 33, a London resident.

Hyman's father, John, told Yediot Achronot that she called him as her train was evacuated after the initial blasts occurred, but has not been in contact since.

G-8 pledges to help Palestinians

Industrialized nations pledged \$3 billion in assistance to the Palestinians to spur peace.

The Group of Eight leading industrialized nations concluded a three-day summit in Scotland last Friday with announcements of aid packages to developing nations.

Palestinian Authority officials say they need a quick influx of cash to ensure a smooth transition after Israel withdraws from the Gaza Strip this summer.

HIAS president leaves his post

Leonard Glickman stepped down as president and CEO of the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society.

Glickman's departure was announced last Friday.

He will be replaced by Neil Greenbaum, an attorney in Chicago and former chairman of the organization.

Greenbaum said he hoped to continue the organization's work aiding the immigration of Jews and other religious minorities to the United States.

Glickman could not be reached for comment.

WORLD REPORT

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

As costs of peace process rise, U.S. anxious to ensure success

By RON KAMPEAS

WASHINGTON (JTA) — The price the United States and the international committee likely will pay for Israel's withdrawal from the Gaza Strip this summer is mounting by the day — and top U.S. officials are making it clear to both Israelis and Palestinians that they want results.

Top U.S. officials mandated with making the withdrawal happen testified June 30 at a special session of the U.S. Senate's Foreign Relations Committee, saying that the cost of Palestinian redevelopment after the Israeli withdrawal could reach \$3 billion a year.

That's apart from the hundreds of millions of dollars that Israel plans to request from the United States to help move its forces out of Gaza and part of the northern West Bank and to develop areas of Israel where settlers are likely to head.

The high stakes clearly make the officials anxious to ensure post-withdrawal success.

"Time is short," David Welch, assistant secretary of state for Near Eastern affairs, told the committee. "The main challenges can be divided into two categories, improving the security situation and creating the conditions for growth in the Palestinian economy."

The toughest language was reserved for the Palestinian Authority over its failure to fully reform its security forces.

"Overall Palestinian performance on confronting violence has been far from satisfactory, and this is a real shortfall and area of concern," Welch said.

Lt. Gen. William Ward, the Bush administration's top security envoy to the region,



Courtesy of USAREUR

Lt. Gen. William Ward.

was slightly more generous, saying, "There are arrests being made, albeit not to the degree that I would like to see."

Ward credited the Palestinians with beginning to destroy the arms-smuggling tunnels from Egypt that Israel is concerned will help terrorist groups rearm for a post-withdrawal onslaught.

The general said he believed the Palestinians now understand the need to consolidate some 16 security services into three, but still have a long way to go. One obstacle: The security forces have become a "social welfare net" for tens of thousands of

Continued on page 2

NEWS
ANALYSIS

■ U.S officials are anxious for success on the Israeli-Palestinian front

Continued from page 1

"policemen" who drew salaries but don't actually work, Ward said.

Ward said the critical issue is to establish a Palestinian political culture that respects a single authority. He singled out Fatah, nominally the ruling party, which often acts as a renegade resistance.

"The most significant factor for improving the security situation rests in the leadership of the Palestinian Authority providing consistent and unified direction to the minister of the interior and to the security chiefs," he said. "They must gain the support and commitment of the process by all, notably the Fatah leadership, ministers, security chiefs and heads of families in that environment."

Israel also is likely to face pressures, if the questions from senators of both parties and the testimony of Welch and Ward were an indication.

Ward departed from a long-standing demand that the United States shared with Israel: that the Palestinians immediately fulfill commitments to disarm terrorist groups and arrest fugitives. Instead, he cautiously endorsed P.A. President Mahmoud Abbas' policy of co-opting armed members of terrorist groups into the Palestinian armed forces.

An Israeli official said Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's government also appreciates the temporary calm, but Israel still expects terrorists to be disarmed in the long run.

"Israel also supports calm but what is necessary is permanent, not temporary,

calm, especially not calm being used by terror organizations to rearm for the next round," said the official, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

Ward also suggested that, with so little time before the disengagement begins Aug. 15, the United States has little patience for each side's customary demand that the other move first.

"Both the Israelis and the Palestinians must take action to do what they say that they will do, irrespective of what the other side is doing or not doing," he said.

Israel has hesitated to fulfill some recent agreements because of Abbas' unwillingness to arrest fugitives and disarm terrorists. However, in recent days — and apparently under U.S. pressure — it has agreed to accelerate the handover of more West Bank cities to P.A. control.

Ward also expressed frustration with his efforts to get much-needed equipment past the Israelis and to the Palestinian police, including radios, protective clothing and vehicles.

Senators pressed Welch about the continued expansion of some Jewish settlements in the West Bank.

"We have concern about settlement activity in general whenever it occurs, wherever it occurs because we believe it impacts the daily lives of people and could potentially prejudice arriving at negotiations on final status," Welch said.

James Wolfensohn, charged by the "Quartet" — the group composed of the United States, United Nations, European Union and Russia that is guiding the peace process — with fund-raising for the post-withdrawal period, suggested that an international commitment of \$3 billion a year was likely.

"We must be certain we get benefits to the Palestinians" in order to sustain the peace process, he said. "We must have physical evidence of benefits for these people."

That could be accelerated if some \$300

million in the pipeline for the Palestinians did not have a host of conditions attached to it, said Sen. Joseph Biden (D-Del.), the ranking Democrat on the committee.

Slowing the assistance would make it difficult in future elections for Abbas to draw votes from well-funded extremists, said Biden, who praised President Bush for relaying \$50 million directly to the Palestinian Authority, instead of through non-governmental organizations. Congressional appropriators who oppose direct aid to the

Palestinian Authority because of its past corruption and support for terrorism recently directed Bush to operate through NGOs.

"I'm just a plain old politician," Biden said, "but I tell you, if the water ain't running, if you got to go to this guy who is an unofficial guy and he's going to be the one to help you get your kid to school, and I'm the elected official and I got to go to an NGO down the road, then it doesn't give me much leverage, doesn't give me much authority, doesn't give me much standing."

Israel, too, must be generous, Wolfensohn said, especially in allowing the Palestinians to rebuild a port and airport in Gaza. Wolfensohn said Sharon was showing greater flexibility on the airport — which Israel is concerned could be used to launch airstrikes or smuggle in weapons — and had green lighted planning for its re-building, if not a timetable.

Israel also is seeking assistance for its relocation of military bases from Gaza to Israel, and for post-withdrawal plans to develop the Negev and Galilee, where evacuated settlers are expected to settle. Reported aid figures range between \$1 billion and \$3 billion.

Einat Wilf, a senior adviser to Vice Prime Minister Shimon Peres, said it is premature to discuss amounts, but that U.S. and Israeli officials already are discussing the funding of infrastructure, industry development and "minority empowerment" in the Negev and Galilee regions.

'Both the Israelis and the Palestinians must take action to do what they say that they will do.'

Lt. Gen. William Ward
U.S. Middle East envoy

JTA
WORLD
REPORT

Howard E. Friedman
President

Mark J. Joffe
Executive Editor and Publisher

Lisa Hostein
Editor

Michael S. Arnold
Managing Editor

Lenore A. Silverstein
Finance and Administration Director

Noa Artzi-Weill
Marketing Director

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.
© JTA. Reproduction only with permission.

Israel quiet on London attacks

By DAN BARON

JERUSALEM (JTA) — Israelis are empathizing with Britain's first taste of Islamist terrorism, but the government of Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon is keeping quiet.

While Israeli news media unleashed a flurry of commentary on the bombs that killed around 50 people in London's transportation system on July 7, Jerusalem officials limited themselves to extending condolences and offers of help.

"Prime Minister Sharon told British Prime Minister Blair that he understands the difficult days that the latter and the British people are now going through and offered his support," a Prime Minister's Office statement said after the two leaders spoke by phone.

THIS WEEK

MONDAY

■ Lubavitch emissaries from more than 75 college campuses will meet at Chabad on Campus' national leadership convention at the Holiday Inn Conference Center in Edison, N.J. Participants will address issues facing Jewish students and meeting demand for Chabad offerings on campuses. Rabbi Menachem Schmidt, vice-chairman of the Chabad-Lubavitch National Campus Foundation, and Rabbi Moshe Chaim Dubrowksi, national coordinator, will give an overview of the group's recent achievements, including the official recognition of Chabad at Columbia and Tufts universities.

TUESDAY

■ More than 500 Jews will fly from New York and Toronto to Ben-Gurion Airport in Israel in the biggest-ever one-day aliyah of Jews from North America. Some 1,800 North American Jews are expected to make aliyah this summer, with about 3,200 slated to move to Israel throughout 2005.

FRIDAY

■ The Save Darfur coalition, which includes representatives from all Jewish religious streams, launches a weekend of prayer for the war-plagued region of Sudan.

SUNDAY

■ Nearly 2,000 members of Hadassah, the Women's Zionist Organization of America, convene in Washington. The group's four-day 91st annual convention, entitled "What So Proudly We Hail," will draw on the themes of patriotism and Zionism. Participants will lobby their members of Congress on issues ranging from stem cell research to Israel.

The reticence was no accident. According to political sources, Sharon ordered his Cabinet to avoid too much talk about the London bombings. "This is not our event," he told them.

It was a far cry from Israeli reactions to previous attacks abroad attributed to Al-Qaida. Keen to garner support for its crackdowns on Palestinian terrorism, the Jewish state compared Osama bin Laden to the likes of Hamas and Arafat.

But with the previous Palestinian Authority leader gone and a perceived moderate, Mahmoud Abbas, in his place, Israel can no longer risk making such parallels.

"Likening the West Bank and Gaza Strip to Al-Qaida strongholds could naturally raise damning questions of why we, then, are pursuing peacemaking with the Palestinians," a Sharon confidant said.

The concern is especially pronounced when it comes to Britain. While the Blair government is a stalwart of the United States and has voiced sympathy for Israel's security needs, it is still viewed by many in Jerusalem as "Old Europe," which translates into pro-Arab and pro-appeasement when it comes to the Palestinians.

For some, Blair reinforced that view with comments he made on what he saw as the best way of tackling Islamic terrorism.

"We need to create the circumstances in which there is a proper understanding

of people between different faiths, in which some of the critical issues in the Middle East are dealt with and sorted out, and where people can see out there in the Middle East that there is a perfectly good path to democracy if people want to take it," Blair said in a radio interview Saturday.

Arab media interpreted the remarks as a call for Palestinian statehood demands to be met.

But Israel's ambassador to Britain rejected the notion that Blair favors

appeasing Palestinian terrorism. "We have to understand that we have no better friends on the continent than Blair and his government. He is completely clear in his opposition to terror," Zvi Heifetz told Army Radio on Sunday.

Sharon's directive regarding quiet on the London attack was not universally observed.

Finance Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who was attending an investment conference in London when the bombers struck, publicly likened Islamic terrorists to the Nazis and urged British citizens to fight terrorism the way they fought Germany during World War II.

Other government representatives limited themselves to more general expressions of solidarity.

"The whole free world is now fighting terror," said Cabinet minister Matan Vilnai. "I am sure we can find the will, find the right direction, how to face terror, with Great Britain, with the U.S., with the whole free world." ■



Ahenakew guilty of hate speech

MONTREAL (JTA) — A Canadian court found a former aboriginal leader guilty Friday of willfully promoting hatred against an identifiable group for anti-Semitic comments. David Ahenakew was fined \$1,000 for his offense.

Speaking at a 2002 native conference and afterward to a reporter, Ahenakew unleashed a diatribe against the Jewish people, calling them a "disease" and asserting that Hitler was justified when he "fried 6 million of those guys."

The unrepentant 71-year-old reportedly wore his controversial Order of Canada

pin on his lapel in court and shook his head a few times as the guilty verdict was read aloud in the packed courtroom.

Earlier last week, the Order of Canada's advisory council began proceedings to strip Ahenakew of the honor.

The Canadian Jewish Congress welcomed the verdict.

"Ahenakew's actions may have temporarily captured the attention of Canadians, but they do not define the relationship between the Jewish and aboriginal communities," said Ed Morgan, the Congress' national president. ■

NEWS IN BRIEF

WORLD

Annan slams U.N. official

Kofi Annan's spokesman slammed a U.N. official for comparing Israelis to Nazis.

The spokesman for the U.N. secretary-general called comments by Jean Ziegler, a food expert at the world body, as "irresponsible," according to news reports. Ziegler had made the anti-Israeli comments in an address last week to pro-Palestinian demonstrators in Geneva. "Kofi Annan's statement is a dramatic expression of non-confidence in Mr. Ziegler's mandate," said Hillel Neuer, executive director of U.N. Watch, a Geneva-based monitoring group.

The group praised Annan for "his continuing leadership in unequivocally denouncing the discourse of anti-Semitic demonization within the United Nations."

Ziegler has been criticized before for repeatedly singling out Israel for opprobrium.

Anti-terror group offers its dogs

An organization that features terror-fighting dogs is offering free services to governments to help them fight terrorism.

Pups for Peace said it is making the offer in the wake of last week's bombings in London, which killed at least 50 people.

The nonprofit group is active in fighting terrorism in Israel.

Arrest made for 1944 murder

A Hungarian-born Australian was arrested last Friday in Perth in response to an extradition request to face trial for the 1944 murder of a Jew in Budapest.

Nervous and appearing shaken, Charles Zentai, 83, was taken by Australian federal police to face a specially convened court in Perth.

In 1948, a Budapest court issued an arrest warrant for Zentai for his alleged role in the murder of Peter Balazs, 18.

But Zentai was never tried for the crime, having fled to the American-controlled zone in Germany.

In 1950 he sailed for Australia, where he claimed refugee status.

Holocaust memorial in Slovakia vandalized

A Holocaust memorial in Slovakia was vandalized.

Slogans denying the Holocaust were recently painted on the new memorial in Rimavska Sobota, and several tombstones were destroyed at a nearby Jewish cemetery, according to media reports.

MIDDLE EAST

Katsav wants accord

Israel's president called for the country to seek a peace accord with the Palestinians after it withdraws from the Gaza Strip.

"If and when the plan is implemented, a diplomatic framework must be put together," Moshe Katsav told Ma'ariv on Sunday. "It is my belief that it would be right to begin talking about a final accord between us and the Palestinians. Over the last 12 years, we have made three historic concessions — Oslo, the road map and the disengagement plan — and got nothing in exchange. What have they given us in return? This method of bit-by-bit, the salami method, is nice and convenient for them. It should be stopped, and final-status talks started."

Prime Minister Ariel Sharon has presented the withdrawals from Gaza and the northern West Bank, slated to begin in August, as an opportunity to jumpstart peace negotiations with the Palestinian Authority.

But he has ruled out any diplomatic progress until the P.A. cracks down on terrorism as required by the U.S.-led "road map."

Official: Two-thirds of settlers will leave

An Israeli official predicted that two-thirds of settlers in the Gaza Strip and northern West Bank will leave before this summer's pullout begins.

Some settlers have pledged to resist the evacuation, and so far just 396 of 1,100 families have started the process to leave.

But Yonatan Bassi, who heads the Israeli government agency that will compensate evacuated settlers, predicted a flood of departures in the two weeks prior to the pullout, scheduled to begin Aug. 15.

In an interview last Friday with Ha'aretz, Bassi said he expects mostly acquiescence, but predicted fierce resistance in at least one settlement, Sa-Nur in the northern West Bank.

Guard kills youth

An Israeli guarding the West Bank security barrier killed a Palestinian teenager.

Police said the guard, who was protecting a section of the fence near the Israeli town of Modi'in, opened fire last Friday after coming under a barrage of rocks thrown by local Palestinians.

But other witnesses disputed the account, saying the slain 16-year-old was not taking part in any protest.

Speedy withdrawal seen

Israel's vice prime minister said the Gaza Strip withdrawal could take as little as two weeks.

"I think it will take no more than two weeks," Ehud Olmert told the Jerusalem Post on Sunday, adding that the government wanted the pullout from Gaza and the northern West Bank, slated to begin in mid-August, to be carried out "as fast as possible."

Previous estimates had been that the operation would take between three and four weeks.

One settlement's residents agree to go

Most residents of a predominantly religious Gaza Strip settlement have reportedly agreed to be relocated under Israel's withdrawal plan.

The news Web site Ynet said Sunday that 46 out of 65 families living in Ganei Tal signed an internal memorandum saying they would go without a fight if the government promises to move them en masse to a new community in Israel.

It would mark the first such decision by a settlement in the main Gush Katif bloc, which Israeli officials fear could put up a heavy resistance to withdrawals slated to begin in August.

Several outlying and predominantly secular settlements have already signed official relocation deals.

Israeli government officials and settler leaders declined comment on the report.

NORTH AMERICA

Teaming up for charity

An American Jewish consulting group is working with a French Jewish charity to raise \$4 million for Israeli nonprofit organizations.

The Jerusalem Post reported Thursday that the New York-based Jewish Funders Network and the France-based Sacta-Rashi Foundation are launching a matching-grants program to motivate first-time donors in America to contribute to Israeli groups.

Gifts of \$25,000 to \$50,000 by first-time donors will be doubled by the foundation, which has allocated \$2 million for the initiative.