

## IN THE NEWS

## Bush signs daylight-saving bill

President Bush signed into law an energy bill that extends daylight-saving time.

The bill signed Monday was originally to have extended daylight-saving time by two months, but the U.S. House of Representatives and the Senate compromised at the last moment and settled on a one-month extension: three weeks in March and a week in November.

Jewish groups had joined with others, including farmers and parents groups, in opposing longer extensions.

Observant Jews were particularly concerned that, with 8:30 a.m. sunrises, they would be late for work if they said morning prayers.

## Government allows comp time for Shabbat

The U.S. government has changed regulations to allow part-time federal employees to use comp time to take off for Sabbath and other Jewish observances.

Observant employees had been allowed to bank comp time instead of earning overtime wages in order to take off time for holidays, but the Office of Personnel Management recently changed the policy for part-time employees.

## Gaza settlers turn in weapons

Israeli authorities collected weapons from a second Gaza Strip settlement.

Around 20 army-issued rifles were handed in by Ganei Tal residents Monday in what settlement officials described as a move to quell fears that the evacuation of Gaza, slated to begin next week, could spiral into violent confrontations.

Under the withdrawal plan, Israel has required that settlers give up weapons on loan from the army.

# WORLD REPORT

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## Indictment of ex-AIPAC staffers triggers anxiety among lobbyists

By RON KAMPEAS and MATTHEW E. BERGER

**W**ASHINGTON (JTA)—Somewhere between the benign inanities of water-cooler gossip and documents stamped "Top Secret" churns a wide gray sea of information that quenches the thirst of the lobbyists, legislators, political junkies and journalists who populate Washington.

Most of them ignore the cheap gossip and turn their ears away from the deepest secrets, but the material in between — all of which comes under the vast rubric of "inside information" — is treated like gold here. Careers are made, agendas advanced and ideas are sold based on conversations over intimate lunches and dinners in restaurants, during long phone calls and on chatty, rambling walks.

That could change depending on the outcome of expected trials for the alleged unauthorized use of classified information of two former senior staffers at the American Israel Public Affairs Committee and a midlevel Pentagon analyst.

On Aug. 4, Paul McNulty, the federal prosecutor in eastern Virginia, unsealed the Justice Department's indictment against Steve Rosen, AIPAC's former director of foreign policy issues; Keith Weissman, its former Iran analyst; and Larry Franklin, a former Pentagon Iran analyst.

In doing so, he made it clear that from now on, those who receive classified information should be as wary as those who dispense it.

"Those entrusted with safeguarding our nation's secrets must remain faithful to that trust," McNulty said. "Those not authorized

to receive classified information must resist the temptation to acquire it, no matter what their motivation may be." He said there was "a clear line in the law" against dealing in classified information.

Rosen, Weissman and Franklin all plan to plead not guilty.

AIPAC has hired outside lawyers to review its practices, and others in the Jewish community might soon do the same.

But Jewish and non-Jewish groups wonder just how to refine such practices in a city where no one until now has seriously considered the solicitation of inside information to be criminal.

"The law governing unauthorized disclosures of classified information is not 'a clear line,' it is a blurry and discontinuous line," the Federation of American Scientists said in a statement about last week's indictments.

"As a practical matter, receipt of formally classified information is part of the daily business of national-security reporting and occasionally of government watchdogging," said the federation, a nuclear watchdog that advocates against government secrecy. "Mr. McNulty's public statement is not a reliable guide to law or policy on national-security classification."

Abbe Lowell, Rosen's attorney, called the charges a "misguided attempt to criminalize the public's right to participate in the political process."

Journalists in Washington were on guard. The New York Times has reported that McNulty's office wants to talk to all reporters who communicated in the past with Rosen and Weissman. JTA has learned that two of the

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NEWS  
ANALYSIS

## ■ *Ex-AIPAC staffers' indictment sends chill through lobbyists*

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reporters referred to as receiving leaks in 2004 about alleged threats against Americans and Israelis in northern Iraq are Glenn Kessler of The Washington Post and Laura Rozen of the Nation.

A number of lobbyists, Jewish and non-Jewish, told JTA that the practices outlined in the indictment are not too far removed from their own daily practices.

"It's going to chill all lobbying," said Abraham Foxman, the national director of the Anti-Defamation League. "I think it will chill journalists' ability to get information. Many of us have conversations with government officials. Can I talk to you about a meeting I had with a government official? I'm not sure anymore. Am I supposed to ask if this is classified or not? It could change the whole nature of discourse in Washington."

The indictment charges that Weissman and Rosen got classified information on Iran and terrorism from Franklin and two other unnamed U.S. government officials. It also alleges that they relayed the information to officials at the Israeli Embassy in Washington and to journalists.

AIPAC itself, which was not implicated in the indictment, has hired former Justice Department officials now working for Howrey LLP, one of Washington's leading law firms, to review its lobbying practices.

"The conduct of Rosen and Weissman was clearly not part of their job," an AIPAC official said. "However, we made a decision that the events of the last year warranted an internal review of policies and proce-

dures related to information collection and dissemination."

AIPAC dismissed Rosen and Weissman in April, saying their activities did not comport with the organization's standards. Insiders say AIPAC has scaled back its lobbying of the executive branch, focusing instead on Congress, where there is much less likelihood of encountering classified information.

AIPAC, meanwhile, is continuing to pay the legal fees for Rosen and Weissman.

Some observers link the case to the Bush administration's zeal to crush the culture of leaks and, more particularly, to a recent investigation that led to the jailing of The New York Times reporter Judith Miller for not revealing sources who allegedly gave her information about a CIA operative.

"There's a little bit of the echo of the Karl Rove situation," said Larry Noble, a lobbying expert who is the executive director of the Center for Responsive Politics, which tracks political giving.

Rove, President Bush's top political adviser, is known to have confirmed the identity of the CIA agent to at least one reporter but has yet to face any consequences, while Miller is in jail.

In the AIPAC case, at least two government officials cited in the indictment for leaking allegedly classified information to Rosen and Weissman do not face charges and are not likely to. The officials are not named in the indictment, but one, in fact, was recently promoted to a senior administration job dealing with sensitive security information, according to a source close to Weissman and Rosen's legal defense.

Taking action against those who receive classified information has been quite rare until now, according to Steve Pomerantz, a former FBI counterterrorism chief who now advises Jewish groups.

Key to such prosecutions is the accused's knowledge that the information is classified, which would be much easier to prove with a government employee.

The indictment makes note of the security clearance that Rosen enjoyed until 1982, when he worked for the Rand Corporation think tank, apparently in order to establish that he knew the law.

Yet nothing in the indictment suggests

that Rosen and Weissman ever saw a document marked "Top Secret."

Instead, the indictment relies on snatches of taped conversations in which Rosen and Weissman allegedly refer to material as "secret" or "sensitive" — or, in one instance, as "classified."

The single document mentioned was retyped by Franklin, according to the indictment, and faxed to Rosen — suggesting that it might not have been clear

to Rosen that it was classified. Sources close to Rosen's defense say the fax was simply a list of Iran's bad acts, which could have been compiled from any newspaper's database.

The absence of clear lines led Howrey, the law firm working with AIPAC, to consult with other organizations engaged in lobbying, an AIPAC official said.

In the Jewish community, there are few if any guidelines. That may now change, officials said.

"It's definitely worth giving some thought to," said Martin Raffel, the associate executive director of the Jewish Council for Public Affairs, an umbrella organization for Jewish community relations councils and Jewish organizations.

David Harris, the executive director of the American Jewish Committee, said his group would not change what it does but their consciousness of the dangers would be higher.

"You want to be even more certain that even inadvertently people don't cross a line, however that line is drawn," he said.

One source familiar with the workings of Jewish groups in Washington said more caution could be healthy: Often, said the source, who asked not to be identified, Jewish lobbyists slip from considering Israel's view as one of many factors in crafting a position on an issue to simply advocating for Israel.

McNulty suggested he would argue that intent was critical. In a news conference, he described Franklin, Rosen and Weissman as "individuals who put their own interests and views of American foreign policy ahead of America's national security."

That would distinguish them from reporters, who are protected by the First Amendment, said Bill Mateja, a former federal prosecutor now in private practice in Dallas.

**'It's going to chill all lobbying.'**

**Abraham Foxman**

National director,  
Anti-Defamation League

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# Israel initiative targets Europe's moderate Muslims

By GIL SEDAN

JERUSALEM (JTA) — As Europe begins to wake up to the dangers of home-grown radical Islam, Israel is reaching out toward the other face of Islam — the moderates.

Israel's Foreign Ministry recently launched a project designed to build bridges to what Israel considers the "silent majority" of European Muslims.

"Most of those communities are not Arabic, and therefore are less influenced by events in the Middle East," Ambassador Reda Mansour, head of the Islam in Europe project told JTA. The majority of European Muslims are believed to be from North Africa or Turkey.

The Foreign Ministry doesn't harbor hopes of returning to the supposed Golden Age of Jewish-Muslim relations in Spain in the 12th and 13th centuries. But it does feel that out of an estimated 20 million Muslims living in the countries of the European Union, most are more interested in making a decent living and raising their children than in carrying out terrorist attacks.

"Our main purpose is to reduce anti-Semitism and terrorism by reaching out for the silent majority," Mansour said. This could be done by encouraging European Jewish communities to initiate dialogues with their Muslim neighbors, he explained.

Not that they can't do it on their own. In Holland, for example, CIDI — the Israel Information and Documentation Center — has been working on a project to help the Jewish and Muslim communities learn more about each other.

Still, Mansour stressed the symbolic significance of an official Israeli statement blessing such efforts.

"Many Jewish communities still look up to Israel on such delicate issues," he said.

The project was partly inspired by "The Crush Within Islam," a new book by Emmanuel Sivan, one of Israel's foremost historians of Islam.

The book argues that the internal debate within Islam is just as dramatic as the ideological debate between Islam and the West posited in Samuel Huntington's "The Clash of Civilizations and the Remaking of World Order."

Sivan argues that Huntington and his followers were misled by radical Islamists into believing that their ideology was the

only true Islam. Illuminating the many schools of present-day Islam, Sivan believes that relations between Islam and the West are more complex.

The Middle East Media Research Institute, which specializes in translating documents published in the Arab world, has recently cited a number of contemporary Islamic thinkers who have spoken out against radical Islam.

One Arabic writer published a story about relations between Jews and Arabs that condemns the practice of blood libels in the Arab world. The journalist Munir Al-Mauri of Yemen wrote an article justifying Israel's right to exist as a Jewish state because the Arabs have "22 religious countries."

Rahman Abdul Rashid, head of Al-Arabiya, an Arab satellite-television network, wrote an article urging Britain to detain and deport radical preachers who misuse freedom of speech.

Retired Brig. Gen. Yigal Carmon, head of MEMRI, told Israel's Ma'ariv newspaper that "the reformist trend cannot be stopped. This is going to be the tsunami of the Arab world."

But Uri Kupferschmidt of Haifa University, an expert on European Islamists, does not share his optimism.

"The scene is too complicated. You just cannot identify all the various elements of European Islam, and it's difficult to determine the real power and influence of the various camps."

Kupferschmidt doesn't think Israel should have launched the "Muslims in Europe" project.

"I believe we Israelis should keep a low profile. Let the work be done through the local Jewish communities," he said.

Some leaders of the Islamic Movement in Israel, eager to improve their own public image, rushed to embrace the new initiative.

"Yes, I think it is feasible that Israel could establish contacts with moderate Islamic elements," Sheik Hashem Mahajneh, mayor of the Israeli Arab city of Umm el-Fahm and one of the leaders of the Is-

lamic Movement, told JTA. "The majority of Muslims in the world have moderate views and favor such a dialogue. We, too, condemned the recent attacks in Britain."

European Muslims have not reacted to the Israeli initiative. Mansour has not yet received any substantial feedback, but he noted that the project is only a month old.

The Foreign Ministry project is part of its diaspora and religions division.

"Now is an opportune moment to make an effort in this direc-

tion," said Nimrod Barkan, the ministry's deputy director general for Diaspora affairs. "The Muslim community in Europe is subject to heavy pressures ever since the terrorist attacks in Spain and recently in Britain, and this is why we believe that they will meet our initiative," he said.

Islamic radicals carried out massive bombings in Madrid in March 2004 and in London last month.

While Israeli embassies in Europe have been involved in a dialogue with Muslim communities for some time, until now their attention has been focused mainly on radical anti-Semitic elements. Currently, they're seeking out moderate voices as well — with the entire effort to be orchestrated by Mansour from Jerusalem.

"The novel element here is that we also want to find the silent voice — to give it a means of speaking out so that it will condemn terror, condemn anti-Semitism and connect with the local Jewish communities for the sake of joint civil actions," Mansour said.

The initiative will focus on countries with large Islamic communities, such as Britain, France, Holland, Belgium and Italy.

Of the Israeli Foreign Ministry's 1,000 employees, only seven are non-Jews. Mansour, 40, a Druse, is one of them. A resident of the Druse village Usfiya, on Mount Carmel, Mansour has a rich career behind him.

He was Israel's ambassador to Ecuador. Prior to that, he was posted at the Israeli Embassy in Portugal and the Israeli Consulate in San Francisco. He speaks five languages, has published three books of Hebrew poetry and is a graduate of Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government.

'Our main purpose is to reduce anti-Semitism and terrorism by reaching out for the silent majority.'

Reda Mansour

Head of Islam in Europe project

BEHIND  
THE  
HEADLINES

# NEWS IN BRIEF

## MIDDLE EAST

### Gaza infiltrators nabbed

Israeli police arrested 12 activists suspected of trying to infiltrate Gaza Strip settlements.

The suspects used fake identification cards in a failed bid to cross an army blockade around Gaza on Monday, police said.

Arraignment was expected at Beersheba Magistrate's Court.

Israeli authorities believe that as many as 4,000 activists have managed to slip into the main Gaza settlement bloc of Gush Katif, where they plan to resist evacuations scheduled to begin next week.

### Consoling Arab compatriots

Israel's president and Sephardi chief rabbi made a condolence visit to Israeli Arabs following a Jewish terror attack.

"We are a nation of law and order. We will not allow such acts to set the national agenda," President Moshe Katsav said Monday in the Galilee town of Shfaram, where he met relatives of four Arabs gunned down last week by Natan Eden Zada, an army deserter and Jewish extremist.

Katsav was accompanied by Sephardi Chief Rabbi Shlomo Amar, who invoked biblical injunctions against murder.

### Turkey terror alert

Israel urged its citizens to avoid visiting Turkey's southern coast.

In light of revelations regarding terrorist threats at coastal sites in Turkey, the national security council counterterrorism headquarters issued a temporary travel warning, the government said in a statement Monday.

The advisory came as two cruise liners carrying hundreds of Israeli passengers were diverted from Turkey to Cyprus in what local officials called a security precaution.

Last Friday, three Israeli ships also were rerouted away from Turkish ports. Israeli media said there was a warning that Islamist terrorists could try to ram bomb-laden boats into the vessels.

Turkey is a popular Israeli tourist destination, despite Al-Qaida bombings that targeted two Istanbul synagogues in November 2003.

### Terrorist's last minutes probed

Israeli police are investigating the lynching of a Jewish terrorist by an Arab mob.

Channel 10 Television aired footage Sunday showing that Cpl. Natan Eden Zada, an army deserter who gunned down four Israeli Arabs aboard a bus in the northern town of Shfaram last week, was alive and handcuffed when survivors of the attack beat him to death.

According to the report, Zada was subdued and bound by police aboard the bus, but apparently was abandoned to his fate after a furious throng closed in.

Legal sources confirmed that the incident was under investigation and that action could be taken against members of the lynch mob as well as any police found to be negligent.

## NORTH AMERICA

### Candidate drops out

A North Carolina city council candidate dropped out of the race after reports that he regularly posted to a white-supremacist message board on the Internet.

Doug Hanks said he made the posts to obtain information for a novel he was writing and to increase its sales.

He needed to appeal to "more than just the gun crowd," Hanks told The Associated Press.

### ADL angry at Falwell's call

The Anti-Defamation League asked Rev. Jerry Falwell to retract his call for followers to "vote Christian" in 2008.

Falwell sent a fund-raising letter to followers, asking them to "vote Christian and call America back to God," and included a bumper sticker reading "I Vote Christian."

Abraham Foxman, the ADL's national director, said Monday that such statements suggest a religious litmus test for political office.

"Rev. Falwell's recent statements are directly at odds with the American ideal and should be rejected," said Foxman.

## WORLD

### Russian leader backs Israel forum

A controversial Russian Jewish businessman and community leader will become the main sponsor of a security conference in Israel.

Arcadi Gaydamak will be the main supporter of the next Herzliya Conference, an annual event in Israel where government and business leaders convene to discuss Israeli and international issues and security problems, under an agreement with the Institute for Policy and Strategy in Herzliya, which organizes the event.

The next conference is scheduled for January 2006.

Earlier this year, Gaydamak was elected president of the Congress of Jewish Religious Communities and Organizations of Russia, Russia's oldest religious Jewish umbrella group.

Over the past decade, Gaydamak has been dogged by allegations of unscrupulous business operations and is still wanted in France on charges of fraud and tax evasion.

### Number of poor Israelis up

Almost one in four Israelis lives below the poverty line, the government said.

According to the National Insurance Institute report published Monday, 1.5 million Israelis were defined as poor in 2004, a rise from the previous year.

Analysts attributed the trend to government welfare cuts, a move the Finance Ministry has said aims to encourage employment.

The findings come a week after the Central Bureau of Statistics reported an unprecedented polarization of wage differences in Israel.

### Living the vida diplomatica

Pop star Ricky Martin met with Israel's consul general in New York.

Yediot Achronot, an Israeli newspaper, reported Saturday that the meeting with Arye Mekeel represented the singer's attempt to correct any misconceptions after he performed for a group of Jordanian youth wearing a Palestinian kaffiyeh, the traditional Arab headdress, with the slogan "Jerusalem is ours."

Martin, who has said he is on a mission to correct misperceptions about Arabs and Muslims, said children had put the kaffiyeh on his shoulders during a concert in Jordan, but he hadn't realized what it represented.

Martin also said he is slated to perform in Israel next spring.

### Jewish QB inducted into hall

Benny Friedman, who played quarterback in the early years of the NFL, was inducted into Pro Football's Hall of Fame.

Friedman, inducted Sunday to the shrine in Canton, Ohio, is believed to have led the NFL in touchdown passes during the years he played, 1927-1933, though statistics for the period are spotty.