

IN THE NEWS

Israel evacuates main Gaza bloc

Israeli security forces completed the evacuation of the main Gaza Strip settlement bloc.

Police declared Gush Katif empty of residents Sunday after the last of its 15 enclaves — Katif, Slav and Atzmona — were evacuated.

At the same time, the army evacuated Elei Sinai, the last of three settlements in northern Gaza. All that remains for security forces to tackle in Gaza is Netzarim, a hard-line settlement, on Monday.

The following day, police and troops will evacuate Sa-Nur and Homesh, the last two of four West Bank settlements on the removal roster.

Pope visits shul while in Germany

Pope Benedict XVI visited a German synagogue that was rebuilt after being destroyed by Nazis and warned of the dangers of anti-Semitism.

The pontiff became the second pope to visit a synagogue last Friday, and said more remains to be done to fight anti-Semitism.

"Today, sadly, we are witnessing the rise of new signs of anti-Semitism and various forms of a general hostility toward foreigners," he said.

Benedict, who is German, also said he would continue Pope John Paul II's efforts to improve Catholic-Jewish relations.

End of withdrawals OK'd by Israeli Cabinet

The Israeli government approved the last stage of withdrawals from the Gaza Strip and northern West Bank.

The resolution approved by a 16-4 vote Sunday by the Cabinet concerns a few remaining Gaza settlements and four in the West Bank.

Sunday's vote was the last of three on a plan that had threatened to split the coalition government.

WORLD REPORT

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

New revelations in AIPAC case raise questions about FBI motives

By MATTHEW E. BERGER

WASHINGTON (JTA) — New revelations in the case against two former American Israel Public Affairs Committee staffers raise questions about why FBI investigators have been focused on the pro-Israel lobby.

The New York Times reported Aug. 18 that David Satterfield, the No. 2 man at the U.S. mission in Baghdad, was one of two government officials who allegedly gave classified information to Steve Rosen, AIPAC's former director of foreign policy issues, but he wasn't named in the indictment handed down against Rosen and two others earlier this month.

Satterfield allegedly spoke with Rosen on several occasions in 2002 — when Satterfield was the deputy assistant secretary of state for Near Eastern affairs — and shared classified information. At one point, Rosen allegedly relayed the secret information in a memorandum to other AIPAC staffers.

The fact that Satterfield is not a target of the case and was allowed to take a sensitive position in Iraq has raised questions about the severity of the information allegedly given to AIPAC officials, as well as about the government's motives for targeting Rosen and Keith Weissman, a former AIPAC Iran analyst, neither of whom had classified access.

The defendants and AIPAC supporters see the new revelations as evidence that federal prosecutors are targeting the powerful pro-Israel lobby for simply conducting the normal Washington practice of trading sensitive information. Officials inside and outside government privately acknowledge that clas-

sified information routinely changes hands among influential people in the foreign policy community and that the exchanges often are advantageous to diplomats.

"If, in fact, Satterfield passed on classified information that other people should not have had, then they should all be guilty of the same thing," said Malcolm Hoenlein, the executive vice chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations. "The fact that Satterfield hasn't been prosecuted suggests that's not the case."

Rosen and Weissman both pleaded not guilty Aug. 16 to a charge of conspiracy to communicate national defense information. Rosen also is charged with communicating national defense information to people not entitled to receive it.

Larry Franklin, a Pentagon Iran analyst, has been charged with five similar counts, including conspiracy to communicate classified information to a foreign agent. Franklin, who also pleaded not guilty, is accused of passing classified information to Rosen and Weissman from 2002 through last year.

Observers say the case is likely to create a chill among lobbyists and others who seek to garner foreign-policy information from the government.

The second U.S. government official, who allegedly met with Rosen and Weissman in 2000, remains anonymous but reportedly has left government service. Their identification is seen as central to the government's case that the AIPAC staffers followed a pattern of seeking classified information and disseminating it to journalists and officials at the

Continued on page 2

BEHIND
THE
HEADLINES

■ Revelations in the AIPAC case raise questions about the FBI's motives

Continued from page 1

Israeli Embassy in Washington. A spokeswoman for Paul McNulty, the U.S. attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia, would not comment.

Attorneys for Rosen and Weissman, who are collaborating on their defense, will likely use the same information to show that sharing documents and other information was normal practice between government officials and AIPAC.

Leaders of other pro-Israel groups say State Department and other government aides handling the Middle East portfolio frequently share information.

"When we discuss issues, it's an exchange. It's not one-sided," Hoenlein said. "What people forget is they benefit from these exchanges too, because they learn things from us."

Those who have worked with Rosen say a large part of his task was capturing sensitive material and that numerous government officials aided his pursuits over the years.

Tom Dine, a former AIPAC executive director, said Rosen had claimed in a 1983 memo, shortly after joining the pro-Israel lobby, that he received a classified review of U.S. policy in the Middle East.

Dine, who recently left his post as president of Radio Free Europe to head the San Francisco Jewish federation, told the New York Jewish Week that he was shown the document by FBI investigators.

"Everybody knew that Steve was quite capable of luring important information, which was exceedingly useful to the mis-

sion of the office," said Neal Sher, another former AIPAC executive director. "It was understood by the people in the organization, both professional and lay."

But they say Rosen's work mirrored what was being done throughout Washington.

"The trafficking in sensitive information, some of which might have been classified, is the norm in many instances," said Sher, a former federal prosecutor. "While I don't recall ever being specifically told that info they passed

on to me was classified, I would not have been shocked if that was done."

A spokesman for AIPAC denied any wrongdoing by the organization.

"AIPAC does not seek, use or request anything but legally obtained information as part of its work," Patrick Dorton said. "All AIPAC employees are expected and required to uphold this standard."

Satterfield is not considered a subject of the government's probe, and he reportedly was cleared by the Justice Department for his Iraq post.

State Department spokesman Sean McCormack said he could not comment on an ongoing investigation.

"I will say, though, that David Satterfield is an outstanding public servant, he is a distinguished Foreign Service officer and diplomat, and that he has worked on behalf of the American people for a number of years," McCormack said Thursday.

A State Department official said it was within Satterfield's portfolio to work with policy groups such as

AIPAC. As the deputy assistant secretary for Near Eastern affairs, Satterfield led the State Department group dealing with the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, as well as other regional issues on AIPAC's agenda.

"It wasn't out of the normal at all for a deputy assistant secretary, as he was, to be meeting with AIPAC on a regular basis," said the official, who spoke on condition of anonymity. "Our office tries to meet with interested people of all groups, and it's supposed to be an informational exchange." ■

'If Satterfield passed on classified information, they should all be guilty of the same thing.'

Malcolm Hoenlein

Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations

Belgium considers slaughter ban

BRUSSELS (JTA) — As a small group of voters in this country of 10 million people, Belgium's 30,000 Jews generally keep a low profile.

But the community recently sent representatives to Senate hearings on a proposed law affecting shechitah, the traditional Jewish method of killing animals for meat consumption.

Shechitah has been legal in Belgium since 1808, when Napoleon granted Judaism the status of an official religion. However, because of the size of the Jewish population in Belgium, not many animals are killed according to shechitah: Of a total of 549,000 cattle killed in Belgium in 2004, just 382 were killed by kosher slaughterers.

The law under discussion doesn't single out the Jewish practice — it also targets dhabiha, the Muslim method of slaughter — but the legislation clearly is

aimed at reining in religious slaughtering.

Belgium's chief rabbi, Albert Guigui, one of two experts representing Belgian Jewry at the hearings, said the proposed law "stigmatizes meat that was killed for Jews and Muslims."

Main support for the bill has come from an unexpected corner: the Vlaams Belang, a far-right Flemish political party that some accuse of racism.

The legislation urges the government to crack down on animal slaughter outside of government-inspected abattoirs. Illegal killings occur yearly around Id al-Adha, a Muslim festival that traditionally involves the slaughtering of a sheep for each family.

As many as 22,000 animals are slaughtered illegally for the festival each year, and Dedecker said he wants to pass the law before next January's festival. ■

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.

Presbyterian ties to Jews are fraying

By RACHEL POMERANCE

NEW YORK (JTA) — Ever since the Presbyterian Church USA announced its willingness last summer to place economic sanctions on Israel, Jewish-Presbyterian relations seem to have gone from bad to worse.

Close to giving up on talks with Presbyterian leaders, Jewish officials say the church's leadership is being swayed by the political agenda of radical Palestinians.

The Presbyterian "leadership has been hijacked by a radicalized" Palestinian Christian population that "represents a fraction of the Christian community in Israel," said Rabbi Gary Bretton-Granatoor, the interfaith director for the Anti-Defamation League.

Bretton-Granatoor is referring to groups such as Sabeel, a Jerusalem-based, ecumenical liberation-theology center that has called on churches to divest from companies that profit from Israeli activities in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. Sabeel's speakers are routinely hosted by Presbyterians and other Protestant groups.

Sabeel's "Principles for a Just Peace in Palestine-Israel" posits a vision of a two-state solution but argues that "the ideal and best solution has always been to envisage ultimately a binational state in Palestine-Israel," a suggestion most Jews take either as a conscious or subconscious call for the end of the Jewish state.

Meanwhile, members of the Jewish coalition addressing interfaith affairs fume that they are barred from Presbyterian meetings.

According to Barry Creech, the spokesman for the Presbyterian Church USA, the church does not have a process for "including persons from outside the Christian tradition" during the business of its General Assembly.

THIS WEEK

MONDAY

■ Performers and teachers from 13 countries are participating in a klezmer festival in Ukraine. The sixth annual International Klezmer Festival will take place through Friday. The festival is organized by the Center for Jewish Education and sponsored by the Jewish Community Development Fund of the American Jewish World Service, the UJA-Federation of New York and local sponsors.

But to include perspective from the region, Creech said Rabbis for Human Rights, which is affiliated with members of the Jewish coalition, attended a Presbyterian gathering on the Middle East at the church's Louisville headquarters.

Rabbis for Human Rights, for its part, decries the Presbyterian move to consider divestment as "unequal treatment toward the Jewish people."

According to Creech, the divestment issue emerged not from the national level but from a Florida congregation through a regional body, or presbytery. The presbytery wanted to divest from companies making more than \$1 million from business with Israel.

In response, the Presbyterian General Assembly approved a "phased, selective divestment" from companies that profit from Israel's West Bank security barrier or from the Israeli presence in territories the Palestinians demand and from any company that supports violence against innocent civilians on either side, Creech said.

After the Presbyterian Church USA voted to consider divesting from Israel last year, other mainline Protestant churches approached the subject. Methodists, for example, are studying the prospect of divestment, and the Episcopal Church is seeking to pressure companies that support the Israeli occupation or that support groups carrying out attacks on Israelis.

But the Presbyterians have taken the hardest line against Israel.

Early this month the church targeted four firms that supply the Israeli military with products and services — as well as Citigroup, which the Presbyterians say has allowed funds to be moved to front groups for Palestinian terror organizations.

If the targeted companies, which include corporate behemoths such as Caterpillar and Motorola, refuse to amend their policies, the church will consider dropping its investments in them.

Dialogue isn't completely dead — a Presbyterian representative will join a Jewish-Protestant mission to Israel next month — but Jewish officials feel little inclination right now to reach out to the Presbyterian leadership.

"It's not worth it," said David Elcott, the director of interreligious affairs for the American Jewish Committee. "We've not found that engaging on the national

level with Presbyterian leadership has been helpful" toward "bringing them into our peace coalition," he said.

In fact, Jewish-Presbyterian relations have long been difficult, said Rabbi James Rudin, the AJCommittee's senior interreligious adviser.

There is a "long history of antipathy, even hostility, to Israel" and Zionism among the Presbyterian leadership, Rudin said. Presbyterian missionaries have long been closely allied with Arabs, helping to found American universities in Beirut, Cairo and Ramallah, which in turn has informed their pro-Arab stance.

Among mainline Protestant churches the Presbyterians are regarded as experts on Middle East issues and as an influential voice of conscience, he said.

However, there is a "schizophrenic relationship" between the Presbyterians' Arabist leadership and the church's rank-and-file members, who are influenced by American support of Israel.

Divestment is only one element of the tension between Jews and Protestants.

One key irritant was the Sept.-Oct. 2004 issue of *Church & Society*.

The magazine was devoted to criticism of the security fence.

The publication was edited by Rev. Victor Makari, who coordinates Middle East affairs for the church.

Only recently discovered by Jewish officials, the magazine published pictures of graffiti drawn on the security barrier, including a Jewish star designed in dollar signs and the slogan "From Warsaw Ghetto to Abu Dis Ghetto."

Jewish officials were particularly outraged at a passage in the issue's introduction that seemed to compare Israel to Mammon, a mythological figure associated with avarice and the pursuit of money.

Members of the Jewish coalition — the ADL, the AJCommittee, the American Jewish Congress, the Jewish Council for Public Affairs and the Reform, Conservative and Orthodox movements — wrote Makari a bitter letter on June 3, saying the reference was reminiscent of medieval Christian anti-Semitism.

In response, Makari said he was referring to American materialism.

In a letter to the AJCommittee's Elcott, Makari said the photos aimed to show the oppressed feelings of Palestinians, who may link the barrier to U.S. aid to Israel. ■

FOCUS ON
ISSUES

NEWS IN BRIEF

MIDDLE EAST

Political arsonists arrested

Two Israelis opposed to the Gaza Strip withdrawal are under arrest on suspicion of trying to blow up a building in protest.

The arrests were made after police found evidence of attempted arson and anti-withdrawal graffiti at an apartment building in the central Israeli city of Rehovot last Friday.

According to authorities, had the arsonists succeeded in their plot to ignite the building's storage tanks of cooking gas, they would have caused scores of casualties. In a separate incident apparently aimed at stirring civil strife, a severed pig's head was thrown into the Hassan Beque mosque in Jaffa over the weekend.

The head was wrapped in an Arab scarf and had a note attached with the name Mohammed, in reference to the founder of Islam.

But there were no disturbances reported at the mosque, which saw bloody confrontations between Jews and Muslims during the outbreak of Israeli-Palestinian violence in 2000.

Rocket lands in Eilat

A Katyusha rocket, one of three launched from Jordan, landed near the Eilat airport.

The rocket created a small crater on a local road last Friday, although it did not explode. Another rocket landed near a U.S. Navy battleship docked in Aqaba, Jordan, killing a Jordanian soldier. No Americans were hurt in the incident. Jordanian and Israeli police are cooperating in the investigation.

The rockets were launched from a warehouse that had been rented by four people holding Egyptian and Iraqi citizenship, The Associated Press reported. An Al-Qaida linked group claimed responsibility for the attack on the Internet.

U.S. envoy meets Abbas

A U.S. envoy was slated to meet with Mahmoud Abbas.

David Welch's meeting with Palestinian Authority President Abbas in the Gaza Strip on Sunday comes as Israel continues its ongoing withdrawal from the coastal strip.

WORLD

Sharon to go to the U.N.

Ariel Sharon plans to address the United Nations after Israel completes the Gaza Strip withdrawal.

Aides to the Israeli prime minister said Sunday that if the pullout from the remaining settlements goes smoothly, he will attend the World Summit at the United Nations in mid-September and is expected to address the General Assembly.

The aides declined comment on the content of the speech, but political sources said it would reiterate Israel's stance that while the Gaza pullout had contributed to advancing the U.S.-led "road map" for peace, further progress would depend on the Palestinian Authority cracking down on terrorist groups as required.

ICHEIC to distribute \$16 million

The commission for Holocaust insurance claims announced it would be distributing \$16 million to Holocaust survivors and their heirs.

The International Commission on Holocaust Era Insurance Claims said last Friday it was offering \$5.5 million for life insurance policies held with companies that have been liquidated since World War II, and \$10.5 million for claims containing anecdotal information about policies.

"While no amount of compensation in any form can make up for what Holocaust victims suffered, these payments are an important

step in addressing one particular aspect of the many wrongs of that time," said ICHEIC's chairman, Lawrence Eagleburger.

The awards are being offered from ICHEIC's humanitarian funds.

Skinheads hurl anti-Semitic barbs

Skinheads verbally abused a Jewish boy in Buenos Aires. The 15-year-old boy, who is the son of a rabbi and was wearing a yarmulke, was bombarded with anti-Semitic slurs Aug. 17 after he left the subway station in the Belgrano neighborhood.

The assailants, three 16- and 17-year-old males, followed the Jewish boy — whose name is being withheld — until he ducked into a local shop where he was aided by a policeman.

The skinheads were arrested and now face charges of violating Argentina's anti-discrimination laws.

Earlier in the week, skinheads attacked a non-Jewish boy in the same neighborhood, seriously injuring him.

Noting several other attacks by skinheads elsewhere in the region, Claudio Epleman, assistant director of the Latin American Jewish Congress, demanded that governments immediately condemn the attacks.

We are "so concerned that intolerance is moving to physical violence and being claimed by anti-Semitic groups," he said. "We exhort the national government authorities and civil society to immediately condemn and react against these groups disposed to kill for hate."

Belarus Shoah memorial desecrated

A Holocaust memorial in the Belarusian capital of Minsk was desecrated last week.

The memorial Yama, or The Pit, erected in 1946 in memory of the Jewish inmates of the Minsk Ghetto during World War II, was covered last week with wreath fragments and human waste.

Jewish leaders in Belarus requested that the authorities find the perpetrators and bring them to justice.

A Washington-based group also called on Belarusian authorities to bring the culprits to justice. NCSJ: Advocates on Behalf of Jews in Russia, Ukraine, the Baltic States & Eurasia said in a statement: "This is not the first time this memorial has been vandalized. It is yet another example of the unchecked anti-Semitism that is being ignored in Belarus."

NORTH AMERICA

Publisher indicted for fraud

The former publisher of the Jerusalem Post was indicted on federal fraud charges. David Radler, the former president and chief operating officer of Hollinger International, was indicted Aug. 18 in Washington on charges of mail and wire fraud.

The Washington Post reported that he is cooperating with prosecutors in an investigation into Conrad Black, the company's former CEO, and is expected to plead guilty. Prosecutors claim Radler and two other men, also indicted, used a Canadian company they controlled to funnel money from Hollinger to themselves. The group allegedly profited from "noncompete" payments that were made when Hollinger sold newspapers, instead of distributing the money to shareholders.

Holocaust commission vice chairman named

President Bush named Joel Geiderman as the vice chairman of the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Council. Geiderman, co-chairman of the department of emergency medicine at Los Angeles' Cedars-Sinai Medical Center, previously served on the council, which oversees the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum. Bush also appointed Michael Morris of Georgia and Jay Stein of Florida to the council on Aug. 18.