

IN THE NEWS

Bush signs foreign-aid bill

President Bush signed the foreign-assistance bill, including more than \$2.5 billion in aid to Israel and \$150 million for the Palestinians.

The bill Bush signed Monday covers the period from Oct. 31, 2005, to Oct. 31, 2006.

It comes after Congress had talked of imposing an across-the-board percentage cut to make up for budget strains due to hurricane-season costs.

The American Israel Public Affairs Committee lobbied hard for the package, including tough congressional oversight on the \$150 million for the Palestinians.

Congress acceded to Bush's request to double funds for the Palestinians to smooth the period following Israel's pullout from the Gaza Strip.

Rice calls for coexistence

Condoleezza Rice urged Israel and the Palestinian Authority to continue working for peaceful coexistence.

"I expect to continue to work with you and your camp, and to progress toward the two-state solution in which Israel and the Palestinian state can live in peace, free and free of terror," the U.S. secretary of state, who is visiting the Middle East, told Israeli Foreign Minister Silvan Shalom in Jerusalem on Monday.

Voicing optimism at the prospect of stable Palestinian Authority rule in the Gaza Strip following Israel's pullout, Rice said a deal on opening a border terminal between Gaza and Egypt was "in sight."

Canadian leader pledges Israel support

"Israel's values are Canada's values," Canada's prime minister told some 4,000 Jews in Toronto for the United Jewish Communities' annual conference.

Calling Canada's Jewish community "an integral part of our social fabric," Paul Martin told the General Assembly's opening plenary Sunday night that "the vitality of Jewish life in Canada is reflected in our link with Israel."

WORLD REPORT

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

Israelis, world leaders remember Rabin, as battle rages over legacy

By DINA KRAFT

TEL AVIV (JTA) — Religious and secular high school students struggle against the wind to tie black balloons together in the form of a giant '10' on the city square where Yitzhak Rabin was felled by a Jewish assassin's bullets 10 years ago.

Some of the fragile black balloons pop, prompting nervous laughter. Every pop is an eerie reminder of the shots that rang out just a few feet away, and the fear that Israel one day could see another political assassination.

"You see that 10 years have passed and not much has changed," said Oded Moriah, 16, who attends a nearby religious high school. He had come to the square as part of a dialogue event sponsored by Gesher, an organization that promotes tolerance in Israeli society.

"There are the same conflicts between secular and religious and right and left and the same threat against the life of the prime minister," he said. "The faces have changed, but not the problems."

Like Israelis across the country, the students struggle against the winds of time and the fragility of memory to mark Rabin's assassination and commemorate his life. But a decade after Rabin's death, the country still searches for a way — or even an agreed-upon date — to mark the day that changed the Israeli landscape forever.

Rabin was slain Nov. 4, 1995, but the government and schools formally marked the day on Monday, the 12th of Cheshvan, the

anniversary of his death according to the Hebrew calendar.

"Israel is still searching how to commemorate. We have not found it yet and probably never will. There is something in this event that defies any conventional type of commemoration," said Michael Feige, a sociologist at Ben-Gurion University who is an expert on collective memory. "I think that deep down, this is really a great trauma and watershed in Israeli history, and I'm not sure we know exactly what it means."

At the state ceremony at Rabin's grave Monday, his granddaughter Noa Ben-Artzi put a personal face to the grief her very public family is experiencing.

"Around the national table of mourning there was no seat for us because, simply, nothing like this ever happened before," she said.

Meanwhile, many in Israel's national religious camp also feel alienated, claiming the Rabin commemorations and legacy have been politicized by the left.

In the assassination's aftermath, many on the left accused the entire national religious camp — as well as secular right-wing politicians — of creating an atmosphere of incitement that emboldened the assassin, a law student and Orthodox Jew named Yigal Amir.

Though a law was passed mandating that all Israeli public schools would commemorate Rabin on Monday, some yeshivas and religious schools refused to do so.

"Why, 10 years later, is there still such a rift in our nation?" President Moshe Katsav asked at the graveside ceremony Monday.

Continued on page 2

BEHIND
THE
HEADLINES

■ Israelis are still searching for how to remember Yitzhak Rabin

Continued from page 1

"Why doesn't the entire nation mourn and remember Rabin, and yes, also his legacy? No one is allowed to take himself out of the mourners' camp. No reason can harm this national need to remember Rabin."

In a special parliamentary session held in Rabin's memory, Knesset Speaker Reuven Rivlin, a Likud member, voiced the frustrations of the right when he charged that some politicians were using Rabin's memory for political purposes.

"Ten years after Rabin's assassination, some politicians are trying to create a bargain deal of remembrance and ideology. Is Rabin's commemoration winning hearts as a myth in the service of a certain ideology?" Rivlin asked.

On Saturday night, some 200,000 people filled the area around Rabin Square in Tel Aviv at a rally in the slain prime minister's memory. Large screens replayed scenes from the peace rally just before his assassination, including Rabin's final speech, when he told the jubilant crowd, "Peace entails difficulties, even pain. Israel knows no path devoid of pain. But the path of peace is preferable to the path of war."

This Saturday, there again were flags and blue-and-white balloons and slogans promoting peace. The same bittersweet songs were played and the speakers — including former President Clinton — called on the younger generation to

follow what they described as Rabin's legacy to "wage peace."

Clinton, who ended his speech Monday with the "Shalom chaver" send-off that became a slogan for remembrance in Israel, spoke of his personal pain at the loss of Rabin, whom he portrayed as something of a father figure and teacher.

"If he were here, he would say, 'There is enough of all this missing. If you really think I lived a good life, if you think I made a noble sacrifice in death, then for goodness sake take up my work and see it through to the end,'" Clinton said.

Listening to the speeches was Lior Estline, 38, who was at the square 10 years ago and has come back for every anniversary commemoration since then.

"We must never forget what happened," he said. "You see other people out here remembering, and it is a response to those who want to forget."

Among those on the right who felt they had no place at the mass gathering was Shlomo Engle, a member of Israel's national religious camp.

"The organizers were insistent: We were only welcome if we agreed to shout, 'Yes to peace' — despite the fact that this 'peace' has led directly to the violent deaths of thousands," Engle wrote in Yediot Achronot. "This type of 'peace' pushed, and will continue to push, me — and many other Israelis — away from Rabin Square."

Indeed, many Israelis on the right regard the Oslo peace process that Rabin launched as an act of monumental naivete by someone who until that time had been regarded as a keen strategist. Others say the portrayal of Rabin's legacy as a quest to "wage peace" regardless of the obstacles is a misreading of the security-minded general — who, they say, would have stopped the peace process in its tracks when he saw that

the Palestinians were not abandoning terrorism.

As Israelis continue to debate how Rabin should be remembered, the Yitzhak Rabin Center officially opened its doors Monday night, hoping to give a concrete response to commemoration.

The \$33 million structure overlooking Tel Aviv will house an archive of Rabin's papers and a museum of the history of Israeli society and democracy. It already houses an educational

center that conducts sensitivity-training workshops for Israeli security forces — despite Rabin's famous order to Israeli security forces, when he was defense minister during the first intifada, to break the Palestinians' bones.

The center was dedicated Monday before a list of international luminaries that included President Clinton and Sen. Hillary Clinton (D-N.Y.), U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, E.U. foreign policy chief Javier Solana and numerous world leaders.

"It is important to capture the spirit of Yitzhak Rabin through architecture," said architect Moshe Safdie, who designed the limestone building with white, wing-like structures on its sprawling roof. "The stone is Yitzhak Rabin the fighter, and the white structures are Yitzhak Rabin the peace maker."

Beyond buildings and ceremonies, the question remains of how current and future generations of Israelis grapple with the legacy of Rabin's life and death.

"For them it's just a line in the history book," Geshet founder and president Daniel Tropper said of today's Israeli youth. "Everyone who lived through that night knows where they heard the news. It's like a picture frozen in our minds."

But, he added, "this is always the problem: How do you transfer the deep experience of a people from generation to generation?"

'Israel is still searching how to commemorate. We have not found it yet and probably never will. There is something in this event that defies any conventional type of commemoration.'

Michael Feige
Ben-Gurion University

JTA WORLD REPORT

Daniel J. Krifcher
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.

Attacks in Jordan a warning for Israel

By GIL SEDAN

JERUSALEM (JTA) — Israeli experts say the recent terrorist attacks in Amman, the worst in Jordan's history, won't shake the monarchy's pro-Western orientation — but could be a harbinger of things to come for Israel.

"There is no immediate danger to the regime of King Abdullah II of Jordan," Shimon Shamir, a former Israeli ambassador to Jordan, said in an interview with JTA.

The mastermind behind scores of terrorist attacks in Iraq, the Jordanian arch-terrorist Abu Musab al-Zarqawi is believed to have planned the Nov. 9 triple bombing in Amman, which killed at least 57 people and wounded nearly 100.

But the Jordanian regime is strong enough to survive the attacks, thanks to a strong army, an efficient security service and a general public interest in maintaining stability, Shamir said.

If Al-Zarqawi "believed that the attacks would weaken the regime and gain public support, he was wrong," Shamir said. "By and large, most Jordanians don't want terrorism."

Still, the attacks struck Jordan's soft spot — major tourist and business hotels in the heart of the capital.

Jordan was added to a growing list of targets on Al-Qaida's hit list, from New York to Indonesia. Together the attacks have taken thousands of innocent lives, but only in one case — coordinated bombings on Madrid commuter trains in March 2004 — did they shake the target country's political establishment and force a change in policy.

Al-Qaida long has declared war against "Arab leaders collaborating with the Americans." America and its Middle East allies are the immediate enemy; Israel's turn will come soon, according to Al-Qaida threats.

Abdullah cut short a visit to Kazakhstan because of the bombings and canceled a visit to Israel intended to mark the 10th anniversary of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's assassination.

"Canceling the visit to Israel was only a technical measure," Shamir said. "The attacks will have no effect whatsoever on Jordan's friendly policy toward Israel."

The depth of that friendliness among the general population is still in question, as one reaction to the bombings make clear. Indeed, some in Jordan are blaming the terrorist attacks on Israel.

"People don't blame Israel out of a vacuum," Rami Khoury, a Jordanian political commentator based in Lebanon, told The New York Times, explaining that "Israel has caused a lot of grief for Arab people one way or the other."

Conspiracy theories blaming Israel often percolate in the Arab world after terrorist attacks.

Of course, Jordan's Hashemite rulers have overcome much more serious challenges in the past. The regime has been on shaky ground ever since Abdullah's grandfather, Abdullah I, was murdered in 1951 on the steps of the Al-Aksa Mosque in Jerusalem because of his willingness to contemplate peace with Israel.

Then came attempts to overthrow the young King Hussein's regime in the mid-1950s, as well as Yasser Arafat's attempt to create a de facto PLO state in Jordan in 1970. King Hussein responded by killing thousands of Palestinians and forcing Arafat into exile in Lebanon.

Some 35 years later there are sufficient forces in Jordanian society that may not support the regime directly, but which are interested in its stability. They include the Palestinian economic elite, which controls Jordan's private sector.

They also include much of the large Iraqi immigrant community, estimated at 700,000 to 800,000 people. By and large, the Iraqis are well-to-do refugees who fled Saddam Hussein's brutality and who are likely to stay in Jordan until the situation in Iraq stabilizes.

The attacks don't have a direct effect on Israel, but they're a reminder of Israel's own vulnerability.

Israel regards the Hashemite regime's stability as a security asset. It considers Jordan an essential buffer between Iraq and the West Bank, as well as a barrier between hard-line Syria and the Saudi oil fields.

Israel always has been troubled by the scenario of an Islamic or Palestinian takeover of Jordan, and has treated the Hashemite regime with respect and suspicion — respect because the Hashemites

maintained cordial if surreptitious relations with Israel since the early days of the Jewish state, suspicion because of concern that hostile elements might take over, considering that nearly 60 percent of Jordan's 3.5 million citizens are Palestinian.

Since the signing of the Israel-Jordan peace treaty in 1994, the monarchy has had to maneuver between its reliance on Israel

as the best guarantor of the regime and its commitments to the Arab world, including the Palestinians.

Over the last several years, Islamists and ultra-nationalists waged an "anti-normalization" campaign against ties with Israel, targeting Jordanian professionals who dared to establish business relations with Israeli colleagues. But there are strong security ties between Israel and Jordan that are less advertised, and the two countries' intelligence services cooperate, as do security patrols along the border.

Some warn that the Amman bombings are a sign that Al-Qaida is getting closer to Israel. Though the long border between Israel and Jordan has been remarkably peaceful for more than 30 years, it could be crossed easily by hostile elements.

What can Israel do? Not much. In the long run it can seal the border between the two countries more effectively. The immediate measures to be taken are greater cooperation between the security forces, and a watchful eye along the border.

On the political level, Israel needs to strengthen economic ties with the Jordanian business community. The greater the interest in normalization with Israel, the greater the stability — though the dearth of ties is due mainly to Jordanian recalcitrance, not Israeli.

A case for stronger ties is Jordan's Qualified Industrial Zone with Israel, a benefit of the peace agreement. Under the deal, if Jordan and Israel collaborate on products, they enter the U.S. duty-free.

But the main problem lies far away from Israel's reach, along the Jordanian-Iraqi border. As long as the instability in Iraq continues, it's likely to spill over to Jordan. And like a flood, the waves may reach Israel's shores as well.

'The attacks will have no effect whatsoever on Jordan's friendly policy toward Israel.'

Shimon Shamir

Former Israeli ambassador to Jordan

NEWS
ANALYSIS

NEWS IN BRIEF

MIDDLE EAST

Sharon's son expected to plead guilty

Ariel Sharon's son is expected to plead guilty to charges that he illegally raised funds for his father's campaign.

Omri Sharon's plea is expected Tuesday. According to Ha'aretz, Omri Sharon will admit to charges of falsifying corporate documents, perjury and to violating the party funding law, and the prosecution will drop charges of fraud and breach of trust. It's unclear whether he will serve jail time.

Hamis chief in Nablus killed

Israeli forces killed a Hamas fugitive.

Commandos raided the West Bank city of Nablus on Monday, shooting dead the local Hamas chief when he resisted arrest at his hideout.

Another 11 suspected Palestinian terrorists were arrested. Hamas, which has scaled back its attacks in recent months, vowed revenge.

Along Israel's border with the Gaza Strip, an army patrol fired at Palestinians who were about to attack it with a grenade launcher.

One of the Palestinians reportedly was killed.

Rice, Saudi spar on Israel

Condoleezza Rice differed with her Saudi counterpart on the role of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict in fomenting terrorism.

In an otherwise friendly joint appearance Sunday in Jeddah, the U.S. secretary of state and Saud Al-Faisal, the Saudi foreign minister, exchanged words over what creates terrorism.

"The continuation of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict helps in allowing the terrorists to justify their actions in the eyes of some young people who are not of full knowledge of the situation and who are still in the formative years of their development," Al-Faisal said.

"Terrorism of that sort cannot be condoned under any circumstances, but it does give justification and it allows their recruitment."

Rice said the Israeli-Palestinian conflict should be resolved on its own terms and not because of any relation to terrorism.

"It ought to be resolved because Palestinians deserve a better life and Israelis deserve a better life," she said. "The Middle East will most certainly be a much better place when there is a Palestinian state, a democratic Palestinian state living side-by-side in peace with Israel."

Peretz: Settlers should evacuate

The new head of Israel's Labor Party proposed offering West Bank settlers compensation to leave.

Under Knesset legislation submitted Monday by Amir Peretz, West Bank settlers who voluntarily move to Israel proper can expect the same government compensation given to settlers evacuated from the Gaza Strip in August and September.

The bill must pass several readings before being ratified, but it had significant symbolic value in pitting Peretz against Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, who has vowed that Israel will keep certain West Bank settlement blocs close to the pre-1967 boundaries.

Saudi teacher sentenced

A Saudi court sentenced a teacher to 40 months in jail and 750 lashes for praising Jews, a Saudi newspaper reported.

Al-Madina newspaper reported that Mohammad Al-Harbi will receive the punishment for "dubious ideology, mocking religion, saying the Jews were right, discussing the Gospel and preventing students from leaving class to wash for prayer."

Al-Harbi is expected to appeal.

NORTH AMERICA

Cadets trained to proselytize

Missionaries were assigned to the U.S. Air Force Academy to train cadets to evangelize to students, new documents reveal.

The Colorado Springs academy has been under fire for months, accused of creating a Christian environment and evangelizing to cadets and others of minority faiths.

A young couple assigned to minister to cadets at the school was able to use classrooms there, according to a fund-raising letter sent from Darren and Gina Lindblom.

The documents were obtained by Mikey Weinstein, an Air Force Academy alumnus who is suing the school for allegedly violating the constitutional separation of church and state, according to the Washington Post.

The Lindbloms were full-time employees of the Navigators, a ministry group that assigned them to the school, the Post reported.

Academy officials contend that the Navigators are one of 19 religious organizations, including Jewish groups, that hold voluntary meetings on campus for 90 minutes each week.

Groups to discuss campus anti-Semitism

Leaders of several American Jewish groups will discuss anti-Semitism on American college campuses with a U.S. panel.

The U.S. Commission on Civil Rights will hold hearings Friday on anti-Semitic incidents on college campuses.

Speakers will include Susan Tuchman of the Zionist Organization of America, Sarah Stern of the American Jewish Congress and Gary Tobin of the Institute for Jewish and Community Research.

The commission, whose members are appointed by the president and Congress, investigates complaints of discrimination.

Chasidic rocker makes 'Forward 50'

A Chasidic rock star made the Forward's annual list of the most influential Jews in America.

Matisyahu was one of the five most influential Jews in America, according to the Forward.

Born Matthew Miller, Matisyahu "now has a following that stretches all the way from Crown Heights to the pages of the 'beer and babes' magazine FHM," the Forward said.

Others in the top five are director Steven Spielberg, Sen. Arlen Specter (R-Pa.), Mideast envoy James Wolfensohn and Ruth Messinger, president of the American Jewish World Service.

WORLD

Moscow Jews celebrate Torah, school

Some 500 Jews in Moscow celebrated a new Torah scroll and the dedication of a new Chabad educational facility.

Participants in Sunday's procession included some 150 Chabad rabbis from Russia, the former Soviet Union and Western Europe, who converged on Moscow this week for a rabbinical convention organized by the Rabbinical Center of Europe, an organization of Chabad emissaries.

"With the help of the great rabbis who came here today, we will be able to raise the level of Jewish life in Russia," Berel Lazar, one of Russia's chief rabbis and Chabad's main emissary in the region, said at the opening of the convention at the Marina Roscha synagogue.