

**IN THE NEWS**
**Hadley: We oppose paying P.A. payroll**

The Bush administration opposes using foreign aid to pay Palestinian Authority salaries.

Stephen Hadley, President Bush's national security adviser, met Monday with about 30 Jewish leaders from an array of organizations to discuss next week's visit to Washington by Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert.

The United States favors a mechanism to bypass the Hamas-led Palestinian Authority in getting assistance to Palestinians, but Hadley said that stopped short of subsidizing the payroll of the Palestinian Authority, by far the biggest employer in the Palestinian areas.

**U.S. restores relations with Libya**

The United States is restoring diplomatic relations with Libya and taking steps to remove it from a list of countries that support terrorism.

The Bush administration announced the steps Monday. The removal of Libya from the terrorist list requires a 45-day notice to Congress.

Libya and the United States have not had relations since 1980, and Libya was implicated in the bombing of Pan Am flight 103 in 1988, which killed 270 people.

A rapprochement began three years ago when Libya agreed to dismantle its programs to develop weapons of mass destruction.

**Israeli airstrike kills one Palestinian**

A Palestinian terrorist was killed in an Israeli airstrike in the Gaza Strip.

Military aircraft bombed a car allegedly carrying a rocket crew from Islamic Jihad on Monday, killing one of the occupants and wounding the other two.

This comes after Israeli troops killed seven Palestinians in West Bank clashes.

# WORLD REPORT

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

## Private restitution proposal in Poland offers unsatisfactory resolution to some

By DINAH SPRITZER

**W**ARSAW (JTA) — Poland, the last country in the former Eastern Bloc to address restitution for individuals whose land, businesses and homes were confiscated by the Nazis and then the Communists, is coming closer to passing a long-awaited restitution law.

A draft resolution that will be introduced to a parliamentary committee in June would, for the first time, make compensation available to claimants and their heirs living outside of Poland who do not have Polish citizenship.

"Prime Minister Kazimierz Marcinkiewicz told us that the legislation would be passed by the end of the year," said Rabbi Andrew Baker, director of International Jewish Affairs at the American Jewish Committee, who recently held meetings with the Polish government on a variety of issues.

Several longtime observers of Polish politics, including the prime minister's adviser on Jewish affairs, say the bill has an excellent chance of passing.

However, the proposal to provide compensation at a rate of just 15 percent of the current value of properties — legislators are expected to raise it slightly, to 20 percent — is being blasted by Jewish claimants.

"This offer is totally unacceptable, and I will advise survivors and their heirs not to accept, I repeat, not to accept such an offer. They took our homes, they benefited from our property — they should give it back or pay for it in full," said Kalman Sultanik, chairman of the Federation of Polish Jews of the United States, survivor of several concentration camps and

a JTA board member. Sultanik himself lost a family home in Poland.

His comments were echoed by potential claimants and their representatives.

"I think the Polish proposal is ridiculous," said Estelle Freyberg of Putnam County, N.Y. Freyberg's mother had a large brick factory and farm in Lomaz, Poland.

"It's stealing from the heirs," she said. "The property was stolen in 1939. There was no compensation for the use of property. Fifteen percent or 20 percent amounts to nothing."

The Polish government has been under tremendous pressure from Israel and the United States over the past decade to compensate victims of the Holocaust for the confiscation of their property. Only about 10 percent of Poland's approximately 3.5 million-strong Jewish community survived World War II.

Israel Singer, co-chairman of the World Jewish Restitution Organization and president of the Claims Conference, as well as chairman of the World Jewish Congress' Policy Council, issued a general statement on the lack of restitution so far in Poland: "At a time when other European nations have faced up to their responsibilities, it is particularly important that Poland, where so many millions of Jews were murdered, deal appropriately with this issue. Jewish properties stolen or sold under duress are now being sold by the government for full value."

Jewish claims are expected to add up to 20 percent of total claims, which largely will be from Poles and their heirs whose property was taken by the Communist regime.

In an interesting twist of fate, one of the government representatives responsible

*Continued on page 2*

**AROUND  
THE JEWISH  
WORLD**

## ■ Poland's proposal is meager, but poor survivors may need it too badly to turn it down

*Continued from page 1*

for explaining the legislation to the Jewish world is Poland's secretary of state, Ryszard Schnepf, whose father at one point was head of the Polish Jewish community under the Communists.

Schnepf realizes that some people will be unhappy with the bill, but adds that it's better than what some other countries have offered.

"It's true that Romania has offered compensation at 100 percent, but Hungary only gave 5 to 10 percent," and only in bonds that could be used to buy land or portions of state firms, Schnepf said. "We are offering something according to our economic possibilities."

At the end of April, the World Jewish Restitution Organization, representing the interests of Holocaust survivors and their heirs, issued a position paper urging Poland to provide full compensation. It noted that "there are countries whose economic plight is much worse than that of Poland, yet they are determined — and have been trying — to compensate claimants with the full, current market value of property stolen by the Nazis and/or Communists."

The proposed compensation bill, which will cover everything within the current boundaries of Poland, is expected to cost the country some \$10 billion. It is likely to exclude Warsaw, due to the capital's complicated property history, which included its destruction, the loss of documents and a massive legal tangle.

Six years ago, legislation offering full compensation to those who were Polish citi-

zens before 1999 was passed by Parliament, but was subsequently rejected by President Aleksander Kwasniewski.

There is no country in Central and Eastern Europe with a larger number of emigrants who have claims to property. Poland today has a population of about 40 million but there are another 20 million former Poles or their descendants living abroad, which is one reason why passing a restitution bill has been so difficult.

That explanation is not satisfactory for Yehuda Evron, president of the Holocaust Restitution Committee, which represents 3,000 potential heirs in the United States, Israel, Europe, Australia and New Zealand.

"It is outrageous that the Polish government is inheriting 80 percent of the value of the homes of the few thousand Jews who survived" the Holocaust, Evron wrote in an e-mail to JTA.

Representatives from international Jewish organizations, including the Claims

Conference, will meet with members of the Polish Treasury in the coming month to make clear their concerns about the bill.

Foremost among them is the difficulty for Jews living abroad to make claims, as well as the paperwork and legal fees involved.

Then there is the matter of heirless property, which Jewish organizations have suggested should be used to fund the preservation of Jewish heritage.

If there is anything Jewish groups have learned from previous experience with restitution in Central and Eastern Europe, it's that the devil is in the details.

The AJCommittee's Baker, who has worked with many countries in the region on compensation programs, said that if heirs have to spend money on legal fees and costly document searches, it will defeat the purpose of offering what is already unsatisfactory compensation. ■

'It's stealing from the heirs.'

**Estelle Freyberg**

Survivor's daughter

## S. Africa won't meet Hamas after all

CAPE TOWN (JTA) — Following pressure from the Jewish community, South Africa's president promised Jewish leaders that he would not meet with Hamas members.

But Thabo Mbeki did not condemn comments by Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, who has denied the Holocaust and called for Israel's destruction.

The South African Jewish Board of Deputies — the community's umbrella body — discussed the matter at its annual meeting with Mbeki last week in Pretoria.

Mbeki had previously expressed his intention of meeting with Hamas. Before the meeting, Jewish leaders warned "that it would destroy his ability to act as a mediator in the Middle East crisis," said Michael Bagraim, national chairman of the board.

At the meeting, Mbeki told the group that he had decided not to meet with Hamas members, but would meet with others in the Palestinian Authority and with Israeli officials.

The meeting, also attended by South Africa's deputy president, Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, was much more substantive than in previous years, Bagraim said.

"The last time we met President Mbeki, we put our concerns and comments, which he noted. In this one, he spent a lot of time talking — it wasn't a photo shoot," he said.

The group also discussed the government's failure to condemn Ahmadinejad's comments.

When the Iranian leader first came out with these statements, the board met with South Africa's deputy minister of foreign affairs, Aziz Pahad, who explained that there had been no government reaction because he had been out of the country at the time and the matter had "fallen between the cracks."

When Ahmadinejad repeated himself, the board again approached Pahad, with no result.

It was then decided to bring the matter up at its annual meeting with Mbeki.

At the meeting, Mbeki confirmed the government's policy that any call for the destruction of another state and any denial of the Holocaust would be condemned, and promised to "follow up on why the government hasn't condemned both those statements," Bagraim said. ■

### 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](http://www.jta.org).  
© JTA. Reproduction only with permission.

# Transatlantic rift looming on Iran?

By WILLIAM ECHIKSON

BRUSSELS (JTA) — Following acrimony over policy toward Iraq, the next challenge for the United States and Europe is Iran.

This time, the transatlantic partners are working better, agreeing to seek a United Nations Security Council resolution demanding that Tehran stop its nuclear-fuel program. Both say the next step could be sanctions against the Islamic republic.

So far, so good — but what happens if the Security Council can't reach an agreement? Negotiations are continuing this week in New York on a British and French draft resolution that opens the possibility of stiff punishment of Iran.

On Tuesday, U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice is to meet with the foreign ministers of the four other permanent members of the Security Council and Germany for discussions on Iran. But both China and Russia are hesitating to sign a tough resolution, raising the real possibility of a deadlock.

If that happens, European and American leaders meeting recently in Brussels at a German Marshall Fund conference on transatlantic relations underlined how the transatlantic harmony painstakingly reconstructed in the past few years could vanish.

The conference underlines how far the two sides have come — and how they could still diverge.

First, there's good news. Conference participants spoke of how the United States and Europe are working together in Afghanistan, how they agree on freezing out the Palestinians' Hamas-led government and how they're united in standing up to what they called Russian energy "imperialism."

When skeptics attempted to find holes in this harmony — such as detention of terrorist suspects in Guantanamo Bay or the dangers of global warming — U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Daniel Fried said: "The discussion of U.S.-European differences is so very 2003. We have done that. The U.S.-European relationship is at work and in action."

"No more talking of the problems between us," agreed Javier Solana, the E.U.'s high representative for foreign and security policy. "Transatlantic relations are in

a good period. The patient is the rest of the world. Global problems would be in a better state if we cooperate."

Both Europe and the United States believe Iran has been lying when it says its nuclear program is not for developing a weapon. Both find intolerable Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad's Holocaust denial and his threat to "wipe Israel off the map."

The United States has allowed Europe to take the lead in trying to negotiate away the Iranian nuclear danger, and both

support the International Atomic Energy Agency finding that Iran has enriched uranium and defied a Security Council order to halt all enrichment activities.

The problem is what to do in response to Iranian defiance.

"The Security Council should impose multilateral sanctions," said U.S. Sen. John McCain (R-Ariz.), "including a prohibition on investment, a travel ban and asset freezes for government leaders and nuclear scientists."

Europeans can accept such moves — but only if the United Nations imposes them.

## NEWS ANALYSIS

'Transatlantic relations are in a good period. The patient is the rest of the world.'

Javier Solana  
E.U. Council

In contrast, the United States is willing to work outside the United Nations; Rice has talked about imposing sanctions with a "coalition of the willing." The Europeans may not be willing.

Conflict across the Atlantic could become worse if the United States contemplates more dramatic action. When McCain refused to rule out military action Solana became agitated and said force should not even be considered.

Yes, the United States and Europe have moved beyond their bitterness over Iraq.

They share the same values and goals, in the Middle East and beyond.

But expect divisions to emerge on Iran. No one wants nuclear-armed ayatollahs, but the question is how far to push. If diplomacy fails to budge Tehran, the danger will become real of a re-

newed transatlantic crisis, with Americans frustrated over European sniping and inaction and Europeans accusing the United States of imperialism and warmongering. ■

*William Echikson is bureau chief for Dow Jones Newswires and a longtime correspondent in Europe.*

## Controversial immigration law upheld in Israel

JERUSALEM (JTA) — Israeli Arabs are upset after Israel's top court upheld a controversial law that prevents Palestinians married to Israeli Arabs from living in Israel.

By a vote of 6-5, the High Court of Justice on Sunday rejected petitions filed against the Citizenship and Entry Law.

While acknowledging that the law violates the human rights of the thousands of Israeli Arabs married to Palestinians, the High Court said national security must take precedence.

At least one of the Palestinian suicide bombers to have struck since 2000 was a resident of Israel through marriage, and Israeli Jews are all the more suspicious of Palestinians since they voted in a Hamas government earlier this year.

"The Palestinian Authority is an enemy government, a government that wants to de-

stroy the country and is unwilling to recognize Israel," wrote Justice Mishael Cheshin.

Israeli Arabs, who make up 20 percent of the country's population, voiced their opposition to the decision.

First passed in 2002, the Citizenship and Entry Law all but banned residency rights for the Palestinian spouses of Israelis.

An amended version in 2003 loosened the law to allow eligibility for female candidates older than 25, and men older than 35 — ages at which Palestinians are statistically far less likely to take up arms.

Then-Justice Minister Tzipi Livni said national security justifies the law. But she also cited growing fear of an influx of Palestinians seeking the better life on offer in Israel, some of them through fictitious marriages with Israeli Arabs. ■

# NEWS IN BRIEF

## WORLD

### Putin wants Hamas/Israel talks

Vladimir Putin urged Israel to open talks with the Hamas-led Palestinian government.

The Russian president made the comments after a meeting Monday with Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas in the Russian resort town of Sochi. The meeting focused on Russia's financial aid to the cash-strapped Palestinian Authority.

### Israel gets spot on U.N. committee

Israel was appointed to a spot on the United Nations committee on non-governmental organizations. The committee of the U.N. Economic and Social Council meets twice annually and reviews applications for special status with the commission.

"Maybe our membership in the committee will help make Israeli NGOs more aware of this avenue and encourage them to seek a relationship with the economic and social council," said Marco Sermoneta, a counselor at Israel's mission to the United Nations. In addition, he said, membership would be a "good way to diversify our visibility in the United Nations."

### Israel upset after Norway/Hamas meeting

Norwegian officials met with a Hamas leader. Israeli spokesman Mark Regev was quoted as saying Israel was disappointed with the meeting, though Norway reportedly pressed Hamas to renounce terrorism and recognize Israel.

Israel believes the international community should isolate Hamas until it takes those two steps. In a related development, Norway announced last Friday that it would increase the amount of money it contributes to U.N. relief efforts for the Palestinians by 50 percent, to \$24.5 million.

### UNRWA chief urges Hamas engagement

A senior U.N. official called for the West to hold talks with "moderate" members of the new Palestinian Authority government under Hamas.

Asked during a visit to Sweden on Monday whether the European Union should loosen its ban on talks with Hamas, Karen Koning AbuZayd, head of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian refugees, said, "I know their laws sometimes make it difficult to engage with the government, but I think there are some moderates among the ministers that deserve talking to."

### Anti-Semitic crimes up in Germany

Anti-Semitic crimes in Germany rose by 25 percent in 2005 over the previous year, according to government statistics.

The total number of crimes was reported at 1,682, translating into five reported incidents per day, the Federal Ministry of the Interior reported.

## MIDDLE EAST

### Second Gaza arms shipment foiled

Israel thwarted the second attempt this month to smuggle arms to Palestinians by sea.

An Israeli naval patrol intercepted a Palestinian boat Sunday as it neared the Gaza coast from neighboring Egypt. The crew managed to dump some of the cargo, but the Israeli military found several hundred pounds of military-grade explosives aboard. Several Palestinians were arrested. The navy last week prevented an Egyptian ship from smuggling a half-ton of TNT to Gaza.

### Five Jordanians tried for plots against Israel

Five Jordanians were charged with plotting to infiltrate Israel to carry out attacks. The suspects appeared in the country's State Security Court Sunday, the Jordan Times reported.

The court adjourned after a few minutes because three of the suspects had no defense lawyer. The five, including an 18-year-old, are accused of possession of automatic weapons, actions aimed to undermine Jordan's relations with a foreign country and attempted infiltration.

They could face the death penalty. Court papers said the alleged ringleader, Khaled Mohammed, 29, sold his wife's jewelry to buy Kalashnikov rifles, which he used to train his recruits, the Times said.

### Israeli economy beats forecast

Israel's economy beat first-quarter forecasts. The country's GDP rose 6.6 percent, the Central Bureau of Statistics reported Monday.

Most of the increase was caused by a 76 percent jump in new car purchases. The country's trade balance also improved, with a 5.2 percent drop in imports and a 2.4 percent rise in exported goods.

### Abbas criticizes Hamas

Mahmoud Abbas assailed Hamas for harming the Palestinians' image abroad. In a speech broadcast Monday, the Palestinian Authority president called on the Islamic terrorist group to renounce violence and accept peacemaking with Israel now that it's leading the P.A. government.

"We must not resign ourselves to fiery speeches and slogans that could bring about international isolation," Abbas said.

He added that by continuing to call for the Jewish state's destruction, Hamas justifies Israeli arguments that there is no Palestinian partner for peace.

## NORTH AMERICA

### Jewish Alliance appeals for negotiations

A dovish Jewish group is presenting a letter to President Bush's national security adviser urging Palestinian-Israeli negotiations.

The Jewish Alliance for Justice and Peace sent a representative to Monday's meeting between Stephen Hadley and Jewish leaders to present a letter from supporters calling for negotiations between Israel and Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas, a relative moderate.

The letter, which also will be sent to Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert, says unilateral actions such as Israel may take in the West Bank, can "threaten the possibility of negotiations."

### Ex-spy-master vows to help Pollard

Jonathan Pollard's former handler, now an Israeli Cabinet minister, vowed to work for his release from prison. Pensioners Minister Rafi Eitan told Israel Radio on Monday that he would use his political position to advance the campaign to free Pollard, a former U.S. Navy analyst serving a life sentence in prison for passing the Jewish state military secrets in the 1980s.

Pollard opposed Eitan's appointment to the current Israeli government, accusing the retired Israeli spy-master of recruiting him and then forsaking him. Eitan rejected the charge.

He also played down media speculation that a trip he plans to make to Cuba soon could signal a warming of ties between Jerusalem and Havana.

According to Eitan, the visit is of a private nature, and will not include talks with Cuban leader Fidel Castro, an old acquaintance of his. Eitan reportedly has extensive business interests in Cuba.