

IN THE NEWS
**Senate passes
Palestinian aid act**

The U.S. Senate overwhelmingly approved legislation that would end direct aid and contact with the Hamas-run Palestinian Authority.

The Senate passed the Palestinian Anti-Terrorism Act by voice vote Friday, reflecting the bill's broad bipartisan support. According to the legislation, which still allows humanitarian assistance to the Palestinian people, aid to the Palestinian Authority could be resumed if Hamas renounces violence, recognizes Israel's right to exist and abides by previous diplomatic agreements.

**Reform
boycotts Katsav**

The president of the Union for Reform Judaism declared a boycott of the Israeli president. Rabbi Eric Yoffie said in comments published Sunday that his movement would shun Moshe Katsav over his refusal to refer to Reform rabbis as "rabbis."

"President Katsav is discounting the legitimacy of 1.5 millions Jews in the United States who belong to the Reform Movement," Yoffie told Ma'ariv. Katsav said he is bound by state regulations that recognize only Orthodox ordinations.

**Auschwitz center,
NYC museum to merge**

A New York Holocaust museum plans to merge with a Jewish center near Auschwitz-Birkenau.

The Board of Trustees of the Museum of Jewish Heritage — A Living Memorial to the Holocaust voted last week to enter into final negotiations with the Auschwitz Jewish Center in Poland, which memorializes victims of the Holocaust and celebrates Jewish life in the area prior to World War II.

Once the agreement is finalized, the New York museum will operate the center in Poland and will have overall responsibility for the combined institution.

WORLD REPORT

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Deadly raid, abduction at IDF post scuttle Abbas-Olmert peace summit

By DAN BARON

TEL AVIV (JTA) — Days away from a planned summit between Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert and Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas, a deadly clash on the Gaza Strip border has raised the specter of major escalation.

In their first successful raid out of Gaza since Israel quit the coastal strip last year, Palestinians on Sunday tunneled under the border fence and stormed an Israeli military position near Kibbutz Kerem Shalom.

Two soldiers, Lt. Hanan Barak, 21, from Arad, and St. Sgt. Pavel Slutsker, 20, from Dimona, were killed and Cpl. Gilad Shalit, 19, was taken captive. The soldiers returned fire, killing three attackers, and the rest retreated to Gaza.

Shalit, from Mitzpeh Hila in the Galilee, was wounded at the time of his capture and was said to be in stable condition. Palestinian sources said Shalit had stomach and chest wounds.

"This situation is extremely grave," said Lt. Gen. Dan Halutz, Israel's military chief.

Armed groups historically have used captured Israeli soldiers as bargaining chips for the release of Palestinian prisoners. However, Olmert ruled out negotiations over Shalit's release.

In a Sunday night meeting, the government's political-security Cabinet decided that the army would begin planning a military operation to rescue Shalit, an operation that Olmert was quoted as saying "will last more than a day or two."

Sunday's predawn raid was carried out jointly by the Popular Resistance Commit-

tees terrorist coalition, Islamic Jihad and Hamas. The groups called it revenge for the death of Palestinian civilians in recent Israeli airstrikes against Gaza rocket crews.

Despite Sunday's attack, residents of Kerem Shalom, located at the juncture between Egypt, Gaza and Israel, said they still feel more or less secure.

"This incident is not typical," said Amit Caspi, a father of two who moved to the kibbutz a little more than two years ago. Before Israel's withdrawal from the Gaza Strip last summer, "there was much more noise. There was shooting in both directions."

On Sunday, TV crews descended upon the sleepy kibbutz and prepared their evening news broadcasts while IDF troops and Palestinians in Gaza exchanged fire a few hundred yards away.

Inside the kibbutz community center, a group of soldiers dispatched to the town after Sunday morning's attack played billiards and watched apathetically as England beat Ecuador in a World Cup match.

Unlike larger Jewish towns near northern Gaza, such as Sderot, the area around Kerem Shalom was relatively calm during the last few years of the intifada. Even when Palestinian militants began firing Kassam rockets out of Gaza, few were aimed at the sparsely populated towns near southern Gaza. Indeed, there are far more soldiers than civilians in the area.

The involvement in the attack of Hamas, which runs the P.A. government, prompted senior Israeli officials to redouble their threats against the terrorist group.

According to senior political sources, at least two members of Olmert's Cabinet

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■ *The deadly clash occurred days away from the first summit between Olmert and Abbas*

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demanded that Israeli forces reoccupy parts of Gaza.

Olmert is not expected to approve such a sweeping move so early in his term, especially as he is busy trying to lobby support for Israeli withdrawals from the West Bank.

But in comments to fellow ministers, Olmert made clear that the chances were slim for a rapprochement with Abbas, who is seen internationally as a relatively moderate alternative to the Hamas government.

"The State of Israel sees the Palestinian Authority, headed by Chairman Abu Mazen and the Palestinian government, responsible for the incident, with everything that implies," Olmert said, using Abbas' nom de guerre.

After their informal meeting in Jordan last week, Olmert and Abbas were expected to reconvene by month's end or early July for a first peace summit; the attack put that on hold.

Israeli sources said Olmert aides indefinitely deferred a meeting with their Palestinian counterparts that had been intended to lay the groundwork for talks.

Infrastructure Minister Benjamin Ben-Eliezer, a former defense minister, hinted that Israel could step up its military actions in Gaza to include even airstrikes against senior Hamas politicians.

"When it comes to terrorism, there is no difference between a prime minister

and a suicide bomber," he told Israel Radio. Senior Hamas officials went underground after the attack, fearing Israeli retaliation.

Foreign Minister Tzipi Livni spoke with U.N. Secretary General Kofi Annan and U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, asking them to press Abbas to se-

cure Shalit's release. She also relayed the message that Israel considers the abduction a test of Abbas' leadership.

Abbas, however, said Hamas is solely responsible for the affair. ■

JTA correspondent Uriel Heilman contributed to this story from Kibbutz Kerem Shalom.

Soccer fans say, 'Never Again'

By TOBY AXELROD

BERLIN (JTA) — Taking a break from the World Cup soccer tournament under way in Germany, an international group of soccer fans visited the former Dachau concentration camp to make a statement about hate.

Wearing their team shirts, some 150 non-Jewish sports fans from Great Britain, Germany and Poland visited the Dachau memorial outside Munich last Friday in a program co-organized by Maccabi of Great Britain and the anti-racism initiative of LondonEnglandFans.

"We want to show our fanship and we want to show the world that we will never again let things be done which have been done more than 60 years ago," said Herbert Schroeger, 46, of Munich, a member of Munich 1860 Against Racism.

"We want to show that we football fans are not necessarily ultra right-wing hooligans," he added. "We are decent people. We are people with different opinions, but we share our opinions against racism."

"It is a very important moment for football fans," agreed Peter Schuengel, 32, of Dortmund, Germany. "You don't expect football fans to go to Dachau and remember the past and say 'OK, never again.' People expect us to be drinking beer and shouting and making some trouble."

Such fans are reachable, too, Schuengel said, but "only fans can reach fans."

The trip took place at the height of the World Cup. The games have been largely peaceful and the event has lived up to its motto, "A time to make friends."

But concerns about racism and right-

wing extremist symbolism among some fans continue to haunt soccer, particularly in Europe.

The visit to Dachau "was an emotional experience and I think an educational experience," Martin Berliner, chief executive of Maccabi GB, told JTA in a telephone interview. He said he had asked participants, both children and adults, to write a mes-

sage on a postcard bearing the British flag and the words "Never Forget, Never Again."

It was the first visit to Dachau specifically geared to soccer fans during the World Cup, said Michael Franke, a spokesperson for the memorial. In addition to visiting the memorial and mu-

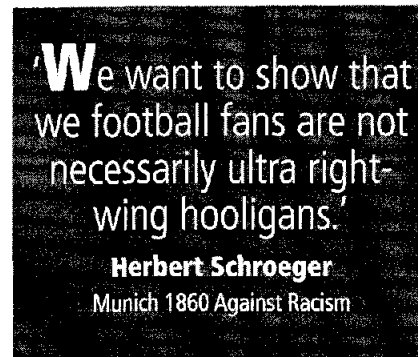
seum, the guests spoke with Holocaust survivors Max Mannheimer and Ernst Grube, both of whom live nearby. The visitors also placed wreaths at the site.

They day concluded with a visit to the memorial to the White Rose German student resistance movement, and a barbecue in the evening.

The initiative was the brainchild of Mark Perryman of LondonEnglandFans and was supported by football's anti-racism campaign in the United Kingdom, Kick It Out. Funding came from the British-based Pears Foundation, a private organization that supports Holocaust education in the United Kingdom.

Perryman, who is not Jewish, said his idea grew out of concern about hooliganism, xenophobia and anti-Semitism among some British soccer fans.

"Obviously we are here in Germany for football, but we are human beings as well, and today was an opportunity to bear witness," Perryman said. ■



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Red Cross vote reflects decades of work

By RACHEL SILVERMAN

NEW YORK (JTA) — Israel's admission to the International Red Cross and Red Crescent movement was the result of 58 years of aggressive, sustained lobbying.

But it also was due to some last minute, behind-the-scenes maneuvering at the Red Cross conference in Geneva last week.

The conference, which drew 192 Red Cross states and 183 national emergency relief societies, was convened to determine whether Israel's emergency services agency, Magen David Adom, should be allowed to join the international humanitarian organization.

Thursday's final vote was decisive - 237 in favor of Magen David Adom and 54 against, with 44 abstentions.

Previous attempts to gain entry had been blocked by Arab and Islamic coun-

tries, which latched onto the agency's Star of David logo as a pretext to reject the Israeli agency.

But that point of contention was cleared up in December, when a neutral symbol — a red crystal — was allowed. That satisfied the last condition Israel needed to submit its membership application to the Red Cross, though Arab and Islamic countries still did all they could to block the move ahead of the vote June 22.

Reaching this point took decades of work by major Jewish organizations, and the battle also played out in Washington, where a number of legislators made it a priority issue.

The American Red Cross also played a leading role in the campaign. Since 2000, the ARC has withheld \$42 million in dues, 25 percent of the international federation's annual income.

But why did Magen David Adom succeed now, after so many years of failed attempts? Why couldn't the Organization of the Islamic Conference once again keep Israel out?

For one, Israel's admission was linked to the admission of the Palestinian Red Crescent Society, which had been relegated to observer status because of a statute admitting agencies only from sovereign states. Changing the statute to allow a simultaneous vote on the Israeli and Palestinian agencies may, in the end, have created more votes for Israel.

The strategies employed by Arab and Islamic nations may have also contributed to the victory. Two nations — Tunisia and Pakistan — tried to pass an amendment challenging Magen David Adom's jurisdiction in areas Israel conquered during the 1967 Six-Day War, such as the Golan Heights and West Bank.

That amendment was shot down in a 191-72 vote, with 44 abstentions. Stuart Jackson, chairman of American Friends of Magen David Adom, called it a "tactical mistake" for these countries to focus on Middle East politics.

"The chairman said, 'Look, we're not in the political business,'" Jackson said, paraphrasing a statement from the conference's chairman, Mohammed al-Hadid, of Jordan. "We're in the business of doing humanitarian work."

The strategy of challenging where the Israeli relief agency can operate contradicted the position of the Palestinian envoy, who argued for a total rejection of the Israeli agency. According to Jackson, the Palestinian envoy even was willing to forgo admission of the Palestinian agency, as long as Magen David Adom didn't get in.

Jackson said that message met with general disapproval.

Another hitch occurred with the memorandum of understanding signed in November by MDA and the Palestinian group. The agreement specified certain steps Israel had to take on the ground, such as allowing

Palestinian ambulances to pass easily through checkpoints.

Some reports indicated that Swiss inspectors who visited Israel to monitor the agreement weren't satisfied with what they saw.

Shai Franklin, director of international organizations at the World Jewish Congress, said that as the hour grew late — the vote didn't come until almost 3:30 a.m. — he became increasingly worried about procedural delays.

He also was troubled by comments from Syria, which objected to how the votes were being counted.

In the end, such objections fell on deaf ears. A few nations — such as Jordan, Oman and Egypt — even surprised observers by voting for the measure.

Rabbi Danny Allen, executive vice president of American Friends of Magen David Adom, called it a "vote for humanity over sectarian politics."

The chairwoman of the American Red Cross, Bonnie McElveen-Hunter, agreed, citing it as a "remarkable and long-overdue response to the inclusion of all the principles of the Red Cross and Red Crescent societies." ■

BEHIND THE HEADLINES

THIS WEEK

MONDAY

■ The U.S.-Arab Economic Forum, sponsored by the Arab League, the U.S. government and the Gulf Cooperation Council, begins in Houston and runs through Thursday. Speakers include Bouthaina Shaaban, the Syrian "minister of expatriates," who has reached out to the Syrian Jewish Diaspora.

■ The Fifth International Conference for Educators, "Teaching the Holocaust to Future Generations" opens at Yad Vashem in Jerusalem. The three-day conference includes lectures in plenary sessions, discussion groups and workshops that will explore and reflect on varied approaches to Holocaust education. The conference will focus on interdisciplinary approaches to teaching the Holocaust, and the Holocaust in the context of genocide. Some 300 educators will participate from 21 countries.

■ Thirty-three educators from 12 countries are learning about the history of the Holocaust and exploring new ways to teach it during a five-day program at Columbia University in New York City that continues through Thursday, sponsored by the Jewish Foundation for the Righteous. The program is an intensive academic seminar in which participants are exposed to Holocaust survivors and noted Holocaust scholars.

WEDNESDAY

■ The National Archives in Washington hosts a talk by its assistant archivist, Michael Kurtz, on "America and the Return of Nazi Contraband."

The Palestinian envoy even was willing to forgo admission of the Palestinian agency, as long as Magen David Adom didn't get in.

NEWS IN BRIEF

WORLD

Poll: Anti-Jewish sentiment 'overwhelming'

Anti-Jewish sentiment is nearly universal in Jordan and Egypt, a new survey found.

Some 98 percent of respondents in Jordan and 97 percent in Egypt — two Arab countries that have made peace with Israel — harbored anti-Jewish feelings, while negative feelings about Jews were found to be "overwhelming" in other Muslim countries surveyed as part of the Pew Global Attitudes Project for 2006, The New York Times reported. Other Muslim nations surveyed included Indonesia, Nigeria, Pakistan and Turkey.

In follow-up interviews, Muslims said the primary cause for poor relations with the Western world is the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. The survey also found that in Egypt, Indonesia, Jordan and Turkey, the majority of respondents did not believe Arabs had carried out the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks on New York and Washington.

Poland to continue Holocaust education

Poland's foreign minister dispelled a rumor among Jewish groups that Holocaust education would be curtailed in Poland.

During a visit to Washington, Anna Fotyga told American Jewish leaders that Education Minister Roman Giertych had assured her that no such plan was in place. Fotyga gave a 40-minute briefing to the American Jewish Committee, Claims Conference, Anti-Defamation League, B'nai B'rith, NCSJ, Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism and the American Israel Public Affairs Committee.

Some Jewish groups had heard that Holocaust education would be canceled as part of Giertych's plan to introduce a more "patriotic" curriculum in Polish schools. Giertych heads the League of Polish Families, a party that has been accused of fostering anti-Semitism and that joined the government coalition as a junior partner in late April.

Regulators: BBC show not anti-Semitic

A British regulatory agency ruled that the television portrayal of a major Jewish political figure as a Dickensian crook was not meant to cause offense.

Ofcom, the independent regulator and competition authority for U.K. communications industries, ruled last week on a program on BBC TV Channel 4 that portrayed Lord Levy, the Labour Party's chief fund-raiser, as Charles Dickens' character Fagin. Levy was shown in a grey suit, wearing a prosthetic hook nose and singing "You've Got to Pick a Pocket or Two," a song from the musical "Oliver."

In response to 11 complaints from viewers, which resulted in the Ofcom investigation, Channel 4 stated that Fagin was "easily identifiable as a cunning ringleader of an enterprise with the sole aim of getting money out of people."

Ofcom determined that Channel 4 had "no intention to cause offense or focus the sketch on Lord Levy's Jewish background," although the regulatory agency did acknowledge that some people found the skit offensive.

MIDDLE EAST

Israel critic wins 'peace' award

A Palestinian priest who is a fierce critic of Israel was honored by an Episcopalian group.

Naim Ateek, an Anglican priest and founder and director of the Sabeel Ecumenical Liberation Theology Center in Jerusalem, received the Episcopalian Peace Fellowship's 2006 John Nevin Sayre Award last week. In his acceptance speech, Ateek praised the Episcopal

Church for giving him the award despite pressure from "Jewish Zionist organizations in the States," according to a Sabeel press release. He also called Israel's West Bank security barrier an illegal land-grab.

Ateek in the past has accused Israel of "crucifying" the Palestinians and reportedly has expressed support for a one-state solution to the Palestinian-Israeli conflict, effectively meaning the end of a Jewish state. He also is a major figure behind the push for universities and other groups to divest from companies that do business with Israel.

Israel eyes extremists

Israel is limiting the movements of far-right activists ahead of an expected crackdown on illegal West Bank outposts.

The Defense Ministry issued restraining orders over the weekend against at least a dozen Israelis affiliated with extreme pro-settlement movements, security sources said. The orders are designed to keep the activists away from West Bank outposts as they are evacuated and limit confrontations with security forces.

Defense Minister Amir Peretz has vowed to crack down on dozens of the outposts in compliance with the "road map" peace plan. The first evacuations are expected as early as this week.

Activists: Stop Waters

Two right-wing Israeli activists asked authorities to arrest British rocker Roger Waters for spray-painting a message on Israel's West Bank security fence.

On Friday, Baruch Marzel and Itamar Ben-Gvir submitted a criminal accusation against Waters in Jerusalem Magistrate's Court, claiming that the former Pink Floyd front man had destroyed land and ruined military property with his graffiti, the Jerusalem Post reported.

On Wednesday, a day before he played a sellout concert in Israel, Waters painted "No Thought Control" on a section of the fence near Bethlehem. He has campaigned actively against the fence, which has drastically reduced Palestinian terrorist attacks on Israel.

NORTH AMERICA

Hollywood producer Spelling dies at 83

Hollywood producer Aaron Spelling died at age 83. He suffered a stroke June 18 and died last Friday in his Los Angeles mansion.

Spelling was born in 1923 to struggling Jewish immigrants in Texas. The prejudice his family faced there partly caused young Aaron to turn to reading, helping spark his creative career. He was a prolific producer of hit television shows, creating popular series for ABC such as "Charlie's Angels," "The Mod Squad," "The Love Boat" and "Beverly Hills, 90210."

The Guinness Book of World Records cited Spelling as producing the most hours of television, with more than 3,000. He briefly tried acting before beginning his decades-long producing career.

Greek Holocaust book presented

A book on the Holocaust in Greece was presented at the U.S. Capitol. "Holocaust of a Greek Jewry: Monuments and Memories," details the stories of Greek Jews, 86 percent of whom died in Nazi concentration camps. The book also describes the activities of non-Jewish Greeks who risked their lives to save Jews.

The Greek Embassy in Washington organized Wednesday's presentation, attended by legislators, diplomats, State Department officials, Jewish leaders and members of the Greek-American community. The Central Board of Jewish Communities in Greece published the book with the support of the country's Education Ministry and the General Secretariat for Youth.