

IN THE NEWS
Rice set for trip to Middle East

Condoleezza Rice was set to travel to the Middle East.

The U.S. secretary of state is expected to meet with Prime Minister Ehud Olmert and Palestinian Authority Chairman Mahmoud Abbas on Monday. But she is not expected to meet with any Lebanese leader.

Later in the week, Rice is scheduled to attend an international conference on Lebanon that is being hosted by Italy.

Rockets kill two in Haifa

Hezbollah rockets killed two people and wounded 14 in the Haifa area.

A mid-morning Katyusha salvo struck the Kiryat Ata district of Haifa on Sunday, killing a factory worker who was slow to heed warning sirens and take shelter.

In Neshet, a Haifa suburb, a rocket struck a car, killing its driver.

The rockets also wounded 14 people, two of them seriously. The salvo came just minutes after French Foreign Minister Philippe Douste-Blazy made a solidarity tour of Haifa.

Rockets also fell in other cities in northern Israel, including Carmiel, Acre, Tiberias and Kiryat Shmona.

Some 2,200 rockets have been fired at Israel since the conflict began July 12, Israel's defense minister, Amir Peretz, said Sunday.

Ariel Sharon getting worse

Ariel Sharon's condition is deteriorating.

Doctors treating the former Israeli prime minister at Sheba Hospital in Tel Hashomer said his kidneys have failed and damage to his brain tissue is widening.

Sharon has been in a coma since suffering a Jan. 4 stroke, which followed a more mild stroke.

WORLD REPORT

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

To delight of Israel supporters, Canada finally comes off the fence

By BILL GLADSTONE

TORONTO (JTA) — After more than a decade of a studied neutrality that Israel supporters felt benefited the Jewish state's enemies, the Canadian government is displaying the shift in its Middle East policy that it long has talked about.

Prime Minister Stephen Harper's recent declaration that Israel has a right to defend itself from attacks by Hamas and Hezbollah turned many heads in Canada, where pundits have grown used to "evenhandedness" from a government that under almost no circumstances would allow itself to take sides between Israel and the Arabs.

Harper described Israel's response to recent Hamas and Hezbollah kidnappings and missile attacks as "measured," reiterating that opinion even after eight members of a Canadian family were killed by Israeli fire while on vacation in Lebanon.

The Canadian branch of the Council on American-Islamic Relations accused Harper of being "incredibly insensitive."

Supporters of Israel welcome the change, but others decry what they see as Canada's abandonment of its self-styled role as peacekeeper and "honest broker" in the region.

Political columnist John Ibbitson, writing in Toronto's *Globe and Mail* newspaper, observed that a "major shift" in Canadian foreign policy had taken place, and he wasn't happy about it.

"This militant new posture is causing anguish among some diplomats," he wrote. "It will infuriate those who treasure Canada's self-image of peacekeeper, mediator and friend to all."

The shift was not as sudden as it may have appeared, said Marc Gold, national chairman of the Canada-Israel Committee, who traced it back to the regime of former Prime Minister Paul Martin. While Canadian officials boasted of a new approach, it never went much further than a partial softening of Canada's usual anti-Israel voting pattern.

"For some years now, the government has been quite clear that Canada would not accept one-sided treatment of Israel at the United Nations," Gold said. Now, he added, Canadian Jews "very much appreciate

and welcome Harper's statements" upholding Israel's right of self-defense.

Canada is taking a "principled position" rather than attempting to find a balanced position between aggressive terrorists on the one hand and the democratic state of Israel on the other, Gold said.

"This arises from an understanding that you can't always stand in the middle of what Churchill once called 'the fire and the firefighters.'"

The National Council on Canada-Arab Relations asserted that Harper had "severely undermined" the country's reputation as an honest broker, while the Canadian Arab Federation accused him of direct responsibility for the deaths of the eight Canadians in Lebanon.

Liberal foreign affairs critic Bill Graham criticized Harper for moving the country away from its traditional non-aligned stance, and said Canada needed to preserve its peacekeeping reputation if it hoped to play a role in any future diplomatic solution.

"Canada has always had a proud tradition in the Middle East of being able to work with

Continued on page 2

NEWS
ANALYSIS

■ *Canada is emerging from more than a decade of studied neutrality on the Middle East*

Continued from page 1

all parties in a way to establish the conditions for a long and lasting peace," said Graham, a former foreign minister. "If we act in a way that interferes with our credibility in that respect, we will not be able to be an effective ally of Israel, or of Lebanon and other countries in the Middle East where we all have an extraordinary stake."

But Aurel Braun, a professor of international relations and political science at the University of Toronto, countered that the best way for Canada to preserve its reputation as an honest broker is "to stand on principle."

"Being an 'honest broker' doesn't mean that you have to stay neutral," Braun said. "Canada is not jeopardizing its position as an 'honest broker' because the truth is not somewhere in the middle between terror and those who fight terror. Sometimes you have to say that aggressors are wrong and that terror is unacceptable."

The governments of Martin and Jean Chretien had enshrined neutrality as a sacred principle, said Joseph Ben-Ami, executive director of the Ottawa-based Institute for Canadian Values.

Yet when necessary — such as during World War II and other conflicts — Canada had "never flinched from taking sides," said Ben-Ami, a former policy analyst for Harper and other Conservatives.

During more than a decade of Liberal fence-straddling, Canadian officials met with Hezbollah representatives in Lebanon, equivocated for years before declaring Hez-

bollah a terrorist group, sent a representative to visit the grave of the late Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat and took a "wait-and-see" attitude toward Hamas participation in Palestinian Authority elections, even after defining Hamas as a terrorist organization.

Now many observers see Canada aligning itself more clearly with the anti-terror axis of the United States, Australia and Britain, while distancing itself from the multilateral approach favored by Europe and the United Nations.

In articulating a new direction in Middle Eastern foreign policy, Harper has been expressing "his own personal view," Ben-Ami observed.

"This is not just the bureaucracy and policy people hammering out what Canada's position will be. This is Stephen Harper, setting the agenda

for the government on this particular issue."

The former Martin government began to shift Canada's traditional U.N. vote, but Martin himself "never laid out in clear fashion a principled Middle East policy," columnist John Ivison wrote in the National Post Saturday.

In contrast, Ivison noted that Harper, who took office in February, was the first world leader to cut off aid to and contact with the P.A.'s Hamas-led government.

"In the linear mind of Mr. Harper, Israel has been attacked from land it had ceded back to the Palestinians," Ivison wrote. "The Israelis have the right to defend themselves, as Canadians would have in similar circumstances. End of story. If this is the Harper Doctrine, it may take some getting used to after more than a decade of dithering." ■

'Being an "honest broker" doesn't mean that you have to stay neutral.'

Aurel Braun
University of Toronto

Historic WWII march commemorated

JERUSALEM (JTA) — On Oct. 6, 1943, some 400 fervently Orthodox rabbis, almost all of them immigrants to the United States from Eastern Europe, marched on the nation's capital to implore President Roosevelt to save what was left of the Jews in Nazi Europe.

Given the scale of the Nazi genocide against the Jews, it would seem that marches of that nature would have been common. Yet the October 1943 march was the only public demonstration calling for the rescue of Europe's Jews held in Washington during World War II.

Earlier this month, approximately 150 people — most of them children and grandchildren of the 1943 marchers — convened in Jerusalem.

The July 9 reunion was organized by Rafael Medoff, director of the David S. Wyman Institute for Holocaust Studies.

When the rabbis marched in 1943, however, it was a highly controversial act.

High-ranking Jewish members of FDR's administration, along with community leaders who had access to the president, discouraged the immigrant rabbis from marching. They were concerned

that publicly calling into question the policies of a popular wartime president — especially when the marchers, in their fervently Orthodox garb, seemed to fit stereotypical images of Jews — could spur anti-Semitism, Medoff said.

The leaders couldn't dissuade the rabbis from marching, but they did succeed in keeping Roosevelt from receiving the group at the White House.

Mainstream Jewish America's refusal to take action against the atrocities in Nazi Europe was the most infuriating obstacle faced by Hillel Kook, organizer of the 1943 march, according to his daughter, Rebecca Kook, who spoke at the Jerusalem event.

Her father's stories contradicted what she was taught outside the house — that nothing could have been done to stop the genocide.

"His lesson was that many more Jews could have been saved had more action been taken," said Kook, a faculty member in the department of politics and government at Ben-Gurion University of the Negev. "This was the lesson that he grappled with for the rest of his life." ■



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.

Bush's support for Israel trumps stem-cell issue

By RON KAMPEAS

WASHINGTON (JTA) — American Jews were ready to take President Bush to the boards over stem-cell research.

And then he went to the boards for Israel.

The same groups that led the fight to get substantial congressional majorities for federally funded embryonic stem-cell research said the conflagration in the Middle East, and Bush's unstinting support for Israel took some of the wind out of their plans to fight a rearguard action against his veto.

At least for now.

THIS WEEK

MONDAY

■ The four top members of the U.S. House of Representatives Intelligence Committee are expected to arrive in Israel, at the request of House Speaker Rep. Dennis Hastert (R-Ill.), to explore the threat posed by the recent outbreak in violence. Separately, Rep. Robert Wexler (D-Fla.), who is Jewish, will also launch an Israel visit.

■ Jewish leaders from the United States continued their solidarity visits in Israel. The Conference of Presidents of Major Jewish Organizations and the United Jewish Communities are among the groups that have sent missions to Israel since the beginning of its conflict with Hezbollah.

■ The European Jewish Congress delegation concludes its two-day solidarity trip to Israel.

TUESDAY

■ President Bush meets the Iraqi prime minister, Nuri al-Maliki, at the White House. Maliki has blasted Israel for its Lebanon operations, which Bush has backed.

WEDNESDAY

■ Condoleezza Rice, the U.S. secretary of state, convenes a "core group" on Lebanon in Rome.

■ The Reform movement will host training through July 30 on reaching interfaith couples at the Cincinnati campus of the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion.

THURSDAY

■ The U.S. Senate reconsiders whether to confirm John Bolton, the U.S. ambassador to the United Nations.

SUNDAY

■ The Church and Synagogue Library Association holds its annual meeting in Greensboro, N.C., through Aug. 1.

"Would we go to the boards? Last week I would have said yes, this week I don't know," said June Walker, the president of Hadassah, the group that led Jewish advocacy for federally funded stem-cell research. "We will wait and resolve this issue until the issue with Israel is resolved, but will our basic support for stem-cell research change? No."

Hadassah's lobbying, which relied in part on Israeli research in the area, was considered critical in turning around Sen. Bill Frist (R-Tenn.), the majority leader and physician who has otherwise stood solidly by Bush. Hadassah's annual convention this week in Nashville is in part a salute to Frist for bringing the legislation to the Senate floor.

The bill would have extended federal funding to research using embryos that were slated to be discarded by fertility clinics, and would not have cultivated embryos specifically for research. Opponents point out that surplus embryos have been "adopted," and Bush surrounded himself with the offspring of such experiments when he announced the veto. However, such adoptions are very rare.

Before Hezbollah launched its attack on Israel on July 12, it had been anticipated that Bush's decision to exercise his first veto in his five and a half years as president would stir Jewish community outrage. He vetoed the bill July 19; an attempt the same day in the U.S. House of Representatives to override the veto with a two-thirds majority failed.

Jewish groups were set to back Democratic efforts to introduce a new bill and keep the issue alive for November midterm congressional elections, when Bush's opposition to embryonic stem-cell research is expected to hurt Republicans. The research has broad public backing.

Now, however, there was a sense that the community would not attack the issue full force.

"We still care and still work on other issues" besides Israel, said Steve Gutow, the president of the Jewish Council for Public

Affairs, the umbrella body for community relations councils. "Still, it's a matter of how much time and energy we have."

There is little sympathy in Jewish thought for the conservative Christian view that embryonic stem cells represent human life; instead, most streams of Judaism embrace the scientific potential such research has in curing degenerative conditions.

"Jewish tradition places great value upon human life and its preservation," the Orthodox Union, a group otherwise noted for warm relations with the White House, said in a statement supporting last week's 63-37 vote in the Senate. "Judaism does not accord embryonic cells outside the womb the full status of humanhood and its attendant protections."

But Bush's willingness to stem international calls for an immediate cease-fire in order to give Israel time to incapacitate Hezbollah in Lebanon meant the community would likely keep a lower profile for

now, Gutow said.

"It won't lessen the fact that the Jewish community is united on this issue," he said. "But when Israel is threatened, it becomes front and center."

Even Bush's Jewish opponents conceded that Israel is likely to trump the stem-cell issue for now.

"The first concern of the Jewish community now is and should be Israel," said Ira Forman, executive director of the National Jewish Democratic Council.

That frustrated congressional Democrats, who have relied on Jewish community lobbying to get this far with the issue. One senior official wondered whether Jewish leaders, who have in recent months openly reflected the wider American dissatisfaction with Bush, are again in retreat because of what was happening in the Middle East.

"Is the Jewish community back where it was?" the official said, referring to a Jewish reluctance to criticize Bush that started after the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks — a reluctance that long outlasted the spike in popularity Bush enjoyed after the attacks. ■

BEHIND THE HEADLINES

Most streams of Judaism embrace the scientific potential stem-cell research has in curing degenerative conditions.

NEWS IN BRIEF

MIDDLE EAST

NATO for Lebanon?

Israel voiced interest in the deployment of foreign peacekeepers in southern Lebanon.

"Given the Lebanese army's weakness, we would support an international force that would have powers of enforcement, be deployed in the South and impose its authority," Defense Minister Amir Peretz said Sunday after meeting with visiting German Foreign Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier. Security sources said the proposed force would likely be from NATO rather than the United Nations, given Israel's exasperation with the ineffectiveness of U.N. observers recently posted in southern Lebanon.

Israel would also insist that any foreign peacekeeping force sent to the region ensures that no arms reach Hezbollah from neighboring Syria, the sources said. The United States, while not explicitly opposed to the idea of a peacekeeping presence in southern Lebanon, has indicated that its troops would not take part in such a mission.

Olmert vows help for northern Israel

Ehud Olmert pledged government assistance for residents of northern Israel. "We will take steps to ensure that the residents carry on with their normal lives as much as possible," the Israeli prime minister told his Cabinet at its weekly meeting Sunday, referring to hundreds of thousands of Israelis who have either fled northern towns targeted by Hezbollah rocket crews or taken to bomb shelters.

Eleven days of fighting between Israeli forces and the Lebanese militia have taken an economic toll in the Jewish state, with billions of dollars lost as many local industries grind to a halt.

Peretz: Lebanon operation not over

Israeli Defense Minister Amir Peretz said the military operation in Lebanon will continue beyond this week.

But speaking Sunday to members of a delegation from the European Jewish Congress, which is part of the World Jewish Congress, Peretz did not specify a timetable for when the operation would end, Peretz said. Israel will no longer tolerate the Hezbollah flag flying along Israel's northern border and will demand international monitoring of the Syria-Lebanon border to prevent the flow of arms from Iran to Hezbollah.

Peretz also explained that Israel will continue to bombard Lebanese civilians areas if they are harboring Hezbollah fighters and materiel. "What happened in this war is we notified the terrorists: We will no longer allow you to use civilians to protect yourselves," Peretz said. "Anyone who lives in the vicinity of Hezbollah is taking a risk."

Israel kills 4 in Gaza

Israeli troops killed four Palestinians, including a Hamas fighter, in Gaza City, Palestinian reports said.

Reuters quoted Palestinian medics as saying the three civilians and the Hamas terrorist were killed last Friday when tank fire hit a house. Israel's army said it was checking the reports.

Jerusalem gay pride parade canceled

Jerusalem's gay pride parade was canceled. The Jerusalem Post reported Sunday that the parade, the centerpiece of a weeklong gay pride festival scheduled to take place in August, could not get sufficient police protection.

Police informed organizers that security could not be provided due to the fighting in northern Israel.

Calls to cancel the parade, planned since last year, had been made long before the fighting began. Jewish, Christian and Muslim

religious leaders had protested the planned parade, and violent threats were made by religious extremists. Organizers said that the festival's indoor events will proceed as planned, the Post reported.

NORTH AMERICA

Congress members to Israel

Several Jewish members of Congress are planning visits to Israel. Rep. Robert Wexler (D-Fla.) will be in Israel from Monday through Thursday.

Wexler will meet with Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert to discuss the Lebanon crisis and will visit Kiryat Bialik, a Haifa suburb within range of Hezbollah rockets that is twinned with Boca Raton, Fla. Additionally, 12 Jewish members of Congress joined nine other representatives in writing to the speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives, Dennis Hastert (R-Ill.), asking him to organize a bipartisan visit to Israel. The letter was initiated by Reps. Anthony Weiner (D-N.Y.) and Shelley Berkley (D-Nev.), both Jewish.

"Congress should send a clear message to the world: The United States will stand by its allies in their time of need," the letter said. Hastert already has announced that the four top members of the House's Intelligence Committee will visit the region. That delegation includes Rep. Jane Harman (D-Calif.), who is Jewish, and Rep. Darrell Issa (R-Calif.), a Lebanese American.

Report: U.S. rushing bombs to Israel

The United States is supplying Israel with precision-guided bombs, The New York Times reported.

Israel made the request not long after July 12, when Hezbollah, a Lebanon-based terrorist group, launched attacks on Israel's North. The Times reported Saturday that the shipments might be an expedited delivery of a standing order.

Hillel launches petition of Annan

Hillel launched an online petition asking Kofi Annan to reaffirm Israel's right to self-defense.

The petition, which called on the U.N. secretary-general to "clearly and immediately reaffirm the right of Israel to defend its citizens and ensure its security in the face of relentless attacks, killings and kidnappings by Hezbollah," can be signed at <http://www.hillel.org/supportisrael>.

WORLD

Demonstrators protest Israeli actions

Several thousand people rallied in London to protest Israeli attacks in Lebanon.

An estimated 7,000 people, some of them carrying Lebanese flags and placards reading "Israeli crimes in Lebanon" demonstrated Saturday, The Associated Press reported.

A smaller number of demonstrators marched in Amsterdam, New York and Chicago.

Bomb threats against AMIA

Bomb threats were made last Friday against Argentina's main Jewish center.

Threats were phoned in to police headquarters against the AMIA building, which houses Argentina's principal Jewish organizations. Victor Garelik, a spokesman for DAIA, Argentina's main Jewish political organization, confirmed the threats and said a thorough search was made of the building, though it wasn't evacuated.

A bomb destroyed the AMIA building in July 1994, killing 85 people and wounding hundreds more.