

IN THE NEWS
France to increase Lebanon peacekeepers

France said it would increase the number of soldiers it sends to a peacekeeping force in southern Lebanon.

French President Jacques Chirac said Thursday that France would contribute a total of 2,000 troops to the force.

Chirac said he was willing to augment the force after receiving reassurances about the force's mission.

Israeli soldiers raid Gaza Strip

Israeli soldiers captured a Hamas leader in a Gaza Strip raid.

Thursday's raid left the man's brother dead after an Israeli helicopter fired two missiles at the family home, Israel Radio reported. Israel began an offensive in Gaza in late June after Cpl. Gilad Shalit, 19, was kidnapped in a cross-border raid by Hamas and other terrorist factions.

Officials have said the offensive will stop only with Shalit's release and the end of rocket fire into Israel.

Annan plans Mideast visit

Kofi Annan is planning a visit to Israel, Lebanon, Iran and Syria to help strengthen the cease-fire in southern Lebanon. The United Nations secretary-general's trip is scheduled to begin Friday.

Annan's trip will focus on implementation of the U.N. Security Council resolution that calls for a truce between Israel and Hezbollah and a U.N. force of some 15,000 troops to help enforce it. It was not clear if Annan would be in Iran before the Aug. 31 deadline the United Nations gave Iran to suspend uranium enrichment. Israel considers Iran, whose president has called for the Jewish state to be destroyed, the greatest threat to its existence.

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WORLD REPORT

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Maher Attar/UN

A French peacekeeper with the U.N. Interim Force in Lebanon points his gun at members of the Shiite Amal militia in Marrakeh, Lebanon, in 1996.

As states discuss outlines of force for Lebanon, the options seem grim

By **RON KAMPEAS**

WASHINGTON (JTA) — Nations that would join a multinational force to patrol the Israel-Lebanon cease-fire face what appears to be a grim Hobson's choice: Join, and face the likelihood of catastrophe; decline, and face the likelihood of catastrophe.

The arguments over whether and how to expand the size and capabilities of the hapless UNIFIL force currently in place have continued for more than a week since the guns fell silent, raising questions not only about the viability of a peaceful northern border for Israel but the very effectiveness of the international community in an increasingly volatile world.

NEWS ANALYSIS

President Bush said bluntly this week that time was running out for allied nations to step into the breach in Lebanon, where Israel and Hezbollah already are accusing one another of violating the cease-fire.

"The international community must now designate the leadership of this international force, give it robust rules of engagement and deploy it as quickly as possible to secure the peace," Bush said in a news conference Monday.

The problem for countries that would contribute troops is that, absent a clear mandate, it could be headed for failure — which would be equally dangerous for the cease-fire.

"When a force is sent without a very
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Arguments over expanding the hapless UNIFIL force have continued since the guns fell silent

Continued from page 1

well-defined mission, without suitable resources or without adequate resources, things can take a disastrous turn, including for the soldiers we send," said French Defense Minister Michele Alliot-Marie.

France was a driving force behind the cease-fire resolution that ended the war and was expected to take the lead in any peacekeeping force. But France's subsequent dithering over whether or not to spearhead the force led Italy this week to offer to lead, and to contribute 3,000 of the force's projected 15,000 troops.

The loss of the French nonetheless represents a blow: With a colonial history in Lebanon, France was likeliest to earn the trust of the Lebanese. Additionally, French troops have experience in peace enforcement, currently carrying out such missions in former colonies in West and North Africa, albeit with little media coverage.

■
If a multinational force fails, the consequences will reverberate beyond the collapse of the cease-fire, military experts say.

The world will closely monitor the success of peacekeepers enforcing a cease-fire between the army of a sovereign state and a militia that answers to no power but itself, since such militias proliferate in Iraq, Sudan, the Caucasus and elsewhere.

"If this expanded force fails here, the precedent it sets is that people will expect similar efforts to fail indefinitely in the future," said Anthony Cordesman of the Center for Strategic and International Studies.

On the other hand, stepping away from Lebanon or even equivocating too long also could have far-reaching repercussions.

A failure to participate and the devolution of Lebanon into war could jeopardize transatlantic unity, Michaela Hertkorn argued in a paper for the American Institute for Contemporary German Studies, a Washington think tank that promotes German-American relations.

"Do Europeans still have cold feet, as soon as 'the going gets rough?' " she asked.

The Bush administration believes the future of Lebanon is at stake, said Shimon Peres, the Israeli deputy prime minister who met last week with top U.S. officials.

"They believe the battle now is for the future of Lebanon, whether it is an Iranian Lebanon or a Lebanese Lebanon," Peres said, referring to Hezbollah's Iranian patrons.

■
Peres has lobbied hard for the quick deployment of a multinational force. In long telephone conversations with U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan and French President Jacques Chirac, Peres has emphasized the importance to Lebanon's survival of backup for Lebanese army forces that are taking up positions alongside Hezbollah in the South.

Lebanese Prime Minister Fouad Siniora "knows it is 'to be or not to be' if the Lebanese army does not go south," Peres said. "He is lost."

Six former U.S. officials deeply involved in past peacekeeping efforts met last week at a panel sponsored by the U.S. Institute for Peace and outlined the parameters for a successful multinational force.

"Demobilization tracking mechanisms are necessary," said Mike Bailey, who as a former U.S. Defense Department official supervised disarmament in East Timor, Cambodia, Iraq and Haiti. "Post-demobilization disarmament mechanisms are useful, such as weapons turn-in, weapons

for development, et cetera. Concurrently, steps should be taken to prevent a gap in public security. And as we're seeing now, the process must address irregular forces and weapons."

The problem, the experts agreed, is that Hezbollah does not want to be disarmed.

"The key is, if the two parties want to keep the peace, a U.N. peacekeeping force can be very effective," said Samuel

Lewis, the U.S. ambassador to Israel in the early 1980s, when the United States helped establish a highly successful multinational force to patrol the Israel-Egypt peace treaty. "If either one of them doesn't, it's a very nasty job to give anybody."

It doesn't help that the U.N. Security Council resolu-

tion mandating the expansion of UNIFIL is so vague, said James Dobbins, a former State Department official who supervised peacekeeping in the Balkans, Haiti, Somalia and Afghanistan.

The resolution "does appear to authorize the use of force, but it authorizes it under an article of the U.N. charter that doesn't authorize the U.N. to use force," Dobbins said. "And read carefully, the only authorization to use force is to use force at the request of the government of Lebanon. Therefore the force, to the extent it chooses to do so, may use force when requested by the government of Lebanon — and otherwise not at all under any circumstances, except for its own protection."

■
Yet force is precisely what is needed to disarm Hezbollah, a crucial step for the cease-fire's viability, Bailey said.

"Hezbollah retains the initiative. The U.N. is left in a difficult position with no exit strategy, no chance to complete the transformation of Hezbollah," Bailey said.

He outlined the hazards of avoiding disarmament and demobilization.

"Weak or no trust in the process," he intoned, "difficulty for humanitarian organizations operating and then, moreover, return to hostilities is almost certain." ■

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Anthony Cordesman

Center for Strategic and International Studies

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'Foreign agents' issue surfaces in AIPAC case

By RON KAMPEAS

WASHINGTON (JTA) — A new pretrial ruling in the classified-information case against two former pro-Israel lobbyists raises new questions about what defines a "foreign agent" and whether the government has the right to spy on lobbyists.

Ruling on whether a wiretap order was legal, Judge T.S. Ellis III said there was "ample probable cause to believe" that two former employees of the American Israel Public Affairs Committee were "agents of a foreign power." The ruling was handed down last week and declassified Tuesday.

Ellis also said that "collection or transmission of material that is not generally available to the public" qualifies as an activity that could merit wiretapping under the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act, or FISA.

Ellis, a federal judge in Alexandria, Va., ruled on a motion to suppress the FISA-obtained evidence, filed by lawyers for Steve Rosen, AIPAC's former foreign policy director, and Keith Weissman, its former Iran analyst.

The defense contended that, as lobbyists, Rosen and Weissman do not qualify as the type of major threats to U.S. security that the system was designed to rout out.

The ruling could have far-reaching implications for how AIPAC functions as a lobby and how lobbyists, journalists, academics and other non-governmental researchers gather information.

■
If it emerges at their trial that the activities that earned Rosen and Weissman the surveillance act warrant were part of their AIPAC routine, the organization could face renewed efforts by critics to force it to register as a foreign agent.

"This is something that people following this case have always realized is a potential problem," Neal Sher, a former AIPAC executive director, told JTA.

"People at AIPAC have always been concerned, institutionally," about the consequences of the Foreign Agents Registration Act, Sher said. "This is pretty serious."

AIPAC officials refused to comment.

Forcing AIPAC to register under the act, which has notoriously burdensome reporting requirements, would considerably restrict the group's ability to lobby and maintain its formidable reputation for secrecy.

A foreign agent must provide the U.S.

attorney general with "a comprehensive statement of the nature of registrant's business" that includes "the existing and proposed activity or activities engaged in or to be engaged in by the registrant as agent of a foreign principal for each such foreign principal, including a detailed statement of any such activity which is a political activity."

Additionally, AIPAC would have to provide detailed accounts of its spending every 60 days. Sher said such requirements would "effectively shut AIPAC down."

A source close to AIPAC said the organization was not concerned. Ellis' ruling doesn't specify what actions merited the surveillance act warrant, but the source said they probably relate strictly to Rosen and Weissman, not to any acts routinely carried out by AIPAC staffers.

The source noted that AIPAC's critics for years have called for the organization to be registered as an agent of Israel. AIPAC says the policies it promotes are first and foremost in America's interests.

"The government never once raised the well-traveled foreign agent issue during the entire course of their investigation," the source said. "The government specifically said the work that AIPAC does on behalf of pro-Israel Americans is perfectly appropriate."

■
Prosecutors have emphasized that neither AIPAC nor any of its current employees are under suspicion. Attorneys for Rosen and Weissman refused to comment for this story, and prosecutors did not return calls.

The ruling is the first public acknowledgment that the government turned to a FISA court to track Rosen and Weissman in an effort that culminated in last year's indictment charging the lobbyists with illegally receiving information on Iran and terrorism.

Free-speech advocates, already alarmed by the prosecution's unprecedented use of a 1917 statute that criminalizes the mere

receipt of classified information, found new grounds to worry in this ruling.

Steven Aftergood, who heads the Secrecy Project for the Federation of American Scientists, a nuclear watchdog, said he was alarmed by Ellis' classification of the "collection or transmission of material that is not generally available to the public" as meriting a surveillance act wiretap warrant.

"That could qualify us for a FISA warrant," Aftergood told JTA. "That's at the core of a free press. If the press could only report on 'information generally available to the public,' there would be no need for a press."

Jewish community leaders were cautious about the ruling, noting that pretrial decisions do not accrue the

heft of legal precedence until the trial is over and appeals are exhausted.

"It's a ruling on a specific question," said Malcolm Hoenlein, executive vice chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations. "He didn't say they are foreign agents, only that they could be."

■
Hoenlein said, however, that he was gratified that the opinion elites, including editorialists and lawmakers, were joining the Jewish community in understanding the far-reaching free-speech implications of the case against Rosen and Weissman.

Separately, Ellis ordered an inquiry into the leak of the FBI investigation two years ago.

Last week, the judge ordered the Department of Justice "to conduct an investigation into the identity of any government employee responsible for the August 2004 disclosure to CBS News of information related to the investigation of the defendants/whether the investigation relied on information collected pursuant to FISA."

Television cameras were positioned outside AIPAC headquarters ahead of an FBI raid on Aug. 27, 2004. CBS News correctly reported at the time that the case involved wiretaps. ■

'If the press could only report on "information generally available to the public," there would be no need for a press.'

Steven Aftergood

Secrecy Project, Federation of American Scientists

Jewish Greeks go Israeli

By SUE FISHKOFF

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (JTA) — As the Middle East conflict simmers beneath a shaky cease-fire agreement, Jewish student groups are gearing up for what they fear will be a hostile reception on campus this fall. And Jewish fraternities and sororities are a big part of the pro-Israel effort.

"The climate will be very difficult for pro-Israel activists on campus," said David Harris, executive director of the Israel on Campus Coalition, an umbrella group uniting more than 30 Jewish student organizations.

Harris pointed out that over the summer, student governments, including that of the University of California at Los Angeles, passed anti-Israel resolutions, and campus newspapers from California to Michigan to Florida printed anti-Israel editorials and cartoons.

"If this is what's happening in the quiet of summer, we're expecting a much harsher atmosphere when the semester begins," he said.

In response, major Jewish groups have organized training conferences, put together educational resources and set aside funding to enable their student leaders and on-campus professionals to engage in pro-Israel education and activism as soon as they return to school.

The Jewish Greek community is joining these efforts. Alpha Epsilon Pi and Alpha Epsilon Phi, the largest Jewish fraternity and sorority, respectively, brought 90 students to Louisville, Ky., on Aug. 13-15, to learn how to advocate effectively for Israel on campus.

"Our adversaries have been developing anti-Israel campaigns on campus for years," said Gary Anderson, AEPi's international president. "We can't let them win."

Jewish Greeks actually got involved in campus Israel advocacy five years ago, when AEPi became a founding partner of the Israel on Campus Coalition and ran the first of three "Israel Unplugged" conferences for its brothers. But this year marks a major revving-up and a new focus on structured activism.

It's the first time that the conference, now called "Israel Amplified," was open to sororities as well as other Greeks, Jewish and non-Jewish. That was stipulated by the conference's funder, the Charles and Lynn Schusterman Family Foundation.



Sue Fishkoff

At the Israel Amplified conference, members of Jewish fraternities and sororities plan Israel-themed events.

While the first three conferences focused on Israel education, the latest was action-oriented. All chapters of AEPi and AEPi are pledging to hold three Israel-themed events, reaching outside their own houses to bring the entire Greek system into their efforts.

"For the first time, we're seeing the potential of Jewish Greek society," said Jonathan Kessler, leadership development director of the American Israel Public Affairs Committee, the pro-Israel lobbying group that has been working with AEPi for almost two decades.

The new advocacy campaigns are also targeting Jewish students not involved in the Greek system.

"We have to be ready for the sleeper kids, the several hundred thousand Jewish kids on campus who are not involved," said AEPi's executive director, Andy Borans. "They will come out of the woodwork because of what's happened" in Israel this summer, he predicted.

Jewish fraternities and sororities are already set up to do this kind of work, their leaders point out. They're tied into a large network of Greeks, many of whom are socially oriented, focused on philanthropy and involved in campus politics.

"Greeks are able to mobilize for a cause better than any other group on campus,"

AEPi staffer Colin Sutker told some two dozen students during a workshop in Louisville. "Take that power," he urged the students, "and harness it for Israel advocacy."

The conference is "the kickoff of a year-long initiative," said Jen Kraus, a Schusterman Foundation fellow.

National Greek leaders will follow up with their chapters throughout the year, offering resources and a little nudging.

As an added incentive, participants didn't receive their travel reimbursements for the conference until they met with staff-

As an added incentive, participants didn't receive their travel reimbursements until they met with staffers and wrote detailed plans for events they plan to hold at their campuses.

ers at the end of the two-day training and wrote detailed action plans for events they plan to hold at their campuses.

Suzanne Solomon of the University of Arizona in Phoenix hopes to erect a poster listing Israel's democratic freedoms.

Alex Callen at Cornell University in Ithaca, N.Y., said his chapter will read out the names of Israeli terror victims from a public plaza, and will ask other fraternities, sororities and non-Greek student organizations to sponsor names, with the money going to AEPi's three Israel charities.

Arya Marvazi at the University of California at San Diego is planning events on human rights, technological innovation and the environment, and will invite the presidents of campus organizations active

in those fields to meet privately with the speakers beforehand.

Students were urged to think beyond the usual political events to focus on Israeli culture, science, medicine, even sports and food — anything to draw in students with no particular interest in Israel.

"We're asking them to think about Israel in a new way," said AEPi's Jewish programming director, Phillip Brodsky. "You don't have to knock on someone's door with the Israeli flag under your arm."

Students at the University of Southern California spoke of organizing an Israeli techno party to highlight the country's vibrant cultural scene. The University of California at Santa Cruz chapter wants to bring in a speaker from the Jewish National Fund, capitalizing on Santa Cruz's interest in environmentalism.

Students at another school spoke of hiring popular Chasidic reggae singer Matisyahu, and another chapter is planning a dinner party with other historically ethnic fraternities to highlight each one's national cuisine.

"Somewhere in this room is Mr. and Mrs. Louisville, and they don't know anything about Israel," said conference speaker Larry Weinberg, president of Israel21c, a news agency that promotes positive coverage of Israeli innovations. Then "Mrs. Louisville's doctor gives her a capsule" that contains a miniature camera, and is able to detect her cancer early enough for successful treatment.

"As soon as you tell her that capsule came from Israel, Israel will become the most relevant thing in their lives," Weinberg said. "That's what you need to do."

Some students already have begun putting their plans into action. Last month, Tufts University AEPi member Ari Allen launched a Web site "to fight the world's collective amnesia" about Israel.

He has posted information about the Mideast conflict "to give people tools to rebut arguments," and will raise money for Magen David Adom, Israel's emergency medical service, by selling Israeli army-themed dog tags.

Allen said he's a little nervous about the attitude he'll face on campus this fall, even at Tufts, which "is a quarter Jewish," he estimated.

"It's going to be much more than a physical war, it's going to be a war of ideas," he said. "I didn't really understand that until this crisis broke out."

Jewish campus groups gear up

By SUE FISHKOFF

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (JTA) — Jewish organizations that work on American college campuses are preparing student leaders for what they expect will be a barrage of anti-Israel sentiment this fall.

"It's going to be very challenging, not like the past four years," says Jonathan Kessler, leadership development director at American Israel Public Affairs Committee, the main pro-Israel lobby in the United States.

He notes that "Israel has been very strong on campus since 2002," after almost two years of anti-Israel animosity following the outbreak of the Palestinian intifada in September 2000.

The Israel on Campus Coalition, an umbrella body of more than 30 Jewish student groups, has produced a 120-page binder of educational and advocacy initiatives that members are distributing to their campus representatives.

The coalition is planning a Sept. 5 summit in Washington, and has earmarked \$300,000 in direct grants for students planning rallies and other pro-Israel events.

Hillel, the largest Jewish student organization, "completely changed" the program for its Charles Schusterman International Student Leaders Assembly scheduled for the end of August, says the group's international director, Wayne Firestone.

"When we watch bombs falling on Haifa

and soldiers held in captivity by Hamas and Hezbollah, as Jews we can't just line up for bagels," he said.

AIPAC brought more than 350 pro-Israel student activists to Washington in late July for four days of advocacy training at the Saban National Political Leadership Training Seminar. The agenda was retooled at the last minute to focus on Israel's right to defend itself, and the students were urged to meet with their congressional representatives, pass pro-Israel resolutions in their student governments, circulate petitions and write Op-Ed pieces.

In a way, some of these leaders point out, Israel's war against Hezbollah will be easier for students to rally around than more

complex issues such as last year's Gaza withdrawal or the West Bank security barrier.

"There is a face to this enemy, and it's an ugly face," Firestone said.

But rather than engaging in "scare tactics," Firestone said, "it's better to say, 'It's unacceptable for heads

of state or any political actor to do these things to anyone.' I think mainstream opinion on campus will get that."

Jewish student leaders will face varied and nuanced attitudes on campus.

"We have to serve students coming back all gung-ho from conferences like this, to students coming back from peace rallies," Firestone noted. "All these viewpoints are legitimate, and we can't alienate any of them."

When we watch bombs falling on Haifa and soldiers held in captivity by Hamas and Hezbollah, as Jews we can't just line up for bagels.

Wayne Firestone

International director, Hillel



Sue Fishkoff

At the Israel Amplified conference, members of Jewish fraternities and sororities plan Israel-themed events.

Northern Israeli kids go to camp in Europe

By MICHAEL J. JORDAN

SZARVAS, Hungary (JTA) — Aya Posklinsky would have preferred to spend the dog days of summer tossing water balloons at friends or rollerblading around her village.

Instead, the 15-year-old spent two weeks cooped up in the family's concrete bomb shelter, whiling away the time playing cards and watching music videos.

Overhead, four Katyusha rockets fired by Hezbollah hit her northern Israeli moshav of Mitzpe Hila, landing in people's yards. But that was enough to deter most of the community from venturing aboveground.

Posklinsky was among 120 young Israelis, primarily from the country's North, who have been given a breather in the latter half of August.

They were transported to Camp Szarvas, the Ronald S. Lauder Foundation AJJDC International Jewish Summer Camp in rural eastern Hungary.

The camp opened in 1989 to give youths from Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union with little or no Jewish identity "a positive Jewish experience" to take back home, from celebrating Judaism and Jewish history to performing Israeli songs and dances.

Groups of Israeli and American youths attend each summer as well.

This year, as the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee and the Jewish Agency for Israel relocated some 40,000 young Israelis from northern to central Israel to escape the war with Hezbollah, Israel's ambassador to Hungary inquired about Szarvas. The camp year already had begun, with some 2,000 kids expected during four two-week sessions.

But the Israeli need dovetailed with the broader missions of both the JDC and Szarvas: For the JDC, it's to aid Jews in crisis; for Szarvas, it's to impress upon young Jews from across the ex-Soviet sphere a sense of Jewish peoplehood.

"You can't imagine the horrible, horrible trauma for children kept in a concrete room, with nothing to do and afraid to go outside," says Steven Schwager, chief executive officer of the JDC, which runs Szarvas. "It became clear we needed to find ways for respite, to take kids out of shelters and into safer environments."

Szarvas shoehorned an extra 120 Israeli kids — including seven Druse invited under the JDC's mission to serve all Israelis — into the summer's final session.

By the end of August, three groups of 40 kids will have spent three to four days in the camp and another three days touring Budapest.

Camp organizers also appealed for extra hands, like Eszter Lanyi, a Hungarian counselor and veteran of past Szarvas summers who lived in Israel and speaks Hebrew.

Lanyi says she put her full-time job on hold for a fortnight.

"There was no question I would do it," Lanyi says. "When there's a crisis in Israel, the question in the Diaspora is, 'What can we do?' Many just talk about it. For me, I feel lucky to be here with this group. I'm able to contribute to their situation and their lives."

This isn't the first time the JDC and Szarvas have responded to crisis. In 1997, the JDC, which also has non-sectarian programs, arranged for Szarvas to host 88 non-Jewish youths from flood-stricken Poland.

In 1999, on the heels of NATO airstrikes to liberate Kosovo from Serbia, the camp invited an extra 100 Serbian Jews.

Last summer, 75 non-Jewish boys and girls who survived the September 2004 Chechen massacre at a school in Beslan, in southern Russia, arrived at Szarvas.

Szarvas struck the shell-shocked Israelis as surreal, a different planet.

"I can't believe all these kids are Jews, from all different countries," said Elinor Zino, 18, from the southern Israeli town of Sderot, which has been hit repeatedly by Palestinian rockets fired from the Gaza Strip. Zino was in the middle session, from Aug. 15-18.

The camp also reminded Posklinsky of Israel in calmer times.

"It's like a kibbutz," she says. "It's very green, people live close together, eating together, sharing chores, singing in Hebrew. I feel like I'm home."

Yet the presence of the kids from northern Israel created a bit of a challenge for camp organizers, who needed to find the

proper balance when injecting the harsh reality of Israel's conflict into the camp, which is supposed to be a fun atmosphere, says Yitzhak Roth, an Israeli who is the camp's former director and now serves as a senior adviser.

By way of introducing the special group of campers, Roth spent 10 minutes the first night explaining to the camp population, ages 7 to 18, about the situation in Israel.

Internally, some of the counselors pressed for discussions about the conflict, which likely would have veered into politics and ideology. But Roth, a career educator who served in Israel's military four decades ago, opted for a lighter touch: After all, the kids were here for fun, with the Israelis also hoping for a distraction from their reality.

"Just because the children of Israel are suffering doesn't mean the children here should suffer as well," he told JTA.

"But they should be informed. Next to the fun, there is something going on outside this camp."

He decided to act only upon requests — and requests have come in. The older campers, especially those with relatives living in Israel and with limited Internet access in camp, asked

Roth for updates. He began monitoring the news and giving updates, sometimes several a day.

Some campers also asked for a discussion of borders and missiles and their reach, so Roth responded with presentations, maps and technical descriptions of Katyusha rockets.

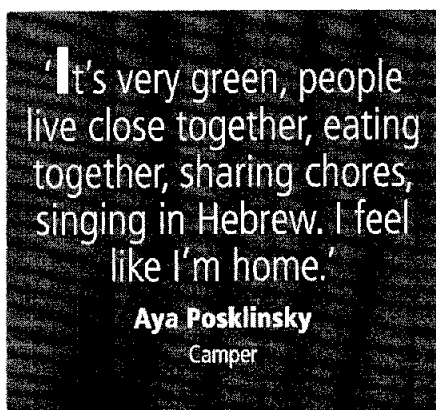
Several Szarvas campers say they appreciated the firsthand Israeli perspective, accusing media back home of focusing on Lebanese victims.

"The television shows what Israel is doing in Lebanon, not what's happening to Israel; we get the idea that Israel should be blamed for everything," says Nora Vrieler, 14, a Dutch-Hungarian from Amsterdam.

She added that the camp had struck an appropriate balance.

"We should learn what's happening in Israel, as we're all Jews," she said. "But we're also all kids and here to have fun with each other." ■

AROUND THE JEWISH WORLD



ARTS & CULTURE

Mel Gibson and the Red Sox

By MENACHEM WECKER

BOSTON (JTA) — The Boston Red Sox lost, 3-2, to the Detroit Tigers. But in the mind of Denis Leary, at least, it was a win for the Jews — and a loss for Mel Gibson.

Actor/comedian Leary and his "Rescue Me" co-star, Lenny Clarke, were guests on the New England Sports Network broadcast of the Red Sox baseball game Aug. 15.

When Leary asked if Red Sox first baseman Kevin Youkilis is of Greek heritage, announcers Jerry Remy and Don Orsillo told him Youkilis actually is Jewish.

"That's fantastic. That's one bottle of whiskey away from being Irish Catholic," Leary said. "They got the Manischewitz, we got the Jamesons. It's the same guilt, the same bad food... I'm so proud to have a Jewish first baseman."

Once apprised of Youkilis' true background, Leary couldn't resist riffing on the recent anti-Semitic tirade actor/director Mel Gibson launched into after a drunk-driving arrest.

"Nice! Yeah, where's Mel Gibson now!" Leary yelled when Youkilis snagged a difficult ground ball. "Mel? I hope in rehab they're showing replays of that. A Jewish first baseman makes the play... Good luck when you come out. Call Jeffrey Katzenberg and ask for a job when you get out. We'll have a whole Jewish infield by the time he gets out."

And so it went. When Remy told Leary that Sox outfielder Gabe Kapler also is Jewish, it elicited a new torrent of jokes.

"We got two Jews on this team, Mel! Where's your father now, huh?" Leary asked.

"Why are we jumping all over him, you know what I mean?" Leary said. "He had a little bit of tequila. You know those days."

But seconds later, when Youkilis tagged out a runner and gave the ball to a fan, they were back to their heckling.

"The ball went to a fan! That's more than Mel Gibson's ever done!" Clarke said.

As he was leaving the booth, Leary told Remy and Orsillo, "Hope we didn't get you in trouble."

Trouble, no. In fact, he made them famous for a day. ■

British Jews mark 350 years

By VANESSA BULKACZ

LONDON (JTA) — Concerns about safety in the wake of the Israel-Hezbollah war, as well as the recently foiled terror plot in London, are creating a cloud over upcoming celebrations of the 350th anniversary of Jews in Britain.

On Sept. 17, the yearlong celebration of Oliver Cromwell's decision to readmit Jews to England 350 years ago

is scheduled to culminate in a daylong festival in Trafalgar Square, one of London's most public spots. The festival is being presented by Jewish Culture UK.

The Simcha on the Square festival will feature comedians, cantors, klezmer bands and Sephardi choirs, as well as art exhibitions and traditional Jewish food.

Mayor Ken Livingstone will not be included on the program, as he continues to battle legal and personal charges of inappropriate and anti-Semitic remarks.

Instead, his deputy will represent the Mayor's Office of the Greater London Authority, which has contributed nearly \$115,000 to the event. ■

The anniversary of official Jewish re-entry into England in 1656, when Cromwell is believed to have granted the community the rights to practice openly and build cemeteries, has been marked throughout the year with a series of cultural, educational and official events presented by individuals, Jewish organizations and cultural institutions.

At the most visible anniversary event of the year so far, Prime Minister Tony Blair, BBC Chairman Michael Grade and other officials joined Britain's chief Orthodox rabbi, Sir Jonathan Sacks, and 500 invited guests in a June service at Britain's oldest synagogue, the Bevis Marks Synagogue in London's East End.

After the British national anthem was sung in Hebrew, Blair told the congregation that Britain's Jewish community

demonstrates "how identity through faith can be combined with a deep loyalty to our nation."

Jews first arrived in Britain with William the Conqueror in 1066 and served as special representatives of the king. For over a century, they worked as moneylenders and coin dealers.

According to Richard Huscroft, author of "Edward I and the Jews," by the mid-13th century more than one-third of

the circulated coins in England were controlled by a few hundred Jews, leading the king to levy upon them untenable rates of taxation and creating rampant anti-Semitism.

Conditions became so bad that the Jews volunteered to leave in 1255, but their request was turned down by Henry III, who considered them royal property.

In 1290, a short time after money lending was made heretical and illegal in England, Edward I expelled the Jews, who fled to Europe. ■

Not all historians agree about the exact date of the Jews' official re-entry into England, or if re-entry in fact was granted by Cromwell at all.

According to Eliane Glaser, a Jewish scholar who also works for BBC radio, when Rabbi Menasseh of Amsterdam appealed to Cromwell in 1656 at the Whitehall Conference of traders and businessmen to allow the Jews back into England, no verdict was given.

The following year, the few hundred Jews still living in England but practicing covertly were turned down when they petitioned to have a synagogue and a cemetery.

"The process of re-entry was gradual and didn't just happen all of a sudden in 1656," Glaser told JTA. "Bevis Marks Synagogue wasn't founded until 1701. There was much debate at the time about who let the Jews back in, and it was probably people who didn't like Cromwell that claimed it had been him because he had organized the Whitehall Conference." ■

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NEWS IN BRIEF

MIDDLE EAST

Israeli president's conduct investigated

Police questioned Moshe Katsav after two additional employees complained of sexual misconduct by the Israeli president.

On Wednesday, Katsav was questioned for seven hours about a former employee who has alleged offenses from sexual harassment to rape.

Katsav denies all wrongdoing, saying he never had sexual relations with any employee of the President's Residence. Meanwhile, calls are growing for Katsav to resign.

Poll: Israeli Arabs didn't back Hezbollah

About 18 percent of Israeli Arabs said they backed Hezbollah during the recent war, a new poll finds.

A majority of Israeli Jews believe that most Israeli Arabs supported Hezbollah, the Dahaf poll found. Twenty-seven percent of Israeli Arabs said they supported Israel in the conflict, while 36 percent said they supported neither side.

Israeli government to fly Italian airline

Israeli public servants traveling abroad will no longer fly El Al. The Israeli government signed an agreement Tuesday with the Italian airline Alitalia for such flights, the Jerusalem Post reported.

The agreement comes after El Al, which was Israel's national airline until it was privatized recently, reported a loss for the second quarter, citing increased foreign competition.

Kibbutz gets ecological award

Kibbutz Lotan received an ecological award. The small kibbutz in Israel's Arava Desert has received the 2006 Award for Ecovillage Excellence from the Global Ecovillage Network, an international organization that promotes sustainable living.

The award recognizes Lotan for its cutting-edge waste management program, alternative building techniques and environmental initiatives, as well as its work with various ethnic groups.

NORTH AMERICA

Canadian politician quits after Hezbollah comments

A Canadian legislator who was his party's deputy foreign affairs critic resigned from that post after suggesting that Canada should remove Hezbollah from its terrorist list.

After attempting to backpedal from his comments and even deny that he made them, Boris Wrzesnewskyj submitted his resignation to interim Liberal Party leader Bill Graham, who reaffirmed that Canada's official opposition party still considers Hezbollah a terrorist group.

B'nai Brith Canada called Wrzesnewskyj's comments "irresponsible" and welcomed his resignation.

Congressman finds online love

A U.S. Jewish congressman married a woman he met through the online dating service JDate.

Rep. Steven Rothman (D-N.J.) and Jennifer Anne Beckstein were married Aug. 18 by a rabbi in New York.

Each has been married previously, and their five teenage children were in attendance.

Rothman made headlines two years ago when it was revealed that he was Steve3366, a government employee with a six-figure salary looking for Jewish love online.

Rothman told JTA at the time that he chose to search online because of severe limitations on his time as a lawmaker.

WORLD

Israel appoints ambassador to Russia

Anna Azari was appointed Israeli ambassador to Russia. Azari will take up her post in November. A native of Lithuania, Azari immigrated to Israel as a child in 1972 with her family.

She served as ambassador to Ukraine and Moldova from 1999 to 2003, and was first secretary in Israel's embassy in Moscow from 1995-1997. A fluent Russian speaker, she was instrumental in building relations with local Jews and was an active member of the foreign diplomatic corps. Azari's husband, Rabbi Meir Azari, is spiritual leader of Tel Aviv's Reform congregation, Bet Daniel.

Russian synagogue vandal set free

A man who threatened worshipers inside a Russian synagogue was set free because of his poor mental condition. A regional court in the Russian city of Rostov-on-Don made the ruling regarding Vadim Domnitsky this week. Domnitsky, who shouted anti-Semitic epithets and threatened Jews with a broken bottle in late January, initially was charged with hooliganism.

He was believed to have been inspired by a stabbing rampage in a Moscow shul earlier in January. The court ruled that Domnitsky must undergo medical treatment for his condition and that he is not fit to stand trial.

British group works for Israel's image

A group aiming to improve Israel's image in the British media is set to launch in September.

The Jewish Media Network is the creation of four British Jewish advertising executives who founded the group StandUp4Israel, which campaigns to "promote Israel's cause in the British media."

The network will launch with a dinner and speech by Marc Cave, co-founder of StandUp4Israel and the brains behind several of Britain's most prominent advertising campaigns.

Australian Jewish leader dies

Leslie Caplan, a former leader of the Australian Jewish community, died Aug. 14 at the age of 74 after suffering from Parkinson's Disease.

Caplan twice was president of the Executive Council of Australian Jewry, from 1985-1987 and 1989-1992, and was considered a consensus builder, the Australian Jewish News reported. He is credited with being active in the Soviet Jewry struggle and pressing Australia's government to investigate suspected Nazi war criminals.

Hitler restaurant to change name

The owner of a new restaurant in Bombay named after Hitler promised he would change its name.

The owner of Hitler's Cross restaurant said he would change the name and remove swastikas from the walls because of a public outcry. "I never wanted to hurt people's feelings," Puneet Sablok said.

Anti-Iran rally in Argentina prevented

Left-wing activists in Argentina prevented an anti-Iran demonstration. Argentine Jewish groups organized a demonstration Wednesday in front of the Iranian Embassy in Buenos Aires to protest Iran's support for Hezbollah.

But some 50 members of the group Quebracho stopped traffic and blocked the street so the Jewish demonstration couldn't proceed. Argentine Jewish leaders expressed serious concern and demanded the freedom to demonstrate. "Public opinion can understand, from this event, who is playing with violence," said Silvio Rossjansky, president of the Argentine Zionist Organization.