

IN THE NEWS
Pelosi backs challenge to Hoyer

The incoming speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives backed a challenge to one of Congress' most pro-Israel lawmakers.

Now that Democrats have won the House in last week's elections and Rep. Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.) is set to ascend to the speaker's chair, Rep. Steny Hoyer (D-Md.), currently the minority whip, is running for majority leader. Challenging Hoyer is Rep. John Murtha (D-Pa.), who has led anti-Iraq war initiatives in Congress.

In an unusual endorsement, Pelosi lent her support over the weekend to Murtha, who has been loyal in her past internal races against Hoyer.

UJC raised \$346 million for Israel

The United Jewish Communities' Israel Emergency Campaign has raised at least \$346 million since the summer war with Hezbollah.

Of that, \$92 million was spent on immediate necessities during the war, such as relocating people from the embattled North to the center of the country, UJC President and CEO Howard Rieger told a news conference Monday at the federation umbrella group's General Assembly in Los Angeles.

Hamas, Fatah agree on moderate list

Hamas and Fatah leaders agreed on a slate of technocrats to head a new Palestinian government, a report said.

The new government will be led by Mohammad Shbair, a microbiology professor and former president of the Islamic University in the Gaza Strip, according to a release Monday from the Palestine Center, a Washington think tank with strong ties to the Palestinian leadership. Reuters reported that Shbair accepted the nomination.

WORLD REPORT

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Facing challenges, Olmert and Bush seek to avoid regional deterioration

By RON KAMPEAS

WASHINGTON (JTA) — The meeting between President Bush and Ehud Olmert was bound to be haunted by their recent troubles: Iraq for Bush, Lebanon and the Gaza Strip for the Israeli prime minister.

But the most potent presence hovering over Monday's Washington summit was not recent events but the prospect of further deterioration in the region.

Olmert came to the White House seeking reassurances about Iran and its putative nuclear program, as Israelis across the political spectrum see a nuclear-armed regime that denies the Holocaust and calls for Israel's destruction as a mortal threat.

For his part, Bush, under new pressure to change the course in Iraq since the Republicans' defeat last week in congressional midterm elections, had to consider how the Israeli-Palestinian conflict impacts Arab and European reluctance to help in Iraq.

Just before meeting Olmert, Bush met with James Baker, secretary of state when Bush's father was president, and Lee Hamilton, a former Democratic congressman. The two completed a report on the prospects of resolving the Iraq quagmire.

Both Bush and Olmert needed something from the other — and after 45 minutes alone together, each emerged with gains, however modest.

Most of the discussion focused on Iran, and Olmert said he was reassured that the United States and Israel were on the same page.

"There is no question that the Iranian threat is not just a threat for Israel, but for the whole world," Olmert said. "The fanaticism and the extremism of the Iranian government, and the fact that the leader of a nation such as Iran can threaten the very existence of another nation, as he does toward the State of Israel, is not something

that we can tolerate or would ever tolerate, and certainly not when we know that he is trying to possess nuclear weapons. And I'm very encouraged by our discussion and thoughts that we have exchanged about what needs to be done in the

Middle East."

Switching to Hebrew, Olmert was more specific: There was "absolute agreement," he said, on the need to "make every effort to stop Iran from getting to the technical stage where they can manufacture weapons."

Ahead of the summit, Israeli officials reportedly had worried that the United States did not view the Iran problem with the same urgency. The perception was that Israel fears the moment the Iranians have the technical know-how to put together a nuclear bomb, while the Americans wouldn't get exercised until the Iranians were close to actually building one.

Bush gained a renewed, if vague, commitment from Olmert to do his best to revive Israeli-Palestinian peace talks.

"I will make every possible effort to help Abu Mazen to get into such a dialogue with us," Olmert said, using Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas' nickname.

Addressing the Hebrew-speaking press after the meeting, Olmert provided more de-

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**BEHIND
THE
HEADLINES**

■ *Bush and Olmert discussed how to prevent further deterioration in the region*

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tails: He was ready to allow forces in Jordan loyal to Abbas, a relative moderate from the Fatah Party, to move to Gaza to help Abbas face down "the tensions with Hamas," the Islamist terrorist group that runs the P.A. Cabinet and legislature.

Olmert's relief after the meeting was tangible. Told he was repeating the phrase "excellent feeling" that he had used after his previous summit with Bush in May, he said, "Well, this is an even more excellent feeling."

Israelis had been concerned that after his Republican Party lost control of Congress last week, Bush might consider calls to conciliate Iran as a way of tamping down violence in Iraq.

The Baker-Hamilton recommendations have yet to be published, but reports suggest that outreach to Iran is high on their list. Iran has considerable influence with Shi'ites in Iraq, and the intractable violence in Iraq played a role in Democrats' wins last week in the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives.

Olmert insisted to reporters that Bush had hardly raised concerns about Israel's handling of the war with Hezbollah this summer, which left the Iranian-backed Lebanese terrorist group battered but intact; nor, he said, did Bush critique Israel's retaliation in recent days against terrorists in Gaza launching rockets into southern Israel, even though 19 Palestinian civilians were killed in one errant Israeli strike.

Olmert handed Bush another bone, rejecting speculation in the New York

Times that Israel viewed the Bush administration's goal of democratizing the Middle East as naive.

"We in the Middle East have followed the American policy in Iraq for a long time, and we are very much impressed and encouraged by the stability which

the great operation of America in Iraq brought to the Middle East," Olmert said after the meeting "We pray and hope that this policy will be fully successful so that this stability which was created for all the moderate countries in the Middle East will continue."

East Germany's Jewish spymaster dies at 83

BERLIN (JTA) — Markus Wolf, the former East German spy chief who bedeviled Western intelligence services and developed an interest in his Jewish roots late in life, died Nov. 9 at age 83.

Known to family as Misha and to Western intelligence as "the man with no face," Wolf died peacefully in his Berlin home.

For decades, Western intelligence sought in vain to capture an image of Wolf, the architect of Communist East Germany's international intelligence network. At the height of his power, Wolf commanded an estimated 4,000 agents.

He was famous for infiltrating the highest echelons of West German government, perpetrating a security breach that forced Chancellor Willy Brandt to resign.

Wolf also was notorious for the army of "Romeo" spies he sent into

the West — attractive men who would seduce lonely secretaries to the powerful and use them to access secrets. In later years, he alternatively expressed pride and regret about the tactic, at one point writing, "If I go down in espionage history, it may well be for perfecting the use of sex in spying."

Wolf was born in 1923 in Hechingen to a Jewish father who was a playwright and doctor, and a non-Jewish mother. When the Nazis came to power in 1933, Wolf's father, a committed Communist, fled to Switzerland. The family then traveled to Moscow, where Wolf was schooled.

Wolf was trained in intelligence work at a Communist academy, but after Stalin dissolved the Comintern organization, Wolf was set up as a radio journalist in Moscow. He returned to East Germany in 1945, reporting on the Nuremberg war crimes tribunals for Berlin Broadcasting.

From 1949-51 he worked at the East Ger-

man mission in Moscow, until the Soviets set up a spying station in East Berlin. Wolf was appointed head of secret intelligence in 1951. He established a brutally effective international espionage system, whose main focus, he later said, was to penetrate West Germany.

After unification, he was high on the West German most-wanted list. He ended up being arrested while crossing into Germany in 1991.

Convicted of treason, his sentence was suspended and Wolf ended up serving only a few days in jail for refusing to testify in a trial about fellow spies.

Nearly a decade ago, upon publication of his memoirs, Wolf gave an interview to Juedische Rundschau, a Jewish newspaper, in which he said that his atheist father's Jewish roots had

a profound influence on him.

As head of foreign intelligence, Wolf said, he tried to keep clear of policy-making vis-a-vis Israel. Privately, he read and enjoyed Leon Uris' "Exodus" and asked his secret agents who had been to Israel to inform him about the kibbutzim, which he imagined were a "somehow different, exotic expression of socialist thought and practice."

Though he did not seek refuge in Israel, Wolf did make one visit in 1996, and met with former heads of Israeli intelligence.

He recalled with particular enthusiasm his visit to Jerusalem, "bound as it is with all that it means for Jews."

"I would not describe myself as a reborn Jew," Wolf said. "This would be presumptuous and no one would believe it. But like many older people who are interested in where they come from, I am interested in my own roots." ■

'If I go down in espionage history, it may well be for perfecting the use of sex in spying.'

Markus Wolf
East German spymaster



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Study: European anti-Semitism up since war

By DINAH A. SPRITZER

PRAGUE (JTA) — Israel's recent war with Hezbollah resulted in a new wave of anti-Semitic incidents in Europe — almost all in Western Europe, a new report finds.

The European Jewish Congress' 53-page report, presented Sunday at a World Jewish Congress meeting in Paris, reveals that the transference of anti-Israel sentiment onto Jews occurred almost exclusively in Western Europe, with the atmosphere remaining either neutral or pro-Israel in the former Eastern Bloc.

Denmark was another exception, as the EJC notes that media and politicians kept a balanced view of the conflict.

Though the conclusion that anti-Semitism rose worldwide during that war already is well documented, the EJC report points to specific trends that pose challenges in Europe, such as the collaboration of Muslim extremists with left-wing political parties; political and media comparisons of Israeli leaders to Nazis; and the first instances of Turkish Jews complaining of anti-Semitism since an Islamic-based political party took power in Turkey in 2002.

The Paris-based EJC hopes to use the report to convince E.U. officials to attack the problem through public education, and to provide security for Jewish communities.

"We are not trying to be alarmist," report author Ilan Moss told JTA. "But we do see that European political discourse can be slanted, with European politicians feeling comfortable publicly supporting Hezbollah and treating it as a liberation organization."

In Austria, 83 anti-Semitic acts were recorded from April 2006 to August 2006, up from 50 during the same period in 2005. Anti-Semitic letters sent to the Jewish community of Vienna "drastically increased" during the war, with a number of writers comparing Austria's Jewish leaders to Nazis.

This sentiment was popularized by Austria's two extreme-right parties, both of which presently are in Parliament.

France also saw a rise in anti-Semitic events, with 61 incidents during the war, an increase of 79 percent over the same period last year.

At demonstrations in support of Lebanon across France, placards read "Death to the Jews — Death to Israel," and Stars of

David were emblazoned with swastikas.

Nonetheless, Shimon Samuels, head of the Simon Wiesenthal Center's Paris office, said the "blowback" of anti-Semitism that occurred in France after the Palestinian intifada began in 2000 was not as strong during the conflict with Hezbollah.

"This is probably because the people who rioted a year ago and who would be likely to attack a synagogue were more focused on attacking the French system," he said, referring to October 2005 riots in Paris suburbs by Muslim youth protesting discrimination, poor housing conditions and unemployment.

In Great Britain, Jewish leaders had announced already in September that anti-Semitic acts doubled during the war, with a parliamentary commission endorsing their findings.

The EJC report cited Greece as a country where anti-Semitic political and media rhetoric were the norm during the war. Greek President Karolos Papoulias said during an official commemoration of the 1974 fall of the Greek military junta, "Greek public opinion is shocked by the undeclared war against Lebanon. After the Second World War, the world believed that the logic of collective punishment would have never returned."

Such sentiments were repeated by numerous European leaders. In a July interview with Penthouse magazine, Jan Marijnissen, chairman of Holland's Parliament and leader of the Socialist Party, compared Islamic terrorism in the Middle East to the actions of the Dutch resistance against Nazi occupiers in World War II.

Norway's Jewish community was the focus of worldwide attention after the Oslo synagogue was repeatedly vandalized and eventually fired on in September by Islamic extremists. The incident was preceded in early August by an editorial questioning Israel's right to exist penned by author Jostein Gaarder in the newspaper *Aftenposten*.

In Switzerland and Sweden, mainstream leftist parties supported large rallies for Hezbollah.

"We are seeing an alliance from left-wing politicians with Hezbollah, which is something totally different than the more general sympathies for the Palestinians after the intifada," said Anders Carlberg, head of the Jewish community in Gothenburg, Sweden.

Leaders of Turkey's Jewish community told researchers that their members were experiencing anti-Semitism for the first time: Businessmen said that they were being ostracized for their religion, and community leaders said the media demonized Israel and Jews during the war with editorials that incited racial hatred.

Within the European Union, the German Jewish community may have experienced perhaps the most hostility during the war, despite the pro-Israel stance of Chancellor Angela Merkel, according to the report.

The Central Council for Jewish in Germany received more than 300 letters, attacking both the organization and German Jews for "blindly supporting Israel and spending state money to support a 'fascist state' in the Middle East," the report states.

The council's executive director, Stephan Kramer, told JTA the hostility didn't come from the country's sizable Muslim population, but from ethnic Germans.

"We made supportive statements of Israel and our desire for more factual coverage, and this put us under attack as disloyal to Germany in a country where left-wing sympathy to Arab groups has a long history," he said.

For Kramer, one lesson was the need for Israel to become more actively involved in promoting its agenda to the European public.

"The Israeli government will never understand that this is a media war, that they have to have a way to explain their position. Their attitude towards Europe is, 'They're all anti-Semites, so we shouldn't care what they think,'" he said. "Israel doesn't provide the necessary information to assure positive media coverage. We in Europe are not a high priority."

For the first time,
Turkish Jewish
businessmen said
that they were being
ostracized for their
religion.

NEWS IN BRIEF

NORTH AMERICA

Covenant Award winners named

The Covenant Foundation named three winners of its 2006 Covenant Awards for innovation in Jewish education.

Given since 1991 in conjunction with the United Jewish Communities' General Assembly, the awards carry a \$25,000 prize and a \$5,000 grant for each recipient's educational institution.

The winners were Marc Kramer, executive director of RAVSAK, the central organization for Jewish community day schools; Rabbi Loren Sykes, executive director of Camp Ramah Darom in Atlanta, which works with the families of autistic children; and Jane Taubenfeld Cohen, head of school at the South Area Solomon Schechter Day School in Stoughton, Mass. The awards were announced Sunday at the General Assembly in Los Angeles.

Miller testifies in 'torture' case

Former New York Times reporter Judith Miller testified that she did not believe Israel tortured an accused Hamas fund raiser. Miller, an expert on Islamic fundamentalism, testified Monday in the U.S. government's case against Muhammad Salah, a Palestinian American from Chicago. Prosecutors base their case in part on Salah's confession to Israeli authorities in 1993, which led to his jailing in Israel for more than four years. Salah's lawyers now say the confession was extracted through torture.

Israeli officials allowed Miller to witness the interrogation because the government wanted to publicize Hamas' fund-raising network in the United States. In her testimony, reported by Editor & Publisher, Miller said she went into the interrogation concerned that Salah might have been tortured but emerged feeling there was "no reason for me to believe" that was the case.

MIDDLE EAST

Palestinians threaten U.S. targets

Palestinian terrorist groups in the Gaza Strip threatened to attack U.S. targets.

The threat was issued this week by a wing of the Popular Resistance Committees armed group, as well as three small factions within Fatah.

In a statement, the groups said they would attack Americans to avenge what they described as U.S. support for Israeli military actions in Gaza. A similar threat was issued last week by Hamas' armed wing. But official U.S. activities in Gaza are minimal, and Americans have long been urged to avoid traveling there.

Livni promises branding campaign

Israel will "invest a lot of time and money" in an image-branding campaign, its foreign minister told the United Jewish Communities' General Assembly.

Addressing the opening day of the four-day gathering Sunday in Los Angeles, Tzipi Livni said one of her priorities is to close the gap between Israel's militant image abroad and the reality of a vibrant, multifaceted nation.

Arabs want peace summit

The Arab League called for a peace summit with Israel and U.N. power brokers. Arab foreign ministers who had gathered for an emergency conference Sunday in Cairo issued a resolution to try to engage Israel, as well as the permanent members of the U.N. Security Council, in peace talks on the principle of territorial concessions.

The Cairo talks were convened following the recent killing of 18 Palestinian civilians in an Israeli artillery barrage on the Gaza Strip.

Palestinian Authority Foreign Minister Mahmoud Zahar, a member of Hamas, said he supported the idea of a summit, but it remained unclear if he would attend.

Olmert's daughter slams pride handling

Ehud Olmert's lesbian daughter came out against Israeli authorities' handling of last week's gay pride rally in Jerusalem.

Dana Olmert gave a rare media interview Sunday in which she accused police and politicians of being too lenient toward religious protesters who threatened violence against those participating in the event.

While not commenting on her father's refusal to take a strong stand for or against last Friday's rally, she deplored the fact that a Cabinet member could denounce homosexuals without being challenged.

"I would have been happy had someone within the government responded to Eli Yishai, who called the march an abomination," Olmert told Israel's Army Radio.

As a compromise deal, what had been planned as a march through Jerusalem was relocated to a Hebrew University stadium on the outskirts of the capital. Dana Olmert said the fact that the event was not canceled outright was a "bitter victory."

"There was a feeling that we were in a cage," she said. "There was something sad about the whole thing, the way it was handled."

Border communities strike

Israeli communities on the border with Lebanon went on "strike" to demand compensation for damages suffered during the recent war with Hezbollah.

Seven frontier farming villages announced Sunday that they were suspending tax and utilities payments until they receive long-delayed government payouts for lost harvests and buildings damaged by Hezbollah attacks in the 34-day conflict.

They also threatened to withhold services to Israeli soldiers garrisoned along the border. State representatives said the hold-ups were due to bureaucratic difficulties, but promised to address the bulk of the communities' complaints by the end of the month.

WORLD

Sweden backs security for Jewish citizens

Sweden's Cabinet agreed to help finance security for Jewish communities. The communities for years had been pressing the previous Socialist-led government to help with security.

Swedish Jews increasingly have been the victims of anti-Semitic attacks, primarily carried out by Arab Swedes, according to community sources. After more than a decade of Socialist rule, a conservative political alliance led by the Moderate Party came to power after September elections.

A month later, the Cabinet pledged to pay \$424,000 of the community's \$707,000 security costs. "The co-financing is a symbol, it means the government is taking us seriously," said Anders Carlberg, head of the Gothenburg Jewish Community. The measure is expected to pass Parliament next month.

Minsk memorial defaced

Vandals painted a swastika on the Holocaust memorial in Minsk on Monday.

A spokesman for the police said vandals also left anti-Semitic leaflets at the Yama memorial, signed by the White Russian Front for Aryan Resistance, a previously unknown group. Police opened an investigation on charges of damage done to public property, Interfax-West reported.