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Czech Jewish Community Marks Millenium On Small Scale Owing To Political Conditions

LONDON, July 14 (JTA) -- The Jewish community in Prague has begun a small scale celebration of what was to have been a major national event with thousands of visitors anticipated from abroad. The occasion is the Jewish millenium--the 1,000th anniversary of Jewish settlement in what is now Czechoslovakia.

Plans for a series of elaborate cultural and historical events in which Government authorities were to have participated were cancelled--for the second--time in view of the changed political situation in Czechoslovakia. Dr. Vilem Benba, curator of the State Jewish Museum in Prague, one of the focal points of the event, said in a foreign services radio interview that "the international situation is not exactly the most propitious for such celebrations."

Nevertheless, the occasion was marked locally by a concert at the Spanish Synagogue of works composed by Pavel Haas, Gideon Klein and Hans Kraser while they were inmates of Theresienstadt concentration camp during World War II. An exhibition titled "Unknown Faces of the Jewish Past" opened and a series of lectures was scheduled on Jewish contributions to Czechoslovakian culture, literature and the arts.

The Jewish millenial celebration in Czechoslovakia was originally scheduled for the summer of 1968 but Czech authorities withdrew official support in the wake of the June, 1967 Arab-Israel war. The event had been re-scheduled for this summer.

Slovakian Minister Hits Jewish Agency, Hias And JDC As Spies

LONDON, July 14 (JTA) -- The Slovakian Minister of Interior has accused three international Jewish organizations of "acting against Czechoslovakia on the directives of a foreign intelligence service," it was reported here.

The accusation was made by Maj. Gen. Egyd Pepich in a speech to a plenary session of the Slovak Communist Party in Bratislava. He alleged that the Jewish Agency, the Joint Distribution Committee and United Hias Service were "gathering information about life in Czechoslovakia, organizing emigration from Czechoslovakia" and generally acting against Czech interests through their offices in Vienna.

Vienna is a way station for Jewish refugees from Poland and Czechoslovakia. The Jewish Agency assists those emigrating to Israel and Hias, the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society, assists migrants to other countries. JDC is a world-wide relief organization.

'Fiddler' In Pilsen Reminds Czechs of Russian Occupation

LONDON, July 14 (JTA) -- "Fiddler on the Roof," a musical drama based on the stories of Sholem Aleichem which has evoked nostalgia from New York's Broadway audiences, drew political reactions from a mixed audience of Czechs in Pilsen, according to Michael Ivens, the London Evening Standard's drama critic who saw a production of "Fiddler" in the Czech town.

That the Soviet occupation of Czechoslovakia is the all-pervading fact of life for Czechs became evident in the theater when the audience identified the hero, Tevye, with the Czech people and his Russian oppressors of Czarist days with the present-day Soviet occupiers, Mr. Ivens wrote.

"The old theater suddenly burst into flames when two Russian soldiers (stage, not real) interrupted the Jewish wedding. A chorus of whistles from the audience answered by a few desultory handclaps from some Russophiles showed that these days anything reminds the Czechs of the Russian occupation," the critic said. "Tevye's plea that Jews and Christians should be allowed to live amicably together brought loud and continuous applause from an audience only too aware that (Gustav) Husak (Communist Party leader) is not free from anti-Semitism," he said. "The biggest demonstration of the night however was touched off by Tevye's cry to be left alone. Tevye and his family were interpreted as Czechoslovakians and the oppressing Russians on the stage as the oppressing Russians now lurking out of the way in Czech villages."

Polish Jews Reported To Be Alarmed About Sept. 1 Emigration Deadline, Seek Visas

HAIFA, July 14 (JTA) -- Polish immigrants who arrived here yesterday aboard the Israeli motorship Moledet reported growing alarm among Jews in Poland that they will not be able to leave that country after Sept. 1. That date was the deadline set by the Warsaw regime to end its hitherto fairly liberal policy of issuing exit permits to Jews desiring to go to Israel.

According to the new arrivals, large numbers of Jews were lining up at the Dutch Embassy in Warsaw every day to obtain Israeli visas. The Netherlands Embassy has been handling Israeli affairs in Poland since the Polish Government broke diplomatic relations with Israel after the June, 1967 Arab-Israeli war.

An estimated 5,000 of Poland's 20,000-25,000 remaining Jews departed since 1967. The bulk of them left in 1968 when the Polish Government blamed student unrest on "Zionists," launched an anti-Jewish campaign and purged Jews from posts in the Government, the Communist Party and the communications and other industries. Though exit visas were issued to Jews without too much difficulty, they are permitted to take only \$5 in cash out of the country and must pay a heavy tax on household items and personal valuables. The change in policy on exit permits has been attributed to pressure from the Arab countries which charged that Polish Jews were strengthening Israel, although many of the Jews leaving Poland with Israeli visas eventually go to other countries. It was also said that Polish leaders were concerned over the departure of large numbers of scientists, engineers and physicians who are Jewish.

The Polish Government announced in June that "as of Sept. 1, Jews no longer will be permitted to apply for emigration to Israel 'under relaxed provisions'". There were 3.5 million Jews in Poland before World War II.

Lebanon's Small Jewish Community Said To Be Uneasy; Many Want To Leave Country

JERUSALEM, July 14 (JTA) -- The small Jewish community in Lebanon is growing uneasy for its safety and many Lebanese Jews want to leave that country, it was reported today by an East Jerusalem resident who just returned from Beirut. The informant said that three large Jewish-owned stores recently closed in Beirut.

UN Unit Will Leave In August To Probe Alleged Violations Of Rights In Occupied Areas

UNITED NATIONS, N.Y., July 14 (JTA) -- A special working group set up by the United Nations Commission on Human Rights in Geneva last spring to investigate allegations that Israel was violating the human rights of Arabs in the occupied territories announced last week that it will visit four Arab countries next month.

According to the itinerary, the six experts on human rights will leave New York on Aug. 1 or 2 for Geneva and will proceed from there to Beirut, Lebanon, Damascus, Syria, Amman, Jordan and Cairo, Egypt. They will return to New York Aug. 24.

The ad hoc group was created by the Human Rights Commission at its 25th session "to investigate allegations concerning Israel's violations of the Geneva Convention relative to the protection of civilian persons in time of war...in the territories occupied by Israel as a result of hostilities in the Middle East."

The Israel Government has declared that it cannot consider the Commission's resolution of March 4 setting up the group as a legal basis for cooperating with it. Israel has insisted that no investigation of alleged violations of human rights within territories it holds can take place without a similar investigation of the treatment of Jews in the Arab countries. The governments of Jordan, Syria, Lebanon and Egypt have all agreed to the working group's request for cooperation.

The six experts constituting the working group for the Middle East also comprise the ad hoc group investigating the treatment of political prisoners and alleged infringement of trade union rights in South Africa. They are Ibrahima Boye, permanent representative of Senegal to the UN, who is chairman and rapporteur; Felix Ermacora, professor of public law at the University of Vienna; Branimir Janokovic, rector of the University of Nis, Yugoslavia; N. N. Jha, first secretary of the permanent mission of India to the UN; Louis Marchand Stens, professor of international law in Peru; and Waldo E. Waldron-Ramsey, counsellor to the Tanzanian mission to the UN.

Expect Nixon To Discuss Mideast With Wilson On Last Leg Of Trip Home

WASHINGTON, July 14 (JTA) -- State Department sources said today that it is "very likely" that President Richard M. Nixon would review the latest Middle East developments with British Premier Harold Wilson when he stops off in London on the last leg of his round-the-world tour on Aug. 3. White House spokesman Ronald Ziegler announced today that Mr. Nixon has added Britain to his itinerary. He will also visit Asian countries and Rumania.

Sources here said the President and Premier Wilson would most likely discuss the current bilateral U.S.-Soviet talks on the Mideast. The Four Power Mideast talks in which Britain is a participant along with France, the Soviet Union and the U.S. have recessed without a date being set for their resumption.

Curfew Imposed On Nablus As Security Forces Search Homes For Terrorists

TEL AVIV, July 14 (JTA) -- A curfew was imposed on Nablus today as Israeli security forces conducted a house-to-house search for terrorists responsible for a recent outbreak of sabotage in the region. The pre-dawn round-up was the first in Nablus in a year. The last one resulted in the arrest of 80 suspects and a subsequent lull in terrorist activity around Nablus.

Two Israeli soldiers were injured yesterday in a day-long artillery duel between Israeli and Egyptian forces near Qantara on the Suez Canal.

Sentences of 10 and seven years' imprisonment were imposed on two 19-year-old students from Nablus who confessed to charges that they participated in planning the Supersol supermarket bombing in Jerusalem earlier this year in which two Israelis were killed. The students also admitted membership in the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine and to the unauthorized possession of explosives. Defense counsel pleaded for clemency. A 16-year-old Nablus high school girl was given a three

year suspended sentence by a military tribunal for assisting in acts of sabotage and membership in an underground terrorist organization. Two other young women from Nablus, a school directress and a teacher, were given four year sentences on the same charges. All three were accused of recruiting other girls for the organization. The student's sentence was suspended because of her age.

Dispute Arises Between Civil Courts And Chief Rabbinate On Question Of Who Is Jew

TEL AVIV, July 14 (JTA) -- A new dispute has arisen between Israel's civil courts and the chief rabbinate over the determination of who is legally a Jew. A Tel Aviv district court has ruled that the circumcised son of a non-Jewish mother is a Jew on the strength of his mother's declaration to that effect at the circumcision ceremony.

But Israel's Ashkenazic Chief Rabbi, Isser Unterman, protested that the question of who is a Jew is a matter of Jewish religious law which can be defined only by rabbinical courts. He insisted that under Jewish law a Jew is either one who has been born to a Jewish mother or who has been converted to Judaism.

The court however maintained that civil courts have exclusive jurisdiction over declaratory judgments as to the religion of a person while the rabbinic courts have the right to deal with the matter only in cases of application for marriage or conversion.

Strikes Paralyze Israel's Radio, Television And Tele-Communications

JERUSALEM, July 14 (JTA) -- Israel was without regular radio, television or telecommunications for the second day today as a result of a strike by journalists and news-writers employed by the Government-owned media who are demanding higher wages. Communications were paralyzed yesterday by a one-day strike of engineers and technicians for a higher cost-of-living allowance. Kol Israel radio, operated by a skeleton staff, is continuing to broadcast regular news bulletins.

Unearthed Remains Believed To Be From Fortress Dating From Jeremiah's Time

JERUSALEM, July 14 (JTA) -- Archaeologists have unearthed the remains of a structure believed to have been a fortress dating from the times of the Prophet Jeremiah. The site of the discovery is at the foot of French Hill in northern Jerusalem. The fortress appears to have been built to guard the road from Jerusalem to Nablus. The excavations were conducted by the Government department of antiquities under the supervision of Dr. Ora Negbi of Tel Aviv University.

Trade Union Delegates, Including Black Jew, Visit Israel Under Histadrut Program

TEL AVIV, July 14 (JTA) -- Twenty American trade union delegates, several prominent Negroes among them, arrived here to participate in a three-week seminar under the auspices of the American Trade Union Council for Histadrut, Israel's labor federation. The delegation was headed by Norman Hill, associate executive director of the A. Philip Randolph Institute, a civil rights organization concerned with the social and cultural problems of American Negroes. One member of the group is a black Jew, William Ribbins of the Teamsters Union, who plans to establish an agricultural settlement in Israel with other black Jews.

3 Jews Are Named To Cabinet Of Premier Schreyer's Newly-Elected Manitoba Government

WINNIPEG, Man. Canada, July 14 (JTA) -- Three Jews have been named to the Cabinet of Premier Ed Schreyer of the newly elected Government of Manitoba Province. Saul D. Cherniak, a Winnipeg lawyer and former president of the Canadian Jewish Congress in the Western provinces, was named finance minister. Sidney Green and Saul Miller have been named minister of health and social service and minister of youth and education respectively.

Kollek Threatens To Run Separately If Labor Party Does Not Nominate Him

JERUSALEM, July 14 (JTA) -- Mayor Teddy Kollek announced today that he will run for re-election on a separate list if the Labor Party fails to nominate him as its mayoralty candidate.

'Jewish Cantata' By Dave Brubeck Is Scheduled For Spring Premiere In Philadelphia

PHILADELPHIA, July 14 (JTA) -- Jazz pianist Dave Brubeck's "Jewish cantata," tentatively entitled "Gates of Justice," will make its premier at the Academy of Music next spring, the Jewish Exponent reported. The cantata was commissioned in 1968 by Rabbi Charles D. Mintz, director of the Pennsylvania Council of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations.

The teachings of the Prophets are applied by Mr. Brubeck to the contemporary scene, the exponent reported. The cantata is scored for brass, organ, piano, timpani, two soloists and a chorus. Tenor soloist will be a cantor who will sing the teachings of Judaism while a Negro baritone will question their relevance to his life. The chorus will be the Philadelphia Singing City Choir. Rabbi Mintz said he hoped the cantata will be used in the synagogues as a sermon to bring "home the message of Judaism as an exciting dramatic mode."

Race Relations Report In Britain Cites Successful Integration Of European Jews

LONDON, July 14 (JTA) -- A report on British race relations just published here cites the successful integration of Jewish immigrants from Eastern Europe despite attempts by racist elements to make them a scapegoat for national ills.

The report, sponsored by the Institute of Race Relations, deals primarily with colored immigrants. It was prepared by E.J. B. Rose and a group of collaborators and published by Oxford University Press. On Jewish immigration into Britain it said: "In two generations from the arrival of the (Jewish) refugees from Eastern Europe, a form of accommodation had been reached; and this despite the depression and open and explicit attempt to harness anti-Semitism as a scapegoating device for the economic misfortunes of the country to provide the motive power for a native Fascist movement on the European model."

Black And White Jews From Philadelphia Confer With Envoy Over Falashas' Condition

PHILADELPHIA, July 14 (JTA) -- A group of black and white Jews from the Philadelphia area met with representatives of the Ethiopian Mission to the United Nations in New York last week in an attempt to organize aid for the Falashas, the black Jews of Ethiopia, whose ancient community faces extinction because of poor health and economic conditions. According to the Jewish Exponent, an English-Jewish weekly published here, the group calls itself the Concerned Committee of Black and White Jews of Philadelphia.

Their meeting with Tassew Makonnen, a member of the Ethiopian Mission, was intended to apprise the Ethiopian authorities of their concern for the future of the Falasha community. Mr. Makonnen said he would relay the essence of the meeting to his Government but was vague about what aid could be rendered the Falashas, the Exponent reported. The Falashas number about 25,000 and live in remote regions of Ethiopia. They are a remnant of the quarter million black Jews who flourished there until the end of the 19th Century.

At the meeting, Rabbi Clifford Woods, religious leader of the Hebrew Falasha Congregation of New York, presented a letter he had received from Yona Bogale, leader of the Ethiopian Falasha community, and Dr. Mario Felszer, an Israeli physician who has been working with the Falashas for several years. The letter noted that the Ethiopian Government had allocated about 53,000 acres of fertile land to the Falashas but the land is heavily wooded and requires extensive clearance for which funds are urgently needed.

According to the letter, the Falashas live in mud and thatch houses and subsist on a diet of sorghum and local cereal grains poor in proteins. Infant mortality and the incidence of debilitating diseases is high and educational opportunities are limited. "Prospects for the future (of the Falashas) in their present location do not permit expectation of genuine improvement," the letter said.

48 Members Of UJA Young Leadership Mission Hear Rabbi Friedman At Start Of Visit

TEL AVIV, July 14 (JTA) -- Forty-eight members of the United Jewish Appeal's young leadership mission began a 17-day fact-finding tour here. The group was addressed by Rabbi Herbert Friedman, UJA executive chairman, who told them it was their "responsibility to arouse your home communities to the urgency of financing the increased flow of immigration and to help build Israel for the purpose for which it was established--to take in all Jews who need a home and to create a better life for them." The members of the mission will visit new immigrant centers and meet with Israel Government leaders.

In a related development, three ships arriving at Haifa port over the weekend landed 118 immigrants and over 800 tourists and summer campers.

50 U.S. Youngsters Leave For Year Of Secondary Study Under Jewish Agency Program

NEW YORK, July 14 (JTA) -- Fifty American youngsters between the ages of 15 and 17 have left for Israel to begin a year of high school study as members of the America-Israel secondary school program of the department of education and culture of the Jewish Agency for Israel. An additional 25 will leave for Israel in August.

Tenth grade courses will be held in the Alonei Yitzhak secondary school in the Shomron Valley, about five miles from Caesarea, and Kfar Blum in the Upper Galilee. The juniors will be taught at Alonei Yitzhak and the seniors at Kibbutz Sde Boker. The programs offer a full American high school curriculum, augmented by special courses in Hebrew and Israeli studies, with full academic credit accepted by American high schools.

General courses will be taught in English with the Judaica courses taught in Hebrew when possible. Courses will be given in the Hebrew language and literature, Bible, history of the Jewish people (Biblical days and Second Temple) and Israel today. The program began in 1967 with 15 enrollees.

Pioneer Women Start Summer Vacation Program For Israeli Youth From Border Areas

NEW YORK, July 14 (JTA) -- Pioneer Women disclosed today that it has started a summer vacation program in Israel for youngsters who live in border settlements that have come under constant attack from enemy forces across the cease-fire demarcation lines. The youths, mostly from settlements in the Beisan and northern Jordan valleys, have been sleeping in bomb shelters for the past two years.

At the end of the first week in July, 300 of them had started 10-day holidays at camps run by the Pioneer Women in Haifa, Petach Tikva and Tel Aviv. By the end of August, more than 2,000 children will have had such holidays according to Mrs. Rose Kaufman, national president of Pioneer Women, the women's labor Zionist organization of America. She said the project was undertaken to give the children and their parents a respite from the tension of living under almost constant attack.

Dr. Luiz Lorch, Veteran Community Leader, And Julio Mesquita Filho, Journalist, Die

SAO PAULO, July 14 (JTA) -- Dr. Luiz Lorch, a prominent gynecologist and obstetrician who founded the first congregation for Jewish refugees from central Europe here in 1936--the Congregacao Israelita Paulista--died Saturday at the age of 75. Another prominent Brazilian who died Saturday was Julio Mesquita Filho, director of Brazil's largest newspaper, O Estado De Sao Paulo, who was a recipient of the B'nai B'rith medal for human rights in 1967.

Dr. Lorch was born in Mainz, Germany. The congregation he established became the largest of its type in Brazil. He was also instrumental in the development of Sao Paulo's modern Jewish community. He represented the Joint Distribution Committee here for many years.