



# daily news bulletin

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## EX-NAZI WHO FLED TO SWITZERLAND IS RETURNED TO HOLLAND AND DETAINED PENDING TRIAL DUE TO START IN MARCH

AMSTERDAM, Dec. 23 (JTA)--Pieter Menten, the Dutch art dealer who fled to Switzerland last month to avoid arrest on war crimes charges, was returned to Amsterdam by special plane last night and is now under detention pending his trial which is expected to begin in March. Menten is accused of murdering hundreds of Jews and Poles while serving as an officer in an SS unit near Lemberg, Poland during World War II.

He was arrested Dec. 6 in Uster, near Zurich and reportedly tried to commit suicide by swallowing pills. Menten, 78, described as a multi-millionaire, fought extradition proceedings on grounds that the 20-year statute of limitations provided by Swiss law in war crimes cases has expired.

But Swiss authorities found the evidence against him too strong and expelled Menten yesterday under a 1965 decree that authorizes the expulsion of any person whose presence endangers Swiss security. The Netherlands government promised, however, that Menten would not be extradited to a third country for trial. He had expressed fear that he would be sent to the Soviet Union in whose territory the scene of his alleged war crimes now lies. Israel also said it would ask for Menten's extradition so he could stand trial there.

Menten has engaged a defense attorney, Bernard F.J. Simon of Utrecht, Holland, a well known criminal lawyer. Simon claims he is Jewish and that he spent several years in Nazi concentration camps. He lived in the U.S. and Canada for 13 years after the war. Jewish circles here said that Simon was unknown to them and expressed doubt that he is Jewish.

## ISRAELI CONFERENCE EXPRESSES SOLIDARITY WITH MOSCOW JEWS

JERUSALEM, Dec. 23 (JTA)--Israeli scholars and academicians, headed by President Ephraim Katzir, took part in a solidarity conference here last night to express their support for the Moscow Jews whose symposium on Jewish culture in the USSR was aborted by Soviet authorities.

The Moscow gathering opened as scheduled on Tuesday in defiance of Soviet threats and harassment. Although it was to have lasted three days, it was forced to adjourn after several hours. Subsequently some 120 Jews, including the organizers and would-be participants were arrested. Scholars from the U.S., Israel and other countries who were to have presented papers were refused entry by the Soviet authorities.

Katzir told the conference at the Van Leer Institute here that despite Soviet suppression, the organizers had demonstrated their determination to maintain and foster their Jewish identity and to fight for the revival of Jewish culture in the Soviet Union. Prof. Ephraim Urbach, vice-president of the National Academy of Science, likened the symposium organizers to "the brave Maccabees." He said the fact that "the Soviet authorities resorted to arrests, confiscations and

searches shows that a great power cannot tolerate a symposium on Jewish culture."

Dr. Mordechai Altschuler, of the Hebrew University, was pessimistic over the future of the Jewish community in the USSR. He observed that the Jewish population there is growing older faster than babies are being born. Inter-marriage, assimilation and emigration is further diminishing their numbers, he said.

## Protest To Kosygin.

(In New York, the Congress for Jewish Culture sent a cable and memorandum yesterday to Soviet Premier Alexei Kosygin protesting the arrests and harassment of Soviet Jewish intellectuals and scholars who organized the Moscow symposium. The messages to Kosygin, signed by Dr. Israel Knox, Congress president, and Hyman Bass, executive director, urged the Soviet leader to intervene to stop harassment, home searches and to free those arrested. "As writers, artists and educators who believe in peaceful coexistence of nations and the free flow of scientific knowledge and communication of ideas, we consider the suppression of the symposium as an infringement of the Soviet constitution, the UN Charter on Human Rights and the Helsinki convention," the messages stated.)

## EINSTEIN HOSPITAL OFFICIALS, JEWISH GROUPS SAY THERE IS NO EVIDENCE THAT STAFFER WAS HITLER YOUTH MEMBER

PHILADELPHIA, Dec. 23 (JTA)--The president of the Northern Division of Einstein Medical Center and a number of Jewish organizations said this week that there is no evidence to substantiate allegations that one of its staff members was once in the Hitler Youth, it was reported in the Jewish Exponent, and there was no basis for dismissing the staffer.

Members and sympathizers of the Jewish Defense League picketed outside the Center this week to protest the presence on the medical staff of Dr. Horst Gunther Seydel. Bonnie Pechter, JDL national director, told reporters that the JDL was demanding that the hospital authorities ask for Seydel's resignation.

According to Ms. Pechter, the German-born radiologist, 47, had served in the Hitler Youth from 1939, when he was 14, until the war ended, when he was 16. She said the JDL did not question Seydel's professional competence, but objected to the fact that he served on the staff of what "is still basically a Jewish hospital, supported by Jewish money, with Jewish patients and Jewish doctors."

## Exhaustive Probe Was Conducted

Medical Center President Raymond S. Alexander said in a prepared statement that the division had been "informed indirectly of allegations" made by the JDL. "Similar allegations had been made by anonymous sources last year prior to the physician's appointment to the medical staff," Alexander continued. "An exhaustive investigation was made by a committee of the Northern Division medical staff. This committee found no evidence to substantiate the

allegations and unanimously recommended the support and approval of the application. No information has been presented directly to the administration of the Northern Division which would cause any change in this decision."

Similar statements were issued by Sheldon Wengel, the hospital's public relations director, and Ronald Winter, the Center's vice-president and general counsel. Wengel said: "This man has an outstanding reputation; he's beyond reproach as an individual. This is a fine physician." Winter stated that there was no evidence to substantiate charges that Seydel had ever participated in any action that could be construed as anti-Semitic.

Dr. Harold J. Isard, chairman emeritus of the Center's radiology division, who hired Seydel in November, 1975, reaffirmed his faith in his choice, the Jewish Exponent reported. Seydel served on the staffs of both Jeanes and American Oncologic hospitals for eight years prior to applying to fill a staff vacancy in the Northern Division.

#### Charges McCarthy Tactics By JDL

A statement on this issue was released by the Jewish Community Relations Council and the local offices of the American Jewish Committee, American Jewish Congress, Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith and the Jewish Labor Committee. It said:

"The memory of the six million Jewish martyrs of the Holocaust is a vivid and personal one for all Jews. The horrors of the genocide carried out against European Jewry have been impressed indelibly upon the Jewish group memory. Because of this, we consistently have demanded that justice be carried out against those who committed crimes against the Jewish community.

"We do not believe that a Jewish agency should employ any individual who bears responsibility for the human tragedy of the Holocaust. It appears to us, based on the facts available, that Dr. Seydel played no role in activities against Jews, and we believe that Einstein Medical Center has made a responsible decision after an examination of the information available."

Arnold Harris, JCRC executive director, told the Jewish Exponent that JDL's call for Seydel's resignation without any evidence of wrongdoing on his part "is a revival of the witch-hunting tactics of the McCarthy era."

#### PRESIDENTS CONFERENCE OPPOSES ANY MEETINGS WITH THE PLO

NEW YORK, Dec. 23 (JTA)--The Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, in a statement of consensus, said today it "vigorously opposes and deplores any meetings--official or unofficial--with the Palestine Liberation Organization." The text of the statement, which was adopted at a plenary meeting of the Presidents Conference Tuesday, was released today. The statement, introduced by David Blumberg, president of B'nai B'rith, said:

"The only purpose and possible result of such meetings is PLO propaganda aimed at providing this terrorist federation with an image of moderation and conciliation. We endorse and support the U.S. government's steadfast refusal to meet with representatives of this terrorist organization. We are confident that the U.S. administration will maintain this position, but we are concerned that any private meetings such as mentioned above with the PLO could tend to under-

mine the peace process.

"Peace can only be achieved by free and unfettered negotiation between parties to the conflict--Israel and the Arab states. Outside parties, be they foreign governments or individuals acting in private capacities, cannot take on the role of negotiators and could actually subvert progress on this front."

Last month, two PLO officials met with five Jews in Washington and a number of Jews in New York. All the Jews present said they were there as private individuals, not as representatives of any organizations for which they worked. Several, however, were reprimanded by their respective organizations for participating in the meetings.

#### JOCKEYING FOR POSITION BEGINS

By Yitzhak Shargil and Gil Sedan

Jerusalem, Dec. 23 (JTA)--The partisan struggle for the future leadership of Israel began in earnest today as President Ephraim Katzir prepared for consultations with the various party and faction leaders preliminary to asking one of them to form a caretaker government. With elections anticipated some time in May, prominent political figures are already jockeying for position and seeking public support.

Premier Yitzhak Rabin, who resigned Monday night, was out in the hustings today firing salvos at the Likud opposition. He addressed groups in Affulah, Ein-Harod and Tiberias. The voters, he declared, must choose between Labor, which he characterized as "the Zionism of accomplishment" and Likud, "the Zionism of rhetoric."

But he made no mention in any of these meetings of coming closer to Mapam's demand that the Alignment include in its platform a statement that Israel would be ready for territorial concessions on the West Bank. Rabin merely reiterated that Israel was ready for far-reaching concessions.

Former Foreign Minister Abba Eban, expressing confidence that he could provide the unifying spirit needed by Labor to win, declared on a television interview that he regards himself as a serious candidate for the office of Premier.

But most political observers discounted Eban's chances. They see Defense Minister Shimon Peres posing the most powerful challenge to Rabin's leadership. Peres, who has not concealed his intention to try to unseat Rabin, met yesterday with Menachem Begin, leader of Likud's Herut faction, and will meet later with Simcha Ehrlich, head of the Liberal Party wing of Likud.

#### Mapam Pressing For Concessions

Mapam, meanwhile, implied strongly that if Peres is chosen to head the Labor Party list on election day, it would quit the Labor Alignment. Naftali Ben-Moshe told a meeting of Mapam's political committee last night that the next Prime Minister "must be chosen in consultation with us." He demanded that Labor assure its Alignment partner that Peres, a hard-liner on territorial concessions, will not be Labor's choice.

But Mapam secretary general Meir Tami stressed that the party was presenting no ultimatums. Apart from its opposition to Peres, Mapam wants Labor to introduce language into its platform indicating readiness for significant

territorial concessions in all areas, including Judea-Samaria, as part of an overall peace settlement with the Arabs and a readiness to negotiate with any Palestinian group that recognizes Israel's right to exist within secure boundaries.

Mapam set Jan. 30 as the date for its party convention, at which time, presumably, it will have to decide whether to remain in the Labor Alignment or go to the polls on its own. But it is unlikely to have a reply by then to its political demands from Labor. The Labor Party convention is set for Feb. 22.

#### No Changes During Transition Period

Meanwhile, Israel Galili, Minister-Without-Portfolio in the Rabin government and an influential member of the Labor Party's inner circle, declared in the Knesset today that there would be no change in the government's settlement policies, even during the transition period. He said those policies called for maximum Jewish settlement on both sides of the "green line," meaning in Israel proper and in the administered territories. He stressed that settlement was more important than ever in view of recent developments in the UN General Assembly and Security Council.

Former Defense Minister Moshe Dayan, who has yet to disclose his own political plans, warned the Labor Party yesterday not to authorize the next government to make any territorial concessions without taking the issue to the people and cautioned the party not to include in its platform any commitment to concessions on the West Bank.

Dayan warned that should such a plank be included, the U.S. would use it to pressure Israel into making these concessions even before a total peace is in the offing. In addition, the U.S. would seek further concessions and Israel would have no choice but to accede, he said.

#### The Most Expensive Election

The elections promise to be the most expensive in Israel's history. Under Israeli law, the Treasury allocates money for campaigning to each faction on the basis of the number of seats it holds in parliament. According to the draft budget for fiscal 1977-78, Israeli taxpayers will finance the elections in the amount of IL 125 million compared to IL 37 million under the current budget.

As of Oct. 1, each Knesset member was worth IL 520,000 to his party. The allocation took into consideration price increases in April and October. By next May inflation will have increased that amount. The Labor Alignment, with 50 seats, will receive about IL 50 million, assuming a 15 percent inflation rate.

Likud, with 36 Knesset members, will be granted IL 22 million and the National Religious Party IL 6 million for its ten MKs. New parties will receive nothing unless they succeed in winning Knesset seats. Existing parties that lose seats do not have to return money to the Treasury.

#### CONCERN EXPRESSED OVER REPORTED U.S. FINANCIAL CUTBACKS TO ISRAEL

By Joseph Polakoff

WASHINGTON, Dec. 23 (JTA)--Congressional sources expressed deep concern today over apparently well-based reports that the Ford Administration has chopped \$800 million from Israel's requested \$2.3 billion in financial assistance in the 1978 U.S. fiscal year that starts

next Oct. 1.

The reduction of more than a third of the amount Israeli Defense Minister Shimon Peres said here Dec. 13 was necessary in view of increased costs caused by inflation is not yet official. Spokesmen at the White House, the State Department and the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that the budget is not yet finished and until it is made public, changes can be made in it.

However, the JTA learned that the budgeting decisions on the Middle East have been completed. President Ford is to present the budget to Congress about Jan. 17, three days before he leaves office. The new Congress convenes Jan. 4. By law the new budget must be presented 15 days after Congress meets.

"If the Administration wants to destroy the chances of the moderates in Israel to win the election in the spring, this is the way to do it," one Congressional source said in expressing the view that the cut would strengthen the opposition in Israel because it would indicate a lessening of U.S. interest in Israel's well being. Another commented that the cut could be a fatal blow to Premier Yitzhak Rabin's retention of power since he had commented favorably during the U.S. election campaign on Ford's record toward Israel.

James Lynn, director of the OMB, was seen as having persuaded the President to reduce Israel's requested \$1.5 billion in military credits and \$800 million in economic supporting assistance. Lynn was said to have sought granting assistance to Israel for the three-month transition between the 1976 and 1977 budgets in which Israel received about \$2 billion for each year. Congress and the Administration compromised on \$275 million to Israel for the transition after Congress had suggested \$550 million.

Meanwhile, White House sources indicated to the JTA that Ford would present to Congress before his departure his promised delivery of sophisticated weapons to Israel, including weapons not yet on the mass production lines. The sources said the Departments of State and Defense have completed their study of the equipment Ford said Israel is to receive but agreements on delivery dates and costs have not been reached by the two countries.

When Jimmy Carter becomes President Jan. 20 he can alter the Ford presentations to Congress. Congress itself would have much to say on both the budgeting and the arms.

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MONTREAL (JTA)--Mrs. Charles Balinsky, national president of the Canadian Hadassah-WIZO announced that the "Canadian Hadassah-WIZO (Montreal) Zimriya Choir" will participate in the World Festival of Choirs in Israel July 3-16. The 45-voice choir will join with 30 choirs from all parts of the world in sharing their cultural and musical achievements. The Zimriya - World Festival of Choirs is held every three years. This is the first time in 25 years that a choir has been sent from the eastern region of Canada. Leading the Canadian choir are Marian Schaubert and co-conductor Joseph Milo.

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JERUSALEM (JTA)--The Soviets have recently increased their interference with Israel's overseas broadcasts, it was reported here. The main disturbances are to broadcasts directed to Europe.

**ROUNDUP OF CHANUKA ACTIVITIES**

NEW YORK, Dec. 23 (JTA)--Members of the Lubavitcher movement distributed an estimated 900,000 Chanuka kits to Jews on five continents for the holiday this year, an official of the Hasidic organization has reported. The international effort was undertaken as part of the ongoing effort by Rabbi Menachem Schneerson, the Lubavitcher Rebbe, to combat assimilation among Jews.

The campaign was highlighted in the New York metropolitan area through the Lubavitch Youth Organization by deployment of 20 vans, each equipped with a 10-foot high menorah, which cruised through business and residential sections, manned by Lubavitch rabbinical students.

Visits were made by the Lubavitch Hasidim to shopping centers, office buildings, public meeting places, hospitals, nursing homes, college campuses and homes. Major rallies were conducted for children. The movement's department for Israeli affairs conducted a number of programs for resident Israelis. One such rally in the Queens Jewish Center in Forest Hills drew 1000 participants. The program was conducted in Hebrew.

Over 100,000 kits were distributed in the New York City area and 75,000 in other east coast cities. The Lubavitch office in Los Angeles arranged for distribution of 100,000 kits in Los Angeles and 50,000 kits in other California cities.

Some 100,000 kits were distributed in Britain and several thousand more in France, Belgium, Holland and West Germany. More than 60,000 kits were distributed in Brazil, Argentina and Venezuela; 50,000 kits in Australia and South Africa and some 400,000 kits in Israel, the Lubavitch organization spokesman reported. All the literature was in the language of the given country and developed by local Lubavitch offices.

**Chanuka Torch Arrives From Israel**

A Chanuka torch kindled at Modin was placed aboard an El Al airliner at Ben Gurion Airport and arrived in New York in time for the start of Chanuka. The Chanuka torch relay from the Kennedy Airport culminated with a mass celebration at the High School of Art and Design in Manhattan. The relay here was organized by the New York regional office of the American Zionist Youth Foundation in co-sponsorship with Masada, the youth movement of the Zionist Organization of America.

Prior to the mass celebration, the torch was used by Mayor Abraham Beame to light the first Chanuka candle at a ceremony at City Hall. The torch was accompanied from Israel by Dan Brenner, Israeli swimming star and champion in the Asian Games competition.

A Christian-Jewish venture focussing on the Holocaust and what has occurred since, was highlighted by an ecumenical program which featured the lighting of the first Chanuka candle and songs by a Jewish choir in the Cathedral Church of St. John the Divine on Manhattan's upper west side. The program marked the first publication by the church, the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith and KTAV Publishing House Inc. of a new book titled "Auschwitz: Beginning of a New Era?"

The book contains reflections and papers on the Holocaust by many of the world's leading historians, sociologists, psychologists, philosophers, theologians and writers, including Alfred Kazin, Michael D. Ryan, Elie Wiesel, Claire Buchet-Bishop and Gregory Baum. Much of the material

presented originally at a symposium hosted by Dean James Norton at the church two years ago.

**World's Largest Menorah**

In Philadelphia, the Lubavitcher movement lit the first candle on what it called the world's largest menorah. The 22 1/2-foot high, 17 1/2-foot wide menorah was put up on Independence Mall between the Liberty Bell and Independence Hall as an official project of the American Bicentennial celebration. Mayor Frank Rizzo, Sen. Richard Stone (D. Fla.), actor Herschel Bernardi and other celebrities participated in the ceremony.

In another Chanuka event, the Jewish National Fund presented its Maccabean Award to Mrs. Abraham D. Beame, wife of New York's Mayor, for "her devotion to her people and the land of Israel." Mrs. Beame and the Mayor also received a citation from the JNF marking the establishment of the "Mayor and Mrs. Abraham D. Beame Forest" in the American Bicentennial Park near Jerusalem. The presentations were made at a dinner at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel Sunday night.

President-elect Jimmy Carter sent a congratulatory telegram to "The First Lady of New York, Mrs. Abraham D. Beame, on this well deserved honor, the bicentennial tribute bestowed by the Jewish National Fund." More than 700 friends and supporters of the JNF attended the festive event.

**SUNY, ISRAEL SIGN EXCHANGE ACCORD**

TEL AVIV, Dec. 23 (JTA)--An agreement that formalizes ways and methods for an exchange of faculty and students between Israel and the State University of New York (SUNY) and for bringing groups of students from New York to the universities in Israel was signed Monday at the Haifa University.

Chancellor Ernest L. Boyer of SUNY signed for the university while the Israeli side was represented by seven delegates of the seven institutes of higher education in Israel. Present at the signing ceremony were also representatives of the Israeli and U.S. governments.

Israeli academicians regard the agreement as of great importance to the development of the academic strata in Israel which will be helped by the facilities of the 64 SUNY campuses. As one step towards the realization of this agreement, SUNY is establishing a distinguished Israeli visiting scholars program to honor outstanding representatives of Israeli institutions of higher learning and to enable the 64 campuses of the New York university to benefit from visits of distinguished teachers and researchers.

Israeli faculty members will be able to attend the New York campuses from one week to a full academic year. It was also hoped that the agreement will enhance the academic dialogue between Israeli and American scientists, promote research and strengthen ties between academicians and scientists.

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TEL AVIV (JTA)--Tel Aviv police do not subscribe to the belief that the show must go on--not when the clothes come off. A squad of the city's finest raided a seashore nightclub and arrested three men and four women allegedly engaged in a porno act. They also arrested the club manager and the impresario. The cops thought the show was immoral and indecent.