

# JTA daily news bulletin

Published by Jewish Telegraphic Agency 165 West 46th Street, New York, New York 10036

Vol. XLVI - 62nd Year

Friday, February 2, 1979

No. 24

## REPORT 1000 IRANIAN JEWS WAITING AT TEHRAN AIRPORT FOR FLIGHT TO ISRAEL

By Yitzhak Shargil

**TEL AVIV, Feb. 1 (JTA)** -- About 1,000 Iranian Jews are waiting at Teheran Airport to be flown to Israel, according to Jews who arrived here on an El Al flight from the Iranian capital last night. They include several families who have indicated a desire to settle in Israel, the arrivals said. One of them, Yehuda Mordechai, urged Israel to "send out as many planes as you can, five or six a day, to Teheran to bring the many Jews who are now willing to come to Israel.

The new exodus was apparently spurred by the return to Iran of Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, the Islamic leader who ended his 15-year exile and returned to Teheran today. But even though the situation in Iran remains turbulent and the future of the Jewish community there is uncertain, many Iranian Jews who came to Israel in recent weeks are now returning.

The El Al plane that brought in refugees last night had flown to Teheran yesterday with 132 passengers, children among them, almost all of them Iranian Jews who had decided to return. There was no El Al flight to Teheran today.

## ISRAEL IN AFRICA: BUSINESS BOOMING

By David Landau

**JERUSALEM, Feb. 1 (JTA)** -- Despite the cutoff of diplomatic relations between Israel and almost all of Black Africa, commercial ties continue to flourish quietly and have even grown stronger over the past few months. This emerged from a report compiled by Davar columnist Yehoshua Tadmor, published last week and now officially confirmed by knowledgeable sources.

All in all, Tadmor wrote, Israeli companies are engaged in projects throughout Africa which total some three-quarters of a billion dollars. The main areas of activity are construction, road-building and agricultural expertise. The leading Israeli firms in the field are Solel Boneh, the mammoth Histadrut building company, and Tahal, the water-planning company.

Last year a new firm entered the field -- Agriday, whose director is Yehiel Admon, until recently head of the World Zionist Organization-Jewish Agency Agricultural Settlement Department. Agriday is involved in agricultural development and has undertaken projects in Africa worth \$100,000, according to Tadmor.

### Breakdown According to Countries

A breakdown according to countries shows the following facts:

**Zaire:** Israelis are involved in agricultural projects there. Among them are experts hired by the Israel Foreign Ministry's International Co-operating Department.

**Nigeria:** Solel Boneh is building a huge road network, an undertaking unprecedented in its scope for the Histadrut-owned company. There is also Israeli involvement in other construction work in Nigeria.

**Ivory Coast:** There too, Solel Boneh is active, as is an Israeli construction firm owned by the Federman family, owners of the Doh-King

David-chain of hotels. Israelis are building homes and government offices.

**Kenya:** Israelis are involved in major housing projects there and in agricultural development.

### Exchanges Taking Place

Individual Israeli experts in various fields continue to be sent to numerous other African countries and young Africans continue to come to Israel for studies. In this way, Tadmor wrote, several thousand Israelis are still connected with Africa and wide and variegated contacts are maintained despite the rupture of diplomatic relations.

Often, the head of an Israeli firm in an African capital will become a de facto representative of Israel in the absence of an embassy and will meet with political leaders of the host government as well as with diplomats and businessmen from other countries residing there.

## RA BREAKS 30-YEAR TRADITION: SEEKING FEDERAL AID FOR ITS SCHOOLS

**LOS ANGELES, Feb. 1 (JTA)** -- The Rabbinical Assembly, the international association of Conservative rabbis, broke today with a 30-year tradition by voting to seek federal aid for its religious schools. The resolution, carried by voice vote at the 79th annual convention of the Assembly, endorsed the Packwood-Moynihan bill, which would provide tax benefits for parents of children in such non-public primary and secondary day schools.

The issue is of considerable importance to the Conservative Movement because it sponsors a flourishing day school program, the Solomon Schechter movement which currently has 35 Conservative day schools in the United States and Canada.

Attempts had been made regularly at previous Assembly conventions over the past three decades to win approval for federal aid, without success, although the vote against it grew smaller from year to year. This year's attempt was initiated by Rabbi Aaron Krauss of the Community Synagogue of Atlantic City, N. J., who circulated a draft resolution among 200 members of the Assembly picked at random before the convention and received 47 endorsements of the petition within two weeks.

Krauss explained the success of his resolution by saying that the sentiment had been growing within the Conservative rabbinate for some sort of help because of the soaring costs of education which cannot be met by parents. Objection in the past was centered around direct federal aid as a breach in the wall of church-state separation, but the Packwood-Moynihan bill would get around this by having part of the tuition included as an exemption in income tax returns.

## ANOTHER TV FILM OF JEWS IN NAZI ERA TO BE SHOWN IN WEST GERMANY

By Henriette Boas

**AMSTERDAM, Feb. 1 (JTA)** -- West German television viewers who responded sympathetically to the recent screening of the American-made NBC-TV dramatization "Holocaust," will see another film on their home screens next month portraying the life of a Jewish family in Berlin during the Nazi era. It is titled "David Escaped From the Net," an adaptation of an autobiographical novel by Joel Koenig, first

published in 1960.

Joel Koenig is the pseudonym of a Jewish biochemist who has been on the staff of the Children's Hospital in Rotterdam for the past 20 years. His novel was rediscovered recently by Peter Lilienthal, a German-Jewish television executive who made contact with the author and produced the film version.

It will be screened on March 1, coincidental with the release of the original novel in paperback edition under the title "David, the Account of a Survivor." Koenig plans to donate the royalties from both the film and paperback to a foundation he established to spread knowledge about the Nazi period among young people and to promote better understanding between Jews and non-Jews.

The story covers the years 1932-1943 in the life of the family of a fictional Rabbi Singe in Berlin. It focuses on one of the sons, David, who, with one sister, is hidden from the Nazis by compassionate Germans after the rest of his family is deported. In 1943 David and his sister manage to escape from Germany and survive.

Koenig, now in his middle fifties, told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency in an interview that, apart from his profession, writing is his chief interest. He said he plans a novel about the sons of the persecuted and the sons of the persecutors and how both live today against the backgrounds of their parents' past.

#### 500 NAZI CAMP SURVIVORS RALLY ON STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS ISSUE

NEW YORK, Feb. 1 (JTA) -- More than 500 survivors of Nazi concentration camps, supported by various youth groups and others, picketed West Germany's Mission to the United Nations, demanding that the Bonn government act to prevent Nazi war criminals from escaping justice. The demonstration, organized by the Survivors of Nazi Camps and Resistance Fighters, was aimed against the statute of limitations on war crimes prosecution due to take effect in West Germany Jan. 1, 1980. (See related story P. 3.)

The picketers included student delegations from Columbia University, New York University and Queens College, and members of the Generation After, an organization of young adults, many of them the children of concentration camp survivors. They marched in orderly procession outside the German Mission headquarters Tuesday carrying signs which read: "No Statute of Limitations for Mass Murderers," "No Amnesty for War Criminals -- Not Ever," and "We Cannot Forgive the Murderers of our Children -- How Does Bonn Forgive?"

John Ranz, executive secretary of the survivors' organization and himself a survivor of Auschwitz and Buchenwald, said that "Unless a law is passed in the Bonn parliament to extend the search and prosecution of war criminals, thousands of them will re-surface and be able to boast of their heinous crimes. There will be no legal action possible against them."

He said that by allowing the statute to expire as scheduled on Dec. 31, 1979, "the Bonn parliament will, in effect, issue a freedom award to mass murderers who were not discovered during the last 30 years. This, the survivors consider, would be an insult to the 11 million people of all races and religions killed in the concentration camps and an insult to all mankind."

#### ARAB TERRORIST ACTIVITY INCREASING

JERUSALEM, Feb. 1 (JTA) -- A 24-year-old Acre resident has been arrested on suspicion of contacts with Iraqi intelligence, it was announced today. The arrest is the latest development in a disturbing rise in Arab terrorist activity that has been noted over recent months. Israeli Television, in a broadcast overnight, said some 1,600 persons had been arrested during the past year on charges of terrorist activity, 300 more than the year before.

Almost all of them were residents of the administered areas, and Brig. Gen. Ben-Eliezer, commander of Judea and Samaria, was quoted by television as saying that there is "increased readiness" among West Bank youth to join the sabotage organizations. Some 20 young Israeli Arabs were among those arrested during the past year. None of them was charged with actually participating in sabotage acts. Their suspected crime was generally aiding and abetting terrorists.

Meanwhile, Israeli security forces sealed off two houses in Abu Dis village near Jerusalem today after evacuating the occupants. One of the houses was described as the hiding place of the leader of a terrorist cell. The other belonged to Tewfik Souleiman el-Khatib, a member of a terrorist gang who has confessed to planting a bomb on Jaffa Road in Jerusalem last Oct. 1 and last Nov. 20 on another Jerusalem street. Arms and explosives were found in both houses.

In a related development, a military tribunal in Lod imposed a 15-year prison sentence today on Nabil Daana, 19, a member of El Fatah. Daana was arrested Sept. 1 when a bomb he was about to plant on a street in the Old City leading to the Western Wall, exploded prematurely, injuring his hands.

#### TENG SEES SOVIET DANGER IN MIDEAST

By Joseph Palakoff

WASHINGTON, Feb. 1 (JTA) -- Chinese Vice Premier Teng Hsiao-ping's call to Americans on his current Washington visit to be wary of the Soviet Union's global strategy dovetailed with the Pentagon's latest public assessment of Moscow's activities in the Middle East.

Both Teng and the Pentagon go farther than President Carter or National Security Council chairman Zbigniew Brzezinski or Secretary of State Cyrus Vance in their discussions of the Middle East and Soviet policy.

Teng seems to suggest, although in veiled language, that the U.S. bolster its Middle East position, particularly by strengthening Israel as a strategic asset to America. His position was indicated in his interview with Time magazine when he replied to a question on Soviet hegemony.

"I suppose that you have already read the letter of 170 retired American generals and admirals," Teng said. "I have read it myself and I very much approve of that letter. Those generals have already retired but they are concerned and that means that the situation is indeed not tranquil." His answer referred to the assertions last month by retired top U.S. military leaders warning of Soviet policy and specifically affirming Israel as a strategic asset to the U.S.

#### Condition For Improved Relations

In a more specific reference to Israel, Chai Tse-min, the chief representative in Washington of the People's Republic of China, indicated that the Peking government will withhold improved relations with Israel until the Palestinian situation is resolved. Chai, who is chief of the Chinese liaison mission and is expected to be named China's first ambas-

... gave this indication yesterday to Rep. Lester Wolff (D. N.Y.), chairman of the House International Relations Subcommittee for Asian and Pacific Affairs.

Wolff raised the question of China's relations with Israel after Teng had not mentioned the subject in his appearance before the full committee of the Capitol. Wolff observed to Chai that since China is so disturbed by its view of Soviet global hegemony why is Peking not equally disturbed about Soviet hegemony in the Middle East where it supports foes of Israel.

Chai's response, through an interpreter, was that the Israeli-Palestinian matter was like Peking's situation with Taiwan. Vigorously dissenting from Chai's explanation, Wolff pointed out the historic aspects of Israel as a nation and Chai agreed to meet with him again in the near future to discuss the Middle East situation.

Meanwhile, it was reported here today that Defense Secretary Harold Brown will leave next week for a 10-day trip to Israel, Egypt, Saudi Arabia and Jordan. He is expected to discuss regional security in light of the events in Iran, new air bases Israel will need following its proposed withdrawal from Sinai under a peace agreement with Egypt, and other Mideast issues. Brown had been due to go to the Mideast last year, as a follow-up to the Camp David accords. That trip was postponed after Israel and Egypt failed to sign a peace treaty.

#### NAZI-HUNTER SAYS THERE ARE STILL SOME 50,000 WAR CRIMINALS AT LARGE

By Yitzhak Rabi

NEW YORK, Feb. 1 (JTA) -- Tuvia Friedman, the Israeli Nazi-hunter, said today that about 50,000 Nazi war criminals still at large will escape justice if the statute of limitations on the prosecution of Nazi war crimes is allowed to go into effect Jan. 1, 1980. He warned that unless the West German government extends the deadline for the prosecution of war crimes, the world would witness a resurgence of Nazism in Germany.

Friedman, who lives in Haifa, spoke at a press conference here arranged by the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations. He is engaged in an international campaign to abolish the statute of limitations for war crimes. According to Friedman, thousands of former Gestapo officers and SS men are waiting in hiding for the day when they will be immune from legal action. "They will build a new Nazi Party in Germany," he said.

He added that there is information that Nazi war criminals are organized in South America and that they have created "a terrible weapon -- something like an atom bomb," and are waiting to return to Germany at the end of the year. He said the war criminals are supported by the German arms industry.

"The neo-Nazi movement in Germany will be given new life with the return of 50,000 Nazi murderers to the beerhalls of Germany, unafraid and free of any possibility that they will be tried for their role in the extermination of Jews, the Gypsies and the millions of other victims of Nazi genocide," Friedman said.

The Nazi-hunter, who helped bring Adolf Eichmann to justice nearly 20 years ago, arrived here from West Germany where he met with officials of the Bonn government. He said that Minister of Justice Dr. Hans Joachim Vogel supports efforts to repeal the statute of limitations.

Yehuda Hellman, executive director of the Conference of Presidents, said that a delegation of the Conference would meet with the West German Ambassador, Bernd von Staden, at the German Embassy in Washington Feb. 6 to urge the repeal of the statute of limitations.

#### CHURCH CALLS FOR FUNDAMENTAL REVIEW OF U.S. POLICY TOWARD SAUDI ARABIA

PALM BEACH, Fla., Feb. 1 (JTA) -- Frank Church (D. Idaho), chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, called here tonight for "a fundamental review of U.S. policy with the government of Saudi Arabia," including the advisability of proceeding with the F-15 sale to that country. In remarks prepared for delivery to the national executive of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith meeting here, Church said: "I suggest that now is precisely the time to inform the Saudis that an 'inner relationship' cannot be a one-way street."

His text was devoted to steps the U.S. should take to revive the prospects for peace in the Middle East, including a call for an even-handed approach by the United States and an end to pressure on Israel to accept a peace treaty with Egypt that goes beyond the framework worked out in the Camp David accords.

"The United States consistently misjudged the situation in Iran," he said. "I fear that we are equally out of touch with the realities in Saudi Arabia and pinning our policy to false assumptions." He suggested that Saudi Arabia itself has a vital interest in seeing an Israeli-Egyptian peace treaty signed. But of present, "Saudi Arabia has been for more of a detriment to peace than we are willing to admit," he said.

#### POLITNIKOV'S RECEIVE EXIT VISAS

NEW YORK, Feb. 1 (JTA) -- After eight years of waiting, Dr. Isaac Politnikov of Novosibirsk and his family received exit visas for Israel, according to the Student Struggle for Soviet Jewry and the Union of Councils for Soviet Jews. This had been one of the longest-known cases of refusals, and their cause had been taken up by Sen. Henry Jackson (D. Wash.).

During this time, their younger daughter, Eleanor, had been permitted to leave for Israel, but her sister, Victoria, and her parents, all physicians, were officially accused of experimenting on human "guinea pigs." They were stripped of their jobs and finally forced into becoming recluses in their apartment, the Soviet Jewry groups said.

NEW YORK (JTA) -- The Austrian Radio and Television network ORF, announced Thursday that the American-made NBC-TV film drama "Holocaust" will be aired in Austria early in March in four uninterrupted installments in prime time. According to the Austrian Information Center here, the program will be complemented by documentaries and discussions by historians. ORF is government-owned.

JERUSALEM (JTA) -- Arye Eliav, a veteran MK whose Jewish views brought him into conflict with past Labor-led governments no less than with the present Likud regime, took formal leave of the Knesset Wednesday after 13 years as a member of parliament. He resigned from the two-member Sheli faction which he helped found after defecting from the Labor Party and handed his mandate over to Uri Avneri, a former MK who is editor of the weekly Haolam Hazeh.

## ADL TO PROBE ANTI-SEMITISM ON UNIVERSITY CAMPUSES

PATM BEACH, Fla., Feb. 1 (JTA) -- Anti-Semitic incidents on university campuses last fall in Florida and New England have led the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith to seek the underlying causes for prejudice among collegians.

Seymour D. Reich, chairman of ADL's fact finding committee, announced that the human relations agency plans to conduct a "scientific sociological study" of the reasons behind the anti-Semitic episodes involving large numbers of students at the University of Florida (UF) in Gainesville and North Adams State and Babson Colleges in Massachusetts. The findings will be utilized by the ADL to propose remedial action.

A resolution authorizing the study is to be taken up by ADL's national executive committee which is meeting here through Sunday at The Breakers Hotel.

Commenting on the attacks on a predominantly Jewish fraternity at the UF Gainesville campus and the anti-Jewish overtones of abuses against the Brandeis University soccer team, Reich stated that "ADL and the Jewish community are seriously concerned. We have not seen such a spate of anti-Semitic episodes as this on college campuses in many years." Of particular concern, he observed, was that these events occurred within a relatively brief period of time on widely scattered campuses and involved a large number of students.

### Anti-Semitic Incidents Recounted

The incident in Florida, involving the Tau Epsilon Phi Fraternity chapter at UF, occurred last Nov. 9 as a mob of some 150 students gathered outside its house. Anti-Semitic epithets were shouted. Consisting of members of other frats, the unruly crowd damaged a fence and tore up shrubbery before scattering when campus police arrived.

When the Brandeis University soccer team played a semi-final match at North Adams College last Nov. 11, Adams team members verbally abused the visitors with anti-Semitic slurs. A complaint registered with game officials led to ejection of one offending Adams player, but, soon afterwards, similar anti-Jewish shouting was heard from the stands, where some 2500 spectators were seated. A plea was required over the public address system for an end to the bigoted insults.

Only a few weeks earlier, an upcoming game at Babson College with the Brandeis soccer team was marked by anti-Semitic behavior. There was at least one report that "kill the Jews" was shouted during practice, and on the day of the match, a sign was found in the school dining room proclaiming "Happy Holocaust."

Representatives of ADL's Florida office in Miami and New England office in Boston met with university officials in their respective region to insist that attention be given to the incidents.

### Counter-Measures Being Taken

Following a meeting with ADL representatives, UF president Robert Marston condemned the presence of anti-Semitism and outlined a comprehensive, university-wide educational program to root out anti-Semitism and other forms of prejudice from the university campus. It is currently being formulated with ADL consultation.

The ADL in mid-December took up the North Adams incident with the Massachusetts ed-

ucation commissioner and a representative of the Board of Higher Education, which oversees the Massachusetts State University system of which North Adams is a unit. The outcome was a decision to convene a conference to plan a statewide educational program to combat religious and racial prejudice on the campus to be attended by all public and private university administrators. The president and the athletic director at Babson each issued statements deploring campus bigotry and apologizing for the soccer team's behavior.

## NBC TO AIR DOCUMENTARY ON MENGELE

LOS ANGELES, Feb. 1 (JTA) -- Leonard Nimoy, television and screen star, will narrate a documentary entitled "In Search of the Angel of Death" -- the true life drama of Nazi-hunter Simon Wiesenthal's continued efforts to capture and bring to justice the infamous mass murderer Dr. Josef Mengele, the high executioner of Auschwitz who was also known as the "Angel of Death." It was announced here by the Simon Wiesenthal Center for Holocaust Studies.

This nationally syndicated documentary was produced in cooperation with the Center. It will air Feb. 5, on NBC-TV. (Check your local TV listings for exact time.) Today, at 67, Mengele is the only Nazi mass murderer still at large. He is a carefully protected guest of the Paraguayan government, a spokesman for the Center pointed out.

A spokesman for NBC stated that in a move unprecedented in commercial television, "In Search of" hired a special Spanish-speaking film crew to enter Paraguay and seek out, under cover, the two refugees in which Mengele hides: the heavily-guarded estate of German industrialist Albon Krug, and an impenetrable military zone near the country's center. This crew produced the only filmed record of Mengele's whereabouts that exists today, and combined with documentary footage of Mengele's interviews with those who worked and suffered under him, and a moving profile of Wiesenthal, the man who is determined to bring him to justice.

## YIDDISH POET NAMED WINNER OF B'NAI B'RITH LITERARY AWARD

WASHINGTON, Feb. 1 (JTA) -- Abraham Sutzkever, the Yiddish poet whose themes have spanned his experiences in pre-war Vilna, in the Vilna ghetto, with the partisans and through three decades of modern Israel, has been named winner of the 1979 B'nai B'rith International Literary Award.

The prize of \$1000 -- made possible by a grant from the Joseph Meyerhoff Foundation -- will be presented to Sutzkever in a public meeting Feb. 18. It will take place in conjunction with the annual meeting of B'nai B'rith's Commission on Adult Jewish Education in New York City.

Sutzkever, who was born near Vilna in 1913, a descendant of rabbinic and Hasidic families, had his first works published in 1933. During World War II, he managed to escape the Vilna ghetto, joining the partisans who roamed the woods nearby. When Vilna was liberated, he returned and helped to rescue a large number of valuable documents of YIVO.

In 1945, he published "Di Festung" ("Fortress"), a volume of poems whose best lyrics were about his mother, who died in the Holocaust. The following year, "Lider fun Geto" ("Songs of the Ghetto") and "Fun Vilner Geto" ("From the Vilna Ghetto"), a volume of prose, appeared. Sutzkever then emigrated to Palestine, where he continued to write. In 1949 he became editor of "Di Goldene Keyt" ("The Golden Chain").