PREPARING FOR THE MAY 27 SUMMIT
By Yitzhak Sharfi

BEERSHEBA, May 17 (JTA) -- Beersheba, capital of the Negev, is in the midst of feverish preparations for the meeting this week between Premier Menachem Begin and President Anwar Sadat of Egypt to mark the first phase of the implementation of the peace treaty they signed last March 26.

With the historic event little more than a week away, this city of 101,000 is busily sweeping streets, painting buildings, decorating the town hall, drilling its police, preparing a helicopter landing pad and erecting reviewing stands along an eight-kilometer route over which the two leaders will travel.

The project, under the supervision of Mayor Ellyahub Naftali, is called the 25th Operation Sons of Abraham. It is an appropriate title in such as Beersheba, whose origins go back some 2000 years, as, according to the Bible, the place where Abraham journeyed on his way to the Promised Land; and it was from Abraham's sons, Isaac and Ishmael, that the Israelites and the Arab peoples are descended.

Beersheba is also a combination of the old and new that characterizes much of Israel. A dusty frontier town 30 years ago, its ancient core is now surrounded by a mass of modern buildings, wide streets and modern shops and homes. Its population is made up of veteran Israelis and new immigrants and it is the seat of Ben Gurion University, one of Israel's leading institutions of higher learning.

Beersheba Will Be In the Limelight

On Sunday, May 27, it will be in the limelight of world media attention. According to the plan worked out by a joint Israeli-Egyptian committee, Begin and Sadat will fly from Tel Aviv in Star to Beerseba in two helicopters. While he's third, will be President Yitzhak Navon and Mayor Naftali. He will officially welcome Sadat. He will be presented with the traditional bread and salt and with a key to the city.

The ceremonies will be much the same as those that greeted Sadat on his first visit to Israel in November, 1977. There will be a red carpet, a guard of honor, a military band and a 21-gun salute. After a brief stop for speeches in the town hall square, Navon will return to Jerusalem and Sadat and Begin will head a motorcade through the city to the Ben Gurion University campus on its outskirts. There the two leaders will review the 4200-member student body of which some 200 are Bedouins and Arabs -- and the faculty.

There are only 2000 seats and there has been a mad scramble for tickets during the past few weeks. The speeches will be carried by loudspeakers to thousands of others expected to mass in the university quadrangle.

The events at the university will be under the chairmanship of Nissim Gaon, head of the World Sephardi Federation. It was he who delivered a letter to the Egyptian government in which Ben Gurion University president Yosef Tshako, Israel's former ambassador to the United Nations, proposed 10 fellowships for Egyptian students. Tshako also proposed a honorary degree to be conferred on Sadat. But the Egyptian President declined, saying he preferred action to honors.

At least 500 journalists from all over the world are expected in Beersheba on May 27 to cover these events. For their benefit, dozens of additional telephones have been plugged into the Beersheba exchange, giving Israel's desert city a day of at least, the stature of a world capital.

HOUSE UNIT INVESTIGATING WHY RADIO FREE EUROPE GAVE TRIFA AIR TIME
By Joseph Polakoff

WASHINGTON, May 17 (JTA) -- The House Judiciary Subcommittee concerned with Nazi war criminals residing in the United States, is investigating why Radio Free Europe, which is supported by government funds, broadcast an interview on May 1 with Valentin Trifa, Archbishop of the Rumanian Orthodox Church in America who faces deportation hearings in July on charges of fraudulent entry into the U.S. Trifa, a leader of the Rumanian fascist Iron Guard during World War II, has been accused of activities including the mass murder of Jews in Rumania.

Rep. Nathan Holtzman (D-NY), Subcommittee chairman, told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency today that it is "unacceptable and inexcusable to give a forum to somebody under proceedings by the U.S. government for fraud in entering the U.S. with relations to war crimes." Holtzman said he "first read about it" (the Trifa interview) in a JTA story "and we tried to verify it." The story appeared in the JTA Daily News Bulletin May 8.

"We're in the process of determining who is responsible for enabling Radio Free Europe to provide this forum for Trifa," Holtzman said. She said a committee interview by the government-funded broadcast facility was "adverse propaganda for the U.S."

The broadcast was made in connection with the 50th anniversary of the Rumanian Orthodox Church in America which is headed by Trifa, 64, and represents about 80 percent of church-affiliated ethnic craftsmen in the U.S. The remainders are affiliated with the Rumanian Missionary Orthodox Episcopate headed by Archbishop Victor Ursache, which is also observing its 50th anniversary.

A Very Uncomfortable Situation

William Buell, senior vice president of Radio Free Europe-Radio Liberty operations in Washington, told the JTA today that "we can't deny that the whole thing is very uncomfortable." He said "We don't know exactly how the decision to air the interview was made despite the judicial procedure. It would not be correct to say we did not know who Trifa is."

However, Buell said the church anniversary could not be ignored considering its importance to Rumanian Americans and the Rumanian people to whom the interview was broadcast. He stressed that the interview dealt exclusively with the church and its history in the U.S. and not with "Trifa's problems with the U.S. government, which are considerable."

Buell said Radio Free Europe attempted to give balanced coverage by sending a reporter to interview Archbishop Ursache in Detroit. But Ursache refused the opportunity and "had unkind words to say in a
heated way about Radio Free Europe. "Buell said.

He said that he had been sent to the U.S. by the 

Romanian Orthodox Patriarch in Bucharest, Justin 
Moriscu, who does not recognize the 

NEO-NAZIS IN WEST GERMANY 

Full Pardon For Beate Klarsfeld 

By Alfred Schroeder 

BONN, May 17 (JTA)--The Justice Minis 

try rejected charges today that it was too easy on 

neo-Nazi and right-wing extremists who glorify 

the Third Reich, spread anti-Jewish propaganda 

and claim the Holocaust never took place. The 

Ministry said that a study of 20 recent cases 

showed that there were more convictions than 

commonly assumed and that sentences ranged 

from a 300 Mark fine to two years in jail. 

At the same time, the Justice Ministry of 

North Rhine-Westphalia announced a full pardon 

for anti-Nazi fighter Beate Klarsfeld. She re 

ceived a two-month jail sentence in Cologne in 

1974 for inflicting bodily harm and damages on 

former SS security officer Kurt Lischka who was 

the Gestapo chief in Paris during World War II. 

Lischka has been accused of responsibility 

for the murder of at least 22,000 French Jews. 

Mrs. Klarsfeld, 40, and several French friends, 

attempted to drag him into a car in 1971 to bring 

him to France for trial. The kidnapping failed 

and Mrs. Klarsfeld, who returned to France, was 

tried and sentenced by a Cologne court in 

absentia. 

An arrest warrant against her was suspended 

after angry criticism of the sentence abroad. The 

procedure for a pardon was initiated by West 

German legal authorities on the basis of an 

appeal by prominent German and French citizens, 

among them President Valery Giscard d'Estaing 

of France. Klarsfeld said at the time that the 

kidnapping was an attempt to focus world-wide 

attention on the fact that many war 

criminals were still at large in West Germany. 

She said she had hoped it would prompt the 

West German authorities to bring the former 

Gestapo chief to trial. 

Thousands Of Nazi Pamphlets Distributed 

While the Bundestag is debating the aboliti 

on or extension of the statute of limitations for 

the prosecution of Nazi war criminals yet to be 

apprehended, the extent of neo-Nazi activities 

was indicated in the Justice Ministry's list of 

recent indictments. 

The offenses included distribution of propa 

ganda material by illegal organizations; libel 

ing the State and its institutions; glorifying 

violence or inciting racial hatred; wearing the 

swastika or other Nazi symbols which is illegal 

under the law; and glorifying Hitler and the 

Nazi regime. 

Suspected were more than 10 persons arrested for distributing leaflets urging 

Germans not to buy from Jews and for publishing 

pro-Nazi pamphlets. 

An excerpt from such a pamphlet cited by 

the Justice Ministry, said: "Lies, mostly written 

by Jews, have been poured all over the globe for 

the past 30 years. What did Adolf Hitler really 

want? He intended to lead the German people 

out of poverty and need, break the chains of 

the Versailles Treaty and give back to the Ger 

mans a human existence. The German people 

can now proudly confess their love for one of 

their greatest sons. The Germans killed six mil 

lion Jews? Who believes such nonsense. West 

Germany is an American colony."

The Justice Ministry said such pamphlets have 

been distributed by the hundreds of thousands in 

the past few months. Only a few were confiscated.

BEGIN DEFENDS ERHLICH 

By Gil Sedan 

JERUSALEM, May 17 (JTA)--Premier Men 

achem Begin came to the defense of his embattled 

Finance Minister Simcha Erlich today. He told a 

Moariv reporter that he had full confidence in 

Erlich and saw no reason to dismiss him from his post. 

He also indicated he would support Erlich in his 

five-year economic program that has been crit 

icized by other Cabinet members...It is expected to 

be debated this Sunday's Cabinet session. 

Denunciations of the government's economic pol 

icies and a rising chorus of demands for Erlich's 

resignation followed Tuesday's announcement that 

the cost of living index rose by 8.7 percent in 

April, the third largest monthly increase since 

April 1952. However, according to Begin, "Erlich 

is doing his utmost to curb inflation and there are 

no grounds for demands that he resign." 

The Premier acknowledged, however, that the 

economic situation is "serious." But he said the 

inflationary tide could be stemmed by a joint effort 

of all ministers and the cooperation of Histadrut. 

The government will face three months of no 

confidence if the Knesset votes to 

the deteriorating economy. Two have been submitted 

by the Labor Alignment and one by the Rakah (Com 

mitist) Party. Begin met with Erlich and Bank of 

Israel Governor Arron Gafni yesterday to discuss 

economic problems. Sources close to Erlich said 

afterwards that the Premier had given his unqualified 

endorsement to the economic program and would 

use his influence to have it approved by the Cabinet. 

Meanwhile, the Israel Pound was devalued 

again and now stands at almost IL 24-S1. The rapid 

devolution was expected to please export manu 

facturers who have an easier time competing on 

the world market. However, several senior industrialists 

complained today that the system of devaluation 

made the import of raw materials more expensive 

which added to the inflation tide. In the past, 

exporters were given special incentives by the gov 

ernment but these were abolished after a major de 


LANDAU NOMINATED FOR OPIC POST 

WASHINGTON, May 17 (JTA)--William 

Landaus, president of the Jewish Telegraphic Agency, 

has been nominated by President Carter to fill an 

unexpired term on the Board of Directors of the 

Overseas Private Investment Corporation (OPIC), 

an independent federal agency that takes its policy 

guidance from the State Department. 

Landaus will replace Donley Brody of Los An 

gles whose term would have expired Dec. 17, 1980. 

The directors' terms are for three years. Landaus's 

appointment is subject to full Senate approval. 

The purpose of OPIC is to mobilize and facilitate the participation of American private capital and skills 

in the economic and social development of less 

developed friendly countries and areas, thereby 

complementing the developmental objectives of the U.S. 

MONTREAL (JTA)--About 300 Palestinians 

and their supporters paraded through Montreal last 

Saturday to protest the 31st anniversary of Israel's 

independence and the Israeli-Egyptian peace treaty. 

The parade was sponsored by the Quebec Palestine 

Committee. Marchers shouted such slogans as 

"Yesterday the Shah, tomorrow Sadat..."
U.S.塞EN MOVING TOWARD GIVING
THE SOVIEI-UNION TRADE BENEFITS
BY Joseph Polkoff

WASHINGTON, May 17 (JTA) -- The Carter Administration was seen here today as moving closer toward granting U.S. government trade benefits to the Soviet Union by seeking a waiver from Congress under the Jackson-Vanik Amendment. But no official decision on the exact process is ready for public discussion.

At the State Department today, Chief spokesman Hadding Carter said that President Carter "has noted we have been discussing possibilities in this area both with the Congress and with the Soviets. A decision on how we will proceed has not been finally taken."

The spokesman added, in response to a question whether the current emigration rate of Soviet Jews is sufficient for a waiver of the restrictions in the J-V Amendment, that he could not give a "yes or no" answer to that. He pointed out that Congress must make the decision.

The rate of Soviet-Jewish emigration during the past four months would amount to about 50,000 a year. At the time the J-V Amendment was adopted, the minimum goal of emigration was set at 60,000 annually. In the past few weeks, it is understood that a formula for working out a waiver has been discussed between Secretary of State Cyrus Vance and Soviet Ambassador Anatoli Dobyntin.

Vance and Dobrynin have been discussing the agenda for the summit conference between Soviet President Leonid Brezhnev and Carter, to be held in Vienna, June 15-18 with the SALT II agreement as the prime topic, but with trade and the Middle East also slated for discussion.

The J-V Amendment calls for the President to certify assurances from the Soviet government on Soviet policy regarding emigration. Whether these assurances must be in writing is not specified. This establishes a point of debate as to whether Soviet assurance given informally would suffice but opponents of any change in the procedure say that in any case, President Carter would have to give the Congress satisfaction that the assurances he receives comply with the views of Congress.

There is little sentiment in the Congress for any repeal of the Jackson-Vanik Amendment but a waiver would enable the Carter Administration to grant most favored nation treatment, if Congress approves, for one year to the Soviets. This would enable the Soviet Union to receive U.S. government trade benefits that the U.S. provides under the tariff laws to nations with which it has the most friendly relations.

GERMANY'S JUSTICE MINISTRY MUM ON REPORT THAT BONN POLICE ARE NEGOTIATING WITH PLO ON SWAP DEAL

By Alfred Schroeder

BONN, May 17 (JTA) -- The Justice Ministry has refused to confirm or deny a report that the Bonn police are negotiating with the Palestine Liberation Organization to exchange two PLO terrorist prisoners detained in Germany several weeks ago for four members of the German Red Army terrorist group said to be hiding out in a PLO camp in a Middle Eastern country.

"According to the report, in the magazine "Quick," the PLO proposed the exchange and it is presently being negotiated between Guenter Emlich, vice president of the West German Criminal Police and Abdallah Frangti, the PLO representative in Bonn.

The Palestinians, reportedly armed, were arrested when they attempted to enter West Germany from Austria and Holland. They are being held in jail pending investigation of charges of possessing explosives and plotting terrorist acts. The Red Army terrorists were arrested in Yugoslavia last year but released after negotiations for their extradition failed. They are flown out of Yugoslavia to an unknown destination.

The Belgrade authorities have refused to provide details but German intelligence sources believe they found shelter with the PLO. Reports exist that German terrorists have, in the past, received training in guerrilla warfare at PLO camps in Lebanon.

According to newspaper reports, a four-member delegation of the Federal Criminal Police met with PLO officials in Beirut recently to try to enlist cooperation in the terrorist hunt. According to unconfirmed reports, the PLO promised such cooperation but denied that it was sheltering any Red Army terrorists.

Meanwhile, Frangti said in an interview published in West Berlin Berliner Morgenpost, that he could not guarantee that the prisoners would carry out terrorist attacks in West Germany. But he insisted that if they did, it would be without orders or approval of the PLO. He said his organization did everything possible "to keep these people under control."

Frangti confirmed that he had been in contact with the Interior Ministry to discuss questions of combating terrorism. He said the discussions were initiated after PLO officials were killed by a bomb in Beirut.

TO BE "SICK" OR NOT TO BE "SICK"

By David Markus

RIO DE JANEIRO, May 17 (JTA) -- "Let the Mayor be sick," was the suggestion of some Brazilian officials in discussing the problems of health. But Vice President Tancredo Neves should come to Rio de Janeiro on his forthcoming trip to Brazil because this city now has a Jewish mayor, there was concern that Dr. Israel Kloban, who is also president of Kloban Industries which is on the Arab boycott list, would refuse to receive Marouf. Otherwise, Marouf would refuse to be received by the Jewish Mayor.

But Kloban said he would not be "sick." Observers noted that many Arab officials are coming to Brazil lately and Kloban would have to be constantly sick. If he or the Arabs wanted to avoid each other officially. Finally, Foreign Office officials and members of the Israeli Embassy agreed that Marouf would avoid Rio de Janeiro when he arrives in Brazil in early June to seek Brazilian participation in two projects, worth $24 billion, a harbor on the Yavuz River and a military base.

AMSterdam (JTA) -- Dutch war criminal and former SS member Jan Pattiss, 59, living in Ovedio, Spain, told a Madrid newspaper he "almost died with laughter" upon learning that Holland has asked Spain for his arrest and extradition. Pattiss said he had become a naturalized Spanish citizen in 1967. In the interview, he conceded that he still always adheres to the views of Hitler and National-Socialism.

Pattiss, who in 1948 escaped from prison in Holland to Spain, said he had gone to Spain because he felt attracted to the Franco regime and to the Spanish "Blue Division" which together with the Germans had fought against the Russians.
Behind the Headlines
ITALIANS PREPARE FOR "HOLOCAUST"
By Lisa Palmieri-Billig

ROME, May 17 (JTA) -- The American NBC-TV "Holocaust" series will be seen in Italy beginning May 20. The first part of the four-part series will be broadcast over Channel One (the priority channel) of national television. It had been scheduled for the end of the year and the decision to air it earlier came as a surprise. The news media is "preparing" Italians for the event. Italy is probably among the West European nations most well-informed and most interested in its past. With a political alignment that has a Communist and 50-60 percent anti-Fascist Socialist, Social Democrat and Christian Democrat, the crimes of Nazis and Fascists during the war have never had time to creep into the latent mass unconscious as they have in Germany.

Reports on public reaction to "Holocaust" in other countries where the TV series was seen are being published again as are reports of Italian behavior toward Jews during the war.

An article in "Il Giorno" described some of the many causes where Italians paid no attention to the racial laws issued by Mussolini in 1938. It cited various acts of public support by Italy's Catholic center in France dated July 21, 1943 alleging that "the Italian military authorities and police protect the Jews with every means of their disposal," housing about 1000 Jewish refugees on the Ligurian coast "in the best hotels" and providing them with all necessities and no restrictions.

Another case cited was a telegram from the then young diplomat responsible for the Italian Croatian office, Roberto Ducchi (now Italy's Ambassador to London). To save the Jews in Italian-occupied territory from deportation by Nazis, he ruled that Italian citizenship would be granted to Jews born in the occupation zone, those living there at the time and those not born there but with close relatives or having property there.

A Poignant Personal Memoir

A large spread in the Rome daily "La Repubblica" contained another poignant personal memoir, this one by the son of the Italian Consul in Stuttgart in 1934, Italo A. Chiusano. He recalled his father's attitude of disgust at German anti-Semitism, his refusal to eat in restaurants that had signs banning Jews, and his reply to an SS officer who spoke to him in Jewish "lack of creativity."

Four men founded the modern world, said Chiusano. "Four great Jews of German-speaking origin: Marx, who revolutionized economy and politics; Einstein, who revolutionized physics and cosmology; Freud, who revolutionized psychology and Kafka revolutionized literature.

With appropriate timing, Italian TV also aired an excellent documentary on the issue of the statute of limitations this week, containing films of concentration camp scenes, interviews with a few Italian survivors (such as the writer Primo Levi), with Gideon Hausner, Simon Wiesenthal and others.

The interviews described the situation in West Germany today regarding attitudes toward the Jews, the tension and anti-Semitic. The case for "not permitting the world to forget, by allowing Nazi criminals to emerge from hiding" was strongly presented.

Zionists at the Iranian Embassy
By Joseph Polakoff

WASHINGTON, May 17 (JTA) -- American Zionists were assured at the Iranian Embassy yesterday that Jews in Iran need have no concern of being considered disloyal to the government of Iran because they are Jewish or Zionist, Rabbi Joseph Sternstein, president of the American Zionist Federation, said.

Sternstein, Louis Bernstein, president of the Religious Zionists of America, and Ivan Nalvick, president of the Zionist Organization of America, visited the Embassy and conferred there for an hour with the Charge d'Affaires, Ali Agah, and his assistant, Ibrahim Sadjadi.

"They assured us, 'We are Zionists,'" Sternstein said afterwards. He noted that in a telegram several days ago to the Embassy, he had said they would be representing all Zionists in the United States. The Embassy issued an invitation to them the next day to visit the Iranian diplomatic leaders.

The request for the interview followed the execution of Habib Elkanian, the former president of the Iranian Jewish community. However, Ayatollah Khomeini told Iranian Jewish leaders Tuesday that Elkanian was executed as a spy for a foreign country, "not because he was a Zionist."

Agah reiterated this to the three Zionists yesterday. He spoke of Israel "as an oppressive state," but Sternstein said, "Agah was clear that just by virtue of being Zionists does not make a Iranian Jew disloyal to Iran." He said Zionists are not disloyal, the rabbi reported Agah as saying.

Jerusalem Day Celebrations
BEGINNING IN NYC NEXT WEEK

NEW YORK, May 17 (JTA) -- This year's celebration of Jerusalem Day, which commemorates the reunification of Israel's capital during the Six-Day War 12 years ago, will be coordinated by a special ad hoc Jerusalem Celebration Committee for the New York area. Highlighting the festivities will be the gala opening in the presence of dignitaries, political, religious and lay leaders on Thursday evening, May 24, of two key exhibits; a photographic display at the World Trade Center and a Sound and Light Show at Battery Park.