ISRAEL'S POPULATION NEAR 4 MILLION
By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Dec. 8 (JTA)-- The population of Israel will reach four million one year from now but will amount to only 5.5 million by the end of the century, according to Dr. Moshe Sicon, the government's chief statistician. He based his projection on the slowdown of the population growth rate in recent years to less than 2.5 percent per annum.

Sicon said that in terms of numbers this amounts to an annual population increase of about 90,000 a year. Most of the growth is the result of natural increase -- the excess of births over deaths. Net immigration -- the difference between the number of immigrants arriving and the number of Israelis departing -- contributed only 30 percent to the growth rate.

Sicon's figures showed a decline in the birth rate over the past five years. He said it reflected "a decrease in the birth and fertility rate within both the Jewish and non-Jewish populations." At the end of 1980, Israel's population will total 3,917,000, of which 3,380,000 are Jews and 637,000 are non-Jews, he said.

VEIL: NOT ALL EUROPEAN COMMUNITY MEMBERS AGREE TO JERUSALEM AS THE UNITED CAPITAL OF ISRAEL
By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Dec. 8 (JTA)-- Simone Veil, President of the Parliament of Europe, stressed here today that there were many differing views about the status of Jerusalem among the members of the European Community. She remarked, in the presence of Prime Minister Begin, the fact that the group of European parliamentarians she is heading on her visit to Israel is in Jerusalem, should not be taken as an endorsement of Israel's concept of united Jerusalem as its capital.

The visitors met with Begin and other Israeli leaders at the Knesset today. Begin took the occasion to defend the government's decision to deport Mayon Fahad Kawasme of Hebron and Mohammad Milhim of Haifa. He said the decision was based on the fact that the two Mayors had instigated anti-Israel activity on the West Bank.

Begin also observed that the Jordanian-Syrian border crisis seems to be over. "If the danger of war between the two countries disappears, every man of good will will be glad," he said.

Shimon Peres, Chairman of the opposition Labor Party, told the European group that his party did not want Israel to rule over the Palestinian people against their will.

FOCUS ON ISSUES
ITALIAN JEWS HELPING QUAKE VICTIMS
By Lisa Palmieri Billig

ROME, Dec. 8 (JTA)-- In silence, and with no desire for publicity, Jews all over Italy are sending help to earthquake-stricken towns in southern Italy. So far, 38 tons of new clothes, box loads of food, and a thousand heavy blankets bought by the Rome Jewish community were sent ahead on three trucks and delivered at the Nocero Inferiore and another distribution center.

Five trailers were contributed; three by the Rome community, one by the Naples Jewish community, and one by HIAS, with money collected entirely among its staff in Rome.

The Jewish population of Rome which totals about 16,000, including children, managed to collect about 18 million lire at donation centers set up in the Jewish schools and other institutions in the city.

Individual Roman Jewish shop owners donated wholesale quantities of badly needed clothing and undergarments with heartfelt generosity. Other badly needed items, such as heaters for tents and trailers, were bought with cash donations. The major Jewish organizations with offices in Rome (HIAS, JDC, ORT, and the Jewish Agency) contributed 100,000 of which 30,000 come from the JDC alone. Staff members of all these Jewish organizations contributed an average of two days salary each.

Help From Soviet Jewish Refugees

Perhaps most moving of all were the offers of help that came from Soviet Jewish refugees in transit in Rome -- those bedraggled families awaiting visas to continue their emigration to the U.S., Canada and Australia.

Physicians among the Soviet Jews here offered medical aid to the victims while others offered to go to the stricken towns and help dig among the ruins in the hopes of saving lives. But they received no reply from the Italian government. Many among the Soviet Jewish colony have already donated blood.

Last week a truck, packed with clothes and food bought with money donated by Roman Jews, left the capital to meet with the trailer departing from the Naples Jewish community. They headed for the tiny mountain town of Calitri, south of Naples. The town was selected because the president of the Naples Jewish community has friends there to ensure that the gifts arrive at their destination without being hijacked by road bands.

Solidarity Without Fanfare

These spontaneous, concrete acts of solidarity on the part of Italian Jews with the earthquake victims are being carried out quietly, one might almost say "clandestinely," and anonymously. When I asked members of the staff of the Rome Jewish community and the Union of Italian Jewish Communities why no news items were being printed about Italian Jewish contributions, I was told, "It's not important that others know, what's important is that we act. It's Chanukah time. Let's say these are our special mitzvot for Chanukah."

But another, more bitter truth surfaced. Choosing the way of silence was deliberate on the part of Italian Jewry, based on past experience. Apparently immediately after the 1976 earthquake in the Friuli region, in which 1000 people died, the Union of Italian Jewish Communities sent a sum of 15 million lire.
Wiesel read the declaration following a luncheon session at which Sen. Daniel Moynihan (Dem., N.Y.) assailed the 1975 General Assembly resolution, passed while he was serving as the United States Ambassador to the United Nations, calling Zionism a form of racism. He noted that the "statement of conscience" read by Wiesel had charged that the UN Resolution "must bear some responsibility for the scourge of anti-Semitism now reappearing in many parts of the world."

The statement adopted by the 100 scientists and intellectuals had been circulated by the Committee on UN Integrity earlier. It was particularly critical of the UN's "tragic failure" in the Mideast;

"In its preoccupation with Palestinian rights, the United Nations neglects the plight of millions of men, women and children in other parts of the world who are in immediate danger of death from famine, disease and war."

The statement added:

"The campaign to ostracize Israel has... made an international charade of efforts to extend freedom of speech and press, to help the working man and woman, to meet the needs of children, to achieve equality of women."

**ALLEN SAYS PERCY'S VIEW ON PALESTINIAN STATE DOES NOT REFLECT INCOMING ADMINISTRATION.**

By Helen Silver

WASHINGTON, Dec. 8 (JTA) — Richard Allen, President-elect Ronald Reagan's foreign policy advisor, said yesterday that Sen. Charles Percy's advocacy of a Palestinian state headed by Yasser Arafat "certainly would not reflect policy of an incoming Reagan administration." But he stopped short of an unequivocal repudiation of the views expressed by the Illinois Republican, slated to become chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee in the next Congress.

Allen, appearing on the ABC-TV "Issues and Answers" program, was questioned about reports that Percy told Soviet leaders during his visit to Moscow two weeks ago that he favored a Palestinian state federated with Jordan but headed by the Palestine Liberation Organization leader because it "would permit Arafat to realize his wish to be a chief of state before he dies."

The contents of Percy's conversations with the Kremlin leaders were contained in classified cables sent to Washington by Thomas Watson, U.S. Ambassador to the Soviet Union, which were leaked to the media over the weekend.

Allen, a member of Reagan's transition team, indicated that Percy had already briefed Reagan and other members of the transition team, including himself, on his talks in Moscow which covered strategic arms limitation, China and Afghanistan as well as the Middle East. Asked specifically if he disavowed Percy's views on a Palestinian state, Allen replied:

"I would say that particular statement, which I understand was not entirely accurate, having discussed this matter with Senator Percy and having a chance to examine the [Watson's] cables myself, it certainly would not reflect policy of an incoming Reagan administration."

He added, "The accurate expression of his (Percy's) views has been on the record for years. So I see nothing new in this and I think that Senator Percy is going to or already has taken steps to clarify the matter."

He said that "Senator Percy discussed his trip with me before he left and he also discussed it with the President-elect and insinuated to the President-elect that he [Percy] would get back to both him and to me and to others when he came (home). And he did just that. We lament the use of classified cables."
Says Percy Spoke Only For Himself.

Asked if Percy was speaking only for himself in Moscow, Allen replied: "Yes, he was, and I think Senator Percy made it abundantly clear. It is not at all unusual that a distinguished Senator would consult with members of an incoming administration before going to or taking such an important trip as that of going to Moscow, which was brought up by Senator Percy. Senator Percy did extend us that courtesy and we did discuss, but in no way was the visit coordinated to the extent that he was carrying any proposals. He is a Senator and he is entitled to his views. They are his and they do not represent necessarily those of the incoming administration."

Another Republican Senator, Robert Dole of Kansas, replying to questions on the NBC-TV "Meet the Press" program yesterday, said "I doubt it" when asked if he and other Republicans supported Percy's ideas on a Palestinian state. "I haven't discussed this with Senator Percy. I haven't read the cables. But I would hope he is speaking only for Senator Percy," Dole said.

Asked if he was sure Percy was not speaking for Reagan, Dole replied, "Well, again, I don't know. I don't want to second guess. I haven't been privy to some of the recent messages. I haven't discussed it with Senator Percy and I understand there is some difference of opinion among Senators." Senator William Proxmire, who questioned today about Ambassador Watson's cables said, "We are always concerned when leaks occur of material reported to have been classified government telegrams. But I don't have any comment beyond that." He did not comment on the contents of the cables.

ISRAEL URGES U.N. ASSEMBLY TO DEAL WITH MID EAST SITUATION, NOT JUST THE ARAB-ISRAELI CONFLICT.

By Vitzhak Rabi

UNITED NATIONS, Dec. 8 (JTA) — Israel called on the General Assembly today to "address itself seriously to the situation in the Middle East in its full and proper sense," rather than concentrating on the Israeli-Arab conflict alone.

The call was made by Israel's Ambassador to the United Nations, Yehuda Blum in remarks prepared for delivery this evening of the opening session of the Assembly's annual debate on the "Situation in the Middle East." Noting that "In accordance with the established ritual, attempts will be made to turn it (the Middle East debate) into another orchestrated attack on Israel," Blum said that the Middle East includes the war in the Sinai, the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan and the dispute between Jordan and Syria, among other conflicts.

"These trouble spots, with grave implications for international peace, should certainly give rise for concern on the part of the General Assembly and must have a prominent place in any serious discussion of the situation in the Mideast," Blum declared.

In line with his call to the Assembly, Blum, in his 16-page speech, discussed the various conflicts and trouble spots in the Middle East. The debate on the Middle East is expected to last until the end of this week.

Meanwhile, the Assembly was scheduled to vote tomorrow on a few draft resolutions concerning Palestinian rights. Israel, in anticipate-
BEHIND THE HEADLINES
THE JEWS OF NORMANDY
By Ben Frank
(First Two Of A Three-Part Series)

ROUEN, France, Dec. 8 (JTA) — For Prof.
Norman Golb of the University of Chicago, a
specialist in Hebrew and Jodo-Karaotic studies,
Monday, October 13, 1980 will be a day to re-
member; it was the formal dedication of a
medieval building which he has declared to be
Europe's oldest surviving yeshiva.

To Golb and to scholars all over the world,
the importance of this archaeological find
means that Jewish presence in northern France
was not only economic and commercial but
cultural as well. What makes the story even
more exciting was that the location of the struc-
ture had indeed been predicted by Golb, who
reached his conclusions from a study of medieval
manuscripts.

Months before the Romanesque building was
discovered beneath the parking lot of the
Palace of Justice in Rouen here in Normandy, the 51-
year-old professor published his hypothesis of a
yeshiva in the courtyard in a book titled, "His-
tory and Culture of the Jews of Rouen," which
appeared in Hebrew in the spring of 1976.

He had researched 150 manuscripts which he
studied, in Jerusalem; the British Museum, the
Bibliothèque Nationale in Paris; libraries in
Sudapest, Amsterdam, New York, as well as the
Vatican Library.

In the selection of the site of the yeshiva on
Rouen's Rue de Juifs (The Street of the Jews) was
based on the fact that references to the
building stop with the 16th Century. This was
the point at which the highly ornamented Palais
del'justice was built; "I surmised that they
destroyed the Jewish center to make way for the
new construction," Golb told me in an interview.

History Of An Overlooked City

Equally fascinating is the fact that Golb
may have discovered why Rouen was overlooked
as a center of Judaism during the Middle Ages.
It may have been bypassed because Hebrew
references to the city were missed by Latin
scholars of the Middle Ages. "Until the 14th
Century, Rouen was almost untouched.

In a surviving Hebrew manuscript, the
name Rodam is written like Rhodas, a medieval city
in southern France. What happened was that
scholars, often in copying the manuscripts,
mistook the Hebrew letter "samech," for a final
"nun." Golb said he was fascinated by the
possibility that the city they were really talking
about and writing about as a "thriving Jewish
community," was really Rodam, or Rouen.

"I went back to the original manuscripts at
the British Museum and my suspicions were im-
mediately confirmed," he said. Subsequent
studies of manuscripts in Paris, Amsterdam and
Jerusalem, revealed detailed maps and descriptions
of the Jewish quarter and life in the city.

Jews Active In Rouen

Even today, the Jews of Rouen are active
in the civic life of this city which is associated
with another chapter of French history: on the
market square here, Joan of Arc was burned at
the stake in 1431.

For centuries, Jews have lived in Normandy whose
countryside is serene and peaceful and yet whose coast
provided windows to the world for Jews and non-Jews
since the Middle Ages. From the beautiful seaside town
of Honfleur, Samuel de Champlain set sail to find
Quebec and explore the Great Lakes.

In Rouen itself, there are about 400 Jewish fami-
lies engaged in professions and academic life, as
well as industry and commerce. Greater Rouen has
a population of about 400,000 and is one of the great
industrial centers of France. There is a synagogue and
Rabbi C. Perez, its spiritual leader, told me that many
Jews came to Rouen in the 1960's from Algeria and
Tunisia, and that they have given the congregation a
Sephardic tone.

With the archaeological discovery, more Jews cer-
tainly will be visiting Rouen. Since that day when the
c的是 the excavation were found, Rouen and the government of
France have spent about $1 million on the restoration.

A should be open to the public in the near future. It is a Jewish historic site in France not to be missed.

(Tomorrow; Part Three)

EMIGRATION DROPS MORE THAN 80 PERCENT

NEW YORK, Dec. 8 (JTA) — The National Con-
ference on Soviet Jewry (NCSJ), reported today that
789 Jews left the Soviet Union in November 1980, a
decline of 81.2 percent over the same period for 1979.
Burton Levinson, chairman of the NCSJ, in releasing the
figures noted that "In the eleven months of 1980 a total of
22,585 Jews emigrated from the USSR, compared to 17,175 in
the same period in 1979. This means a decline of 56.4
percent for the year, to date.

At a time when East and West European nations are
meeting in Madrid to review the Helsinki Accords, in-
cluding the emigration of Soviet Jews, and others,
Moscow continues to test Western resolve," Levinson
said. "The emigration of Soviet Jews is one instance of
this test. I am certain that our government and
others will meet that test and that the American Jewish
community and its supporters will do the same. In the
meantime, however, thousands of innocent people are
suffering even as the Soviet Union claims to have a
"humane" emigration policy.

According to the NCSJ the total number of Jews
leaving the USSR in 1980 will be less than 50 percent
of 1979. It is not expected to be more than 22,000.

JERUSALEM (JTA) — The Jewish National Fund is
once again ensuring a plentiful supply of Christmas
trees for Israel's Christian population and visitors.
The JNF plans to distribute some 1500 trees among diplo-
mats, foreign correspondents and Christian community
institutions this year, a spokesman said. The JNF is
also allocating trees to the Jerusalem municipality for
distribution among Christians in the capital. The trees
came from a nearby JNF forest.

JERUSALEM (JTA) — Five people were injured
Monday morning, one of them seriously, when a booby-
trapped car exploded on Hebron Road in the southern
part of the city. Two of the injured were sitting in the
car at the time and the other three were passers-by.
However, unlike a previous explosion several days ago
downtown Jerusalem, Monday's explosion was be-
lieved to be the work of criminals. Police said the
two men sitting in the car were involved in an earlier
car bombing attempt, which was foiled at the last
minute. The seriously injured man was trapped in the
burning car after the explosion.