

Curtain Lifted On Ethiopian Jewry Rescue: VAST MAJORITY OF ETHIOPIAN JEWS ARE NOW IN ISRAEL; ABOUT 10,000 OF THEM ARRIVED IN ISRAEL RECENTLY
By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Jan. 3 (JTA) — Government and Jewish Agency officials confirmed today that large numbers of Ethiopian Jews — probably the vast majority of that community estimated at about 25,000 — are now in Israel.

Details of a secret airlift and absorption process were disclosed at a hastily called press conference in Jerusalem after the local media broke the story which had been subject to military censorship until now. The officials appeared to have been taken by surprise by these accounts, but readily confirmed their accuracy.

Akiva Levinsky, Deputy Chairman and Treasurer of the Jewish Agency who is the ranking official of the Jewish Agency in the country at the moment, said about 10,000 Ethiopian Jews arrived in Israel recently.

Israel Radio had reported earlier that the rescue operation, begun during the administration of former Premier Menachem Begin's Likud government, was speeded up last November because of the famine in Ethiopia.

Many Reported In Very Poor Health

Levinsky said a special absorption center was established in Ashkelon for the newcomers and that they are receiving medical care there and at hospitals throughout southern Israel. According to doctors, many of the new arrivals, particularly children, are in very poor health.

They are suffering from malnutrition and various diseases common to Africa which local physicians say they have not seen since leaving medical school. Some are contagious and special care is being taken to make sure they do not spread to the rest of the population.

Newspaper accounts today listed intestinal disorders, skin infections, malaria and some cases of tuberculosis among the Ethiopians. One doctor was quoted as saying the newcomers resembled the Jews liberated from Nazi death camps after World War II.

Medical sources said they were responding well to treatment. But one of the problems facing doctors is the language barrier. Most of the Ethiopian Jews speak only Amharic. Doctors and nurses have been provided with a short vocabulary of key words and phrases in that little known language.

How The Story Broke

The story of the rescue of Ethiopian Jews broke yesterday when the Gush Emunim magazine, Nekuda, published an interview with Yehuda Dominitz, head of the Jewish Agency's immigration department. He was quoted as saying that virtually all of Ethiopia's Jews are now in Israel. It is not known how many remain in Ethiopia.

The rest of the media elaborated on the story today. According to newspaper accounts, the Ethiopian

Jews are being housed throughout the country and in Jewish settlements in the West Bank. Unaccompanied children, some of them orphans, have been taken by Youth Aliya.

The Jewish Agency apparently decided not to place the Ethiopians in kibbutzim which are largely secular. The Ethiopian Jews are strictly religious in outlook and customs.

Some newspapers published accounts of the secret airlift alongside a report by syndicated Washington columnist Jack Anderson that Israel was helping to train the Ethiopian army, although it has no diplomatic relations with the Marxist government in Addis Ababa. The papers did not draw any linkage between the rescue and Anderson's report.

SHULTZ URGED TO TAKE A FIRM STAND ON THE GROWING PLIGHT OF SOVIET JEWS By Yitzhak Rabi

NEW YORK, Jan. 3 (JTA) — American Jewish leaders active on behalf of Soviet Jewry have asked Secretary of State George Shultz "to take a firm stand" on the growing plight of Soviet Jews, especially those who seek exit visas, at his meeting with Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko in Geneva January 7-8.

"Positive movement on this question must be a key component of any improvement in Soviet-American relations, and it cannot be divorced from other matters of mutual concern," Herbert Kronish, chairman of the Greater New York Conference on Soviet Jewry (NYCJSJ), said at a press conference today at the Roosevelt Hotel here. The press conference was jointly sponsored by the NYCJSJ and the National Conference on Soviet Jewry (NCSJ).

"We have urged the Secretary of State," Kronish disclosed, "to be flexible in his search for an approach which will work, and to underscore for Mr. Gromyko the importance with which all Americans regard the plight of Soviet Jews."

Says Shultz Promised to Raise The Issue

NCSJ chairman Morris Abram said, in reply to a question, that Shultz promised to raise the issue of Soviet Jews in all future meetings with Soviet leaders. He said the promise was made in a meeting with Jewish leaders in Washington last year.

He conceded, however, that no specific promise to raise the plight of Soviet Jews during the upcoming meeting with Gromyko was given, but it was assumed that the commitment of the Administration to raise the issue will apply to this meeting as well.

Abram and Kronish called on the Reagan Administration to discuss with Soviet leaders the release of all Soviet Jewish Prisoners of Conscience and cancel those trials which have not yet occurred; grant exit visas to those Jews who wish to emigrate; and allow all Jews to live freely and without discrimination in the Soviet Union.

Charging that Soviet Jews are facing currently a "critical situation," Kronish and Abram announced that the number of Jews allowed to emigrate from the Soviet Union in 1984 was the lowest total for a single year since the landmark Leningrad Trials of 1970-71. They noted

that Jewish emigration from the Soviet Union has been steadily declining since 1979, when 51,320 Jews were permitted to leave.

A status report on the situation of Soviet Jews in 1984, jointly prepared by the two organizations, charged and documented increased anti-Semitism and persecution of Soviet Jews. The report said:

"The most notable and serious development affecting Soviet Jewry in 1984 was the concentrated and systematic Soviet attack on Hebrew teachers. Since mid-July, continuing harassment against Jewish Hebrew teachers and cultural activists culminated in a wave of searches, threats and arrest.

"The campaign suggests a blatant attempt to crush the determination of a younger generation of Jewish activists. Three of those arrested were sentenced to prison and labor camps on trumped-up charges. Their real 'crime' was their active struggle to secure the right to emigrate to Israel or to live as Jews, without discrimination, in the USSR."

Plan Of Action For 1985

In outlining a plan of action for 1985, the two agencies said they would embark on a new program designed to sensitize corporations engaged in business with the Soviet Union to the Soviet Jewry issue, as well as to involve other groups, including interfaith and community leaders.

Abram noted the formation of a Congressional Coalition for Soviet Jewry, a caucus to promote the emigration of Jews from the Soviet Union through cooperation with the U.S. Administration. According to Abram, the Coalition will "send the appropriate message to the Soviets that human rights issues are basic to U.S.-USSR relations."

Kronish announced plans for a "Think Tank" to be chaired by Robert McKay, president of the Association of the Bar of the City of New York. He said "the Think Tank will bring together distinguished members of our community to explore new strategies for easing the plight of Soviet Jews and re-opening the gates." In 1984, 896 Soviet Jews were granted exit visas. Jacqueline Levine, chairperson of the National Jewish Community Relations Advisory Council, who also took part in the press conference, said that she has recently returned from a visit to the Soviet Union where she met many Jewish activists. She said she brought back with her "a message of hope and determination from Soviet Jews."

MEMORIAL TO JEWISH VICTIMS OF NAZISM ERECTED IN WEST GERMAN TOWN

By David Kantor

AACHEN, Jan. 3 (JTA) -- A memorial to the Jewish victims of Nazism has been erected in this West German town near the Belgian border on the site of the synagogue destroyed during Kristallnacht in November, 1938, the first pogrom against German Jews launched by the Nazi regime.

The memorial, in the form of a Star of David, bears the inscription: "Those who suppress history run the risk of repeating it." The dedication ceremonies were attended by the Mayor of Aachen, the rabbi from a nearby town, local Jews and representatives of various social groups. Aachen, in the state of North Rhine-Westphalia, was the first German town captured by American forces during World War II.

In another development, the town council of Schweich, near Trier, voted to build a cultural cen-

ter at the former synagogue, now used as a warehouse. Local officials have begun negotiations with the bank which owns the building. The officials said it would be restored to resemble the original synagogue. Prof. Horst Roemer of Kaiserslautern University has been engaged as a consultant on the restoration.

PROJECT TO AID HITCH-HIKING SOLDIERS

TEL AVIV, Jan. 3 (JTA) -- The Soldiers Welfare Committee announced today that it will erect 150 lighted shelters at road junctions and other sites along the country's highways where soldiers congregate to hitch rides.

The project, which will cost about \$500,000, is a security measure. Hitch-hiking sites have been a favorite target of terrorists. The shelters will be enclosed by plastic and will be lighted by solar-powered batteries where no facilities exist for plugging into the electric power system.

The army, meanwhile, has launched a campaign to discourage soldiers, particularly women, from taking rides in unknown civilian cars to and from their bases. The campaign began last month after a young woman soldier, Hadass Kedmi, hitched a ride near Haifa, only to be kidnapped, raped and murdered. (See separate story.)

BEDOJIN SOLDIER HELD AS SUSPECT IN RAPE-MURDER OF IDF WOMAN SOLDIER

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, Jan. 3 (JTA) -- A 21-year-old Bedouin soldier, absent-without-leave from his army unit since November, has been taken into custody as a suspect in the rape-murder of Hadass Kedmi, a 20-year-old woman soldier who disappeared while hitch-hiking in the Haifa area more than a month ago.

Police said they are holding Radwan Sweitat, who lives in a Bedouin encampment near Usafiya village on Mt. Carmel, on the basis of evidence that he was involved in the murder or at least had knowledge of it. Sweitat has been AWOL since November 29, the day Kedmi was last seen on a highway trying to get a ride toward her home in Kibbutz Masaryk on Haifa Bay.

Her remains were discovered 12 days later in a wooded area on Mt. Carmel. The pathologist's report indicated she was repeatedly raped by more than one man before she was murdered.

Sweitat has been remanded in custody for 10 days. Four other Bedouins from the Mt. Carmel area, arrested earlier in connection with the case, were released today. Police said they had been detained while their car was inspected to determine whether it was used to kidnap Kedmi. A Haifa magistrate ordered them freed for lack of evidence.

LZA LEADER SAYS LIBERALS HAVE NOT DESERTED JEWISH CAUSE; URGES U.S. JEWS NOT TO PLAY DOWN THEIR LIBERALISM

NEW YORK, Jan. 3 (JTA) -- A leading Labor Zionist said here that the liberal community in the United States "have not deserted the Jewish cause" and rejected the accusation that the liberals will abandon Israel in favor of supporting the Third World. Dr. Ezra Spicandler, president of the Labor Zionist Alliance (LZA), also called upon American Jews not to play down their liberalism just because there is a Republican Administration in the White House.

In remarks prepared for delivery tomorrow to the opening session of the 26th triennial convention of the LZA, Spicandler said "Liberals in Congress have a better record on Israel than conservatives. This holds

true for the vast majority of Black Congressmen; they do support Israel." He pointed out that the anti-Semitic and anti-Israel statements by Louis Farrakhan, a Black Muslim leader, does not represent the vast majority of Blacks.

Commenting on last year's Presidential election, the LZA leader said "appeals to Jews by neo-conservatives such as Irving Kristol and others went almost unheeded. The vast majority of American Jews voted liberal. The neo-conservatives failed to deliver the Jewish vote." According to a number of exit polls, including those conducted by ABC-TV, CBS-TV and the American Jewish Congress, 67-70 percent of the Jewish electorate voted for the Democratic Presidential candidate, Walter Mondale.

Regarding President Reagan, Spicehandler said that "to his credit, the President, though he is a conservative, is not going to attempt to bribe the American Jewish community with aid to Israel. He supports Israel because he likes Israel and believes it is an ally of the U.S." But, he added, "Jews have the right to applaud the Administration when it is right and attack it when it is wrong."

HUNDREDS DEMONSTRATE AGAINST GROWTH OF NEO-NAZI YOUTH GROUPS

By David Kantor

FULDA, Jan. 3 (JTA) -- Several hundred anti-Nazis demonstrated here on New Year's Day against the proliferation of neo-Nazi youth groups in and around this Hessian city. They marched from the university campus to the site of the former synagogue while, at the same time, neo-Nazi youths, shouted anti-Semitic slogans in another part of the city.

There were no clashes. The anti-Nazis, heavily guarded by police, were protesting specifically against a meeting of neo-Nazi youth groups in the nearby town of Hilders. Guenther Kulka, head of a group called "Fascism -- Never Again," said his organization was demanding that the government outlaw neo-Nazi groups.

The demonstrators carried signs calling on federal, state and local authorities to ban the traditional New Year's Eve gatherings of neo-Nazis, many of which are held in the Fulda area.

The one in Hilders drew such organizations as the "Viking Jugend," "Skinheads," "Young National Democrats," and "National Socialist Action Front." It was presided over by Thomas Brehl, identified as national vice chairman of the Action Front.

Wolfgang Nahrath, chairman of the Viking Jugend, claimed his organization was not Nazi but an association of patriotic German youths.

Several hundred of these youths ranged through Fulda shouting "Jews Out" and "Germany, Wake Up." Police said their leaders would be prosecuted for staging an unauthorized demonstration.

YITZHAK BEN AMI DEAD AT 71

NEW YORK, Jan. 3 (JTA) -- Funeral services will be held tomorrow for Yitzhak Ben Ami, a leading activist in the 1930's and 1940's in efforts to establish a Jewish State in Palestine. He died of a heart attack in his Manhattan home Monday at the age of 71.

Born in Palestine, Ben Ami was educated in the Herzliya Gymnasia in Tel Aviv and the Hebrew University in Jerusalem. He joined the Irgun Zvi

Leumi in 1932. In 1939, together with Irish Jewish leader Robert Brisco and Col. John Patterson, he founded the American Friends for a Jewish Palestine in the United States to raise funds for illegal immigration to Palestine which was then under the British Mandate.

Later, he was co-organizer of the Committee for a Jewish Army and the Emergency Committee to Save the Jewish People of Europe. From 1946 to 1948, Ben Ami was executive director of the American League for a Free Palestine. He was a long-time activist of the Herut Zionists of America and a member of its executive board.

Ben Ami was on the ship Altalena when the Irgun attempted to bring arms to Israel in June, 1948. The vessel arrived during a cease-fire and its unloading was forbidden by the Israel government. The order was resisted and the ship was destroyed off the coast of Tel Aviv with some loss of life.

In addition to his political activism, Ben Ami was also an author. His last book, "Years of Wrath, Days of Glory; Memoirs of the Irgun," was published in 1983 by Shengold Publishers, Inc. of New York.

TEL AVIV (JTA) -- Prof. Iafa Keydar, a microbiologist who is internationally known for her research in breast cancer, has been elected dean of Tel Aviv University's George Wise Faculty of Life Sciences. She is the first woman to head an academic faculty at the university. In addition to teaching at the university, Keydar has also held research appointments at Columbia University in New York City. Keydar replaced Prof. Isaac Witz, who has been appointed Tel Aviv University vice president for research and development.

TORONTO (JTA) -- Harry Freedman of Toronto, a composer and performer with the Toronto Symphony Orchestra, was named an Officer of the Order of Canada in the New Year's List issued by the office of the Governor General of Canada. Other Jewish Canadians who were named as Members of the Order in the list were: Sybil Shack of Winnipeg, educator and author; Michael Hornstein of Montreal, businessman; and David Azrieli of Montreal, designer.

TEL AVIV (JTA) -- A "hotline" over which school children can discuss any personal problems they may face anonymously with trained volunteers got under way here this week under the auspices of the Tel Aviv Central Parents Committee. The service will be available on a 24-hour-a-day basis. During school hours, calls will be taken at the committee's office. After school hours, calls will be taken by a duty roster of teachers, psychologists, counsellors and kindergarten teachers.

BONN (JTA) -- Agriculture Minister Ignaz Kiechle has promised that the Bonn government will support in principle Israel's demand that its agricultural exports be given a fair chance to retain their present share of the European market after Spain and Portugal become members of the European Economic Community (EEC). Kiechle, who recently met with Premier Shimon Peres in Israel, said the talks leading to an accord on this point will be held only with the EEC, not on a bi-lateral basis.

**SPECIAL TO THE JTA
WNET PLANS TO REPEAT 'HERITAGE'
SERIES THIS FALL IN U.S. AND ABROAD**
By Ben Gallob

NEW YORK, Jan. 3 (JTA) — "Heritage: Civilization and the Jews," the nine one-hour series telecast locally by WNET, the New York area's major public television station, drew for at least part of the series nationally an audience of Jews and non-Jews during its telecast last fall — an estimated 50 million viewers — that plans are being made to repeat the entire series on public television next fall, according to WNET president Jay Iselin.

He also said, at a recent press conference called to assess the impact of the series, that its success had prompted renewed and enhanced educational outreach efforts planned to continue well into the next decade. A WNET spokesperson told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that the Heritage series was telecast on virtually all of the approximately 300 PBS stations.

Abba Eban, host, narrator, and chief editorial consultant for Heritage, said he was surprised at the size of the estimated audience. He added that Jews had never had such "a massive dialogue with the Gentile world."

Iselin said the "astonishing figure" of the size of the viewing audience stemmed not only from the "power of the series" but also from "the unprecedented educational and archival use of the series" since the premiere in October, 1984. He announced plans for "Phase Two" of a decade-long educational experience built around the planned 1985 rebroadcast.

Will Be Telecast In Britain And Israel

Iselin said WNET had reached agreements in Britain and Israel to show Heritage in those countries and was negotiating with telecast entities in other countries. He said Channel 4, which will distribute the series in Britain, is considering distribution of the Viewers Guide prepared by WNET.

Timothy Gunn, Heritage educational activities project director, described the scope of the Heritage outreach effort. He said teachers guides were distributed to every high school in the United States — two per school. He said 150 colleges nationwide — 25 percent in southern states — used the series as a TV study course.

Praeger Books published two college-level texts: A narrative history study guide to accompany the TV series, and a reader with primary sources relating to the series.

Gunn also reported the American Library Association produced and distributed packets of materials to 6,000 libraries, including discussion outlines, suggested book displays and a comprehensive bibliography.

Wide Distribution Of Guide

WNET printed 50,000 70-page, heavily-illustrated Viewers Guides which were distributed by Hadassah, the National Council of Churches, the National Conference of Christians and Jews, the United States Catholic Conference, and similar agencies. Gunn said the American Jewish Committee prepared an extensive interfaith guide.

Rabbi A. James Rudin, director of the AJ Committee's interreligious affairs department, told the JTA its guide was a lavishly-illustrated 20-page booklet, 17,000 copies of which were distributed to churches,

YWCA's, councils of churches and colleges and universities. Rudin also reported that his department arranged for meetings of Christian and Jewish leaders in 22 cities to discuss the AJ Committee guide, involving an estimated 2,200 top leaders of the two faiths. He said the guide had been prepared by Rabbi Alan Mittleman, the department's program specialist, and Judith Banki, the department's associate director.

Other Related Activities Cited

A companion book was written by Eban which, as of the time of last month's press conference, had been on The New York Times best seller list for eight weeks.

In New York City, Gunn said, the Board of Education held a conference for high school principals to prepare for classroom use of the series and the guides.

Gunn said the demand for the materials WNET had created, supplies of which had been exhausted, was testimony "to the readiness of individuals and groups of all faiths to engage in a serious and compelling learning experience."

Iselin said WNET is also producing a completely new college publication, a Class Guide for use in humanities and social science courses.

Videocassettes of the series, as previously announced, were donated by WNET to the National Jewish Archives of Broadcasting of the Jewish Museum where they are planned for use both for archival purposes and as a basis for lecture series and continuing education courses.

Iselin added that "the most interesting result" was the interest and participation not only of the Jewish community "but the non-Jewish community as well." He said the series had proved "there is an enormous public television audience for information that is well-produced and stories that are well told."

**BRITISH AIRWAYS SCORED FOR BLACKOUT
OF A JERUSALEM HOTEL IN ADVERTISEMENT**

NEW YORK, Jan. 3 (JTA) — British Airways, Britain's national air carrier, blocked out part of an advertisement for a Jerusalem hotel appearing in its in-flight magazine "High Life," claiming that it resorted to censorship in order to remain neutral in the dispute over the status of Jerusalem.

But the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith rejected the airline's contention.

Abraham Foxman, the ADL's associate national director, observed in a letter of protest to British Airways' U.S. manager, Don Ford, that "the affect of this outrageous action is exactly the opposite — it places British Airways firmly in the political arena by taking sides and possibly bowing to anti-Israel pressure." Foxman pointed out that other business journals publish ads on Israel and Jerusalem "without being identified with or accused of taking positions."

The ad was placed by Jerusalem's Sheraton Hotel. The copy, which read, "Come to Israel," and described "the dramatic setting of the King Solomon Sheraton, a short stroll from the historic Old City," was taped over — by hand — in more than a quarter million copies of the magazine.

According to Foxman, this was "reprehensible." He added, "the decision to alter the ad, we understand without even consulting Sheraton, comes in an international business environment where efforts on all levels are made by Arab countries to pressure businesses to boycott Israel."