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"You heard it in
The Jewish Voice"

Ethiopian Exodus

Airlift of 14,000 Ethiopian Jews accomplished in 40 flights

By HUGH ORGEL

TEL AVIV (JTA) — In what appears to have been a brilliantly planned and flawlessly executed operation, 14,087 Ethiopian Jews, comprising over 3,000 families, were airlifted from Addis Ababa to Israel over the weekend of May 24 and 25 within some 30 hours. Code-named "Operation Solomon," the airlift was accomplished in a mere 40 flights, involving dozens of aircraft.

Twenty-four of the planes were Israeli air force jets, including Boeing 707s and Hercules

and lay. The El Al jet freighters had had their cargo attachments removed and replaced by narrow seats, on which the newcomers sat, four in a normally two-seat row and seven in a center-row four-seat arrangement.

One El Al 747 jumbo jet set a world record by transporting 1,087 passengers, two-and-a-half times the normal capacity. To do this, arm rests were folded back, allowing six people to fill four seats. Three kitchens and eight of the 12 bathrooms on the plane were also converted to seating.

“One El Al 747 jumbo jet set a world record by transporting 1,087 passengers, two-and-a-half times the normal capacity”

transport planes. Ten El Al jumbo jets were used, and three flights used planes chartered from Ethiopia's state airline. At one point, there were 25 aircraft in flight simultaneously.

The first flight reportedly arrived in Israel around 6 p.m. Friday local time. New immigrants, many of whom kissed the ground as they left the plane, were greeted by top officials of the Israeli government and the Jewish Agency.

During the complicated operation, 10 babies were born — four or five of them in mid-flight. No deaths were reported, and only 195 were hospitalized upon arriving in Israel.

For the purpose of the operation, the El Al air crews and planes were conscripted into a special "El Al" wing of the Israeli air force. Israeli identification markings were painted over on all aircraft, which were specially adapted to cater to far more than the usual number of passengers.

The IDF planes used in the airlift had their seats removed and replaced with foam rubber mattresses on which the huddled masses sat

The plane's manufacturer, Boeing Corp., found it hard to believe the number when informed of the record load. But as one Egged bus driver remarked, as he carried a load of passengers to a reception center in northern Israel: "We could not have done it with burly Soviet immigrants, each five or six suitcases. These thin and emaciated immigrants arrived with only the clothes on their backs."

Captain Avi Orr, head of the El Al's Operations Division, who piloted the 747, was full of praise for the speed and efficiency with which the El Al ground staff had effected the reconfiguration within a few hours of notification that Operation Solomon was on.

The plane was on the ground in Addis Ababa for only 36 minutes before taking off with its load. "We could have taken even more, but there were no others left on the airfield at that moment," Orr said.

The jumbo jets were used for only one flight, as air force experts decided the Ethiopian airfield's only runway was unsuited to such large and heavily laden aircraft, in view of the



congestion of Israeli and other aircraft rushing refugees and foreign residents out of the country.

Maj. Gen. Amnon Shahak, the Israel Defense Force deputy chief of staff and military commander of the operation, arrived in Addis Ababa on the first plane to land, together with

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Exodus
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Daniel Herrmann, former chief justice, dies

By PAULA HAIT

Editor of The Jewish Voice

Daniel L. Herrmann, 77, retired chief justice of the Delaware Supreme Court, died June 2, apparently after suffering a heart attack at the Philadelphia International Airport. He was returning to Delaware after attending his grandson's high school graduation in Concord, New Hampshire.

Mr. Herrmann was once described by Governor Carvel as "many men in one who possesses Solomon's wisdom and magnificence, Plato's sense of justice, the humanness of Hippocrates, Talleyrand's social grace, tact and wit — and yet, Dan is more than the sum of these characteristics. He is Dan Herrmann, the true friend, the trusted confidant, the dynamic leader... but most of all the loving family man. Perhaps this is where we should start and end the tribute to Daniel L. Herrmann, Esquire — loving family man to his own and to the family of man; a rare individual with the strongest feeling of responsibility for his fellow men."

Mr. Herrmann moved to Wilmington as a toddler in 1915, living in the city's East Side. He attended Wilmington High School, where

he was valedictorian of his graduating class and president of the honor society, and graduated from the University of Delaware in 1935 and was elected to Phi Kappa Phi fraternity. He earned his law degree at Georgetown University Night Law School while working full time for the government.

In 1940 he was admitted to the Delaware Bar.

Following the bombing of Pearl Harbor, Mr. Herrmann requested active military duty and served in the U.S. Army Transportation Corps in spite of a physical disability. He resumed his private practice following his discharge.

Mr. Herrmann served as assistant U.S. attorney in Delaware from 1948 to 1951 and as associate judge of Superior Court and Orphans Court of Delaware from 1951 to 1958. He resigned from this position in 1958 to become senior partner in the law firm of Herrmann and Duffy where he remained until his appointment in 1964 to the Supreme Court.

Mr. Herrmann was nationally renowned for modernizing the court system. According to Justice Joseph T. Walsh, "The Delaware

court system is his monument."

Keenly aware that the courts were in bad shape, Mr. Herrmann urged members of the state bar to "spend less time griping and complaining about judicial delay and shortcomings, and more of your time in helping to solve the problems and the needs of the judicial system. He was instrumental in the state's acquiring the Public Building to improve court facilities.

Several court reforms were initiated by Mr. Herrmann, including the concept of the long-range courts planning committee which has addressed for years every major problem confronting the court system; establishing the concept that the courts must be as prompt as possible in handling matters entrusted to it; setting periods within which criminal cases had to be disposed of by the courts; establishing the concept that interest on lawyers' trust accounts should be used to provide legal services to the poor; and pioneering the techniques of alternate dispute resolution.

Since retiring from the bench in 1984, Mr. Herrmann has served as a distinguished vis-

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Mr. Herrmann

Editorial

A miracle called 'Solomon' brings 14,000 Jews home

During a 36 hour period last week, approximately 15,000 Ethiopian Jews were rescued from their war-ravaged country and flown in a meticulously planned and impeccably executed airlift operation to Israel.

The Ethiopian immigrants arriving on May 24 and 25 at Ben Gurion Airport more than doubled the number of immigrants Israel received during the month of May and brought to about 84,000 the number of immigrants arriving since the beginning of 1991. They bring to some 20,000 the number of Ethiopian Jews in Israel. The Jewish State, strained economically and suffering from a critical housing shortage from the hundreds of thousands of Soviet Jewish refugees it has already welcomed in recent months, opened its arms once again.

It happened on the Shabbat following Shavuot, which is known as the "Shabbat of Miracles." And a miracle it was. The event might be viewed not so much as an emigration of a people from its homeland, but, rather, the return of a people to the land of its forefathers.

They will most certainly enrich the diversified mosaic of Israeli life — a culture made up of the ways and customs of Jews from around the world. And these most recently welcomed Jews have also brought with them unique problems. They are — each and every one of them — going to have to make the transition from an ancient culture to a contemporary Western-style democracy. But, before the problems, we should all grasp the moment and enjoy the pride.

Kol Yisrael arevim zeh l'zeh: All Jews are responsible for each other. The extraordinary exodus from Ethiopia was an example of this, one of the most basic tenets of Judaism. African Jews were rescued by Israeli Jews with the help of American Jews.

And this is the very reason for Israel's existence: to protect and rescue Jews in distress. We can hope that Jews — and all people — might, in the future, be free to come and go as they wish, wherever they live. But, just as the Jews found themselves prisoners in Egypt so long ago, modern Jews in Europe, Russia and now Ethiopia are proof that the Jewish State must exist to serve as a safe haven until the dream of freedom for all becomes a reality.

The Jewish community owes its gratitude to President Bush for his direct involvement in this effort. And in addition to our thanks, we might offer him a reminder that both the United States and Israel are founded on the principles of democracy, a fact which might have been clouded of late because of squabbling over peace efforts in the Middle East. Hopefully this rescue will serve as a reminder that our two countries share values — and bridge the gap that has widened between them recently.

The Jewish Voice welcomes signed letters from its readers on subjects of interest to the Jewish Community. For verification purposes, include home address and phone number (day and evening). The more concise a letter is, the less likely it will need to be condensed. A name will be withheld upon request. Send letters typed, double spaced, to The Jewish Voice, 101 Garden of Eden Rd., Wilmington, DE 19803.

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Quotes of note...

I don't think there is any bigger obstacle to peace than the settlement activity that continues not only unabated but at an enhanced pace.

Secretary of State James Baker

Is settlement activity more of a threat to peace than Syria's recent delivery of North Korean Scud missiles? More than the state of war that Arab nations have maintained against Israel since its inception?

Senator Alphonse D'Amato (R-NY)

When the statements are made that there is no bigger obstacle to peace than the settlements, that says, in my view, to Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, 'You guys are okay. What you're doing we don't like it, but the biggest obstacle, the bigger obstacle, is Israel, and therefore, you don't have to move at quite the same pace. We've got to shake the Israelis loose.'

Senator Frank Lautenberg (D-NJ)

If I were Israel, I would not give back one square inch of any of the territory without explicit, clear, emblazoned in gold letters — recognition.

Representative David Obey (D-WI)

Volcano

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assets in 1991.

•Immediate efforts must be made to fill Israel's 60,000 job vacancies with jobless Israelis and Soviet immigrants. With proper training, these workers can replace the 10,000 foreigners now working illegally in Israel and the 10,000 Palestinians in the territories who have been barred from entering Israel for security reasons.

(The Committee for Economic Growth of Israel, of which I am chairman, has set up a free employment service in Tel Aviv to help Soviet scientists and engineers obtain employment with Israeli high-tech companies.)

•Israel must reduce imports from \$12 billion to \$10 billion annually. Cutting back on imported goods will mean belt-tightening for many Israelis, since reduced competition from foreign goods may mean higher prices for domestic products. But it must be done.

•At the same time, exports must be boosted 10 percent a year. Marketing Israeli products abroad will require enlisting the cooperation of Israeli economic consuls and Israel-related chambers of commerce in the America, along with mass membership organizations like hadassah and B'nai B'rith.

The American Jewish community must adopt "Buy Israel!" as its by-word. This includes homemakers doing their marketing, business executives in charge of purchasing, and directors of Jewish hospitals and other communal institutions who purchase all kinds of supplies. Let "Made in Israel" replace, to the extent

possible, "Made in Japan," or South Korea, or Hong Kong, or China, or Taiwan and other states whose goods fill the shelves of American stores.

•Israel must develop plans to market the skills of engineers and scientists from the Soviet Union to companies located abroad and to visitors to Israel. Two examples: Israel's computer programmers can develop software for foreign firms; Israel's medical facilities at the Dead Sea could, if enhanced and effectively marketed, attract foreign patients to be treated by Israeli physicians and other health professionals.

•The government also must boost its program of granting R & D funds. These programs will in turn lead to the creation of new companies and new job opportunities.

With the high intellectual quality of so many Soviet olim, Israel can become one of the "brain centers" of the world by the year 2000, provided it can satisfy the employment needs of thousands of highly qualified engineers and scientists from the Soviet Union. We cannot permit these new immigrants to become disenfranchised with Israel and move to other countries because job opportunities are lacking.

Writing checks to Israel is not enough. All of us must become involved, by using all our resources, to help stimulate Israel's economy and create new jobs for the massive wave of Soviet immigrants. In this way we will truly share in one of the great miracles of Jewish history. (Elmer L. Winter is chairman of the Committee for Economic Growth of Israel.)

Op-Ed

There will be hot days ahead

By MORRIS J. AMITAY

This past May was the hottest month yet in recorded Washington history with temperatures consistently in the nineties. Some of this unusual heat might be attributed to the friction created in U.S.-Israel relations by Secretary of State James Baker's incredible statement to a Congressional hearing:

"I don't think that there is any bigger obstacle to peace than the settlement activity that continues not only unabated but at an enhanced pace."

There has already been ample and justified criticism of the unfairness and mean-spiritedness of this statement. But it said a great deal about Baker's understanding of the Arab-Israel conflict. It was prefaced by the Administration's refusal earlier the same month to permit Israeli Housing Minister Sharon to meet with his American counterpart, Jack Kemp, at Kemp's HUD office because of Sharon's disagreement with Administration policy on settlements!

The month ended with a much ballyhooed Middle East arms control initiative by President Bush. The *New York Times* charitably de-

scribed it as a "puzzling blend of decent instincts and half-measures." Our Israeli friends reacted uncharacteristically with very diplomatic language as Prime Minister Shamir described the President's proposals as "very important" and that they "could have a big impact on the Middle East."

Short of details — and as any arms control negotiator will tell you — "the devil is in the details" — the thrust of the plan did not spell good news for Israel. It would have the effect of requiring Israel to stop production of nuclear weapons and agree eventually to a nuclear free zone in the Middle East. Simply put, Israel cannot possibly match its Arab foes in numbers of conventional arms — troops, tanks, artillery, missiles and aircraft. Until recent years, it relied on its technological edge — a combination of sophisticated U.S. arms with Israeli refinements and its superior command and control. But with the United States, Britain and France now selling top of the line equipment to Arab states, Israel's edge has dangerously eroded. Where Israel does have a distinct advantage is in its possession of a sizeable nuclear arsenal with the means to deliver these

weapons both by missile and aircraft. It is this deterrent which some intelligence experts point to as having convinced Saddam Hussein not to put chemical warheads on the Scuds he aimed at Israel.

Just as Israel feels (and rightly so by a careful reading of U.N. Security Council Resolution 242) that it is not obligated to relinquish military control over territory occupied in the 1967 war before there is peace, Israel also asserts that conventional arms supplies to the Middle East should be curtailed before limits are imposed on nonconventional weapons, viz. nuclear. Both positions make sense given the unremitting hostility toward Israel by most of the Arab world, and the fact that it is inconceivable that four million Israelis post a threat to 160 million Arabs, but that the opposite is quite true. Accordingly, Israel's view is that any arms control plan would have to include all twenty-one Arab states as well as Pakistan and Iran. It will be most interesting to see what follow-up there is to the President's initiative as part of the Administration's overall Middle East policies which have developed an unmistakable pro-Arab tilt.

It is only fair, however, to state that the month of May did witness some positive steps — U.S. help in the Ethiopian airlift to Israel and Defense Secretary Cheney's visit to Israel. But the former assistance was yet another indication of Administration sympathy for victims — much like its belated help for the hapless Kurds. And the latter, Cheney's verbal support for the Jewish State, the belated signing of the Arrow missile agreement, and the supply of ten used U.S. F-15 aircraft, can be seen more in the way of tokenism. Since the Defense Department definitely does not call the shots in U.S. Middle East policy, Cheney's action, while welcome, did not ease the overall anxiety in Jerusalem.

Hopefully, both the weather here in Washington and the heat in U.S.-Israel relations will cool down. But a glance at the calendar, and a look at the wide gulf in U.S. and Israeli positions on key issues, leads to the dismal conclusion that there are still hot days ahead.

(Morris J. Amitay is a Washington attorney and former Executive Director of the American Israel Public Affairs Committee.)

Israel is sitting on a volcano

500,000 jobs needed in the next five years

By ELMER L. WINTER

Israel is sitting atop a volcano waiting to explode. It is woefully unprepared for the challenge of creating new jobs for the waves of Soviet Jews now flooding Israel.

Recent news reports say that many Soviet Jews are delaying their departure for Israel because of fear they won't find employment. To ensure that the flow of immigrants continues unabated — and to forestall the threatened departure from Israel of many Soviets who already have made *aliyah* — Israel must create 500,000 new jobs in the next five years.

In two visits to Israel during the past four months, I found no evidence of a strategy to coordinate the efforts of Jews in Israel and the Diaspora to create the jobs so urgently needed to absorb the Soviet *olim*. Nor has any one person been given overall responsibility for executing such a program.

One thing is certain: Israeli companies alone cannot provide the jobs Soviet newcomers require. Even without the immigrants, 150,000 Israelis are unemployed. Yet asking Israeli companies today to increase job opportunities will be of little help; many of them are hurting, restructuring and cutting staff.

Investment from abroad in the form of new factories and new research-and-development facilities is essential if Israel is to overcome this great challenge. Labor-intensive industries, such as metalworking, apparel and plastics, must be emphasized. Limited Inc., the American apparel retailer and manufacturer, makes clothing in Israel and last year exported some \$50 million of products from the Jewish state.

Israel also must attract more high-tech companies such as Intel, Motorola and National Semiconductor, which started operations in Israel by setting up design centers. They liked the expertise of Israel's engineers and subsequently opened manufacturing plants that are now highly successful.

Today more than 150 foreign companies operate businesses in Israel, and they are earning an average 29 percent return on their investment. And because Israel enjoys duty-free status with both the U.S. and the European Community, American firms that open manufacturing or finishing plants in Israel have an unusual trading opportunity. Can Israel provide enough jobs for immigrants? Yes, but only by marshalling the skills, expertise and finances of world Jewry. To that end, five proposals:

•The government must abolish any laws or

practices that restrict foreign investment and move vigorously toward a free-market econ-

omy. The divestiture of government-owned companies must be stepped up to meet the

goal of selling \$1.8 billion in state-owned

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What's wrong with Sepharad '92?

By DR. DAVID RAPHAEL

A friend of mine recently asked me why I was unhappy with the current Sepharad '92 campaign, which emphasizes, as the brochures say, "the importance of the contribution of Jewish heritage to the Spanish culture." After all, isn't it better to let bygones be bygones? With the upcoming 1992 festivities, isn't it better to emphasize the positive elements in Spanish Jewish history rather than dwell on the terrible events surrounding the disastrous expulsion of the Jews from Spain in 1492?

The answer is no. First of all, the major Jewish contributions to Spanish culture, which have long been acknowledged, can be celebrated any given year. This emphasis on the positive, while praiseworthy, is nonetheless misplaced. The real issue, the only issue, is how to bring the tragic 1492 expulsion of the Jews from Spain to world consciousness and to make this awareness part of the working knowledge of the average individual.

Spain understandably wants to put its best face forward in 1992 when it sponsors the Columbus festivities and hosts the World's Fair in Sevilla and the Olympics in Barcelona. It does not want to be reminded of the 1391 Dominican-inspired massacres of tens of thousands of Jews, of the Inquisition and its burning of Judaizing heretics, of the Spanish racial xenophobia that culminated in the expulsion of all Jews and Moslems from the Iberian peninsula.

Rather, as it joins the European Common Market in 1992, Spain wants to project an image of itself as a nation that has finally progressed beyond its longstanding religious intolerance. But while the Spanish intelligentsia traditionally has held enlightened views toward Jews — particularly toward Sephardim, whom they view as Spaniards by culture — the Spanish Catholic Church has long opposed re-entry of the Jews into the Iberian peninsula.

Recently, the king of Spain, Juan Carlos, visited the Sephardic Temple Tiferet Israel in Los Angeles and made an apology for the Edict of Expulsion. And last year, the king's son awarded the Prince of Asturias Concorde Prize to the Sephardim as a whole in recognition of

their preservation of Spanish language and culture.

With these noble deeds, there would appear to be no argument. Yet the community of Gibraltar refused to send a delegate to the Concorde Prize ceremony. In the Seattle Sephardic community, and among other Sephardim of Turkish descent, there is still suspicion about Spanish motives.

One indeed wonders at the motivation. To what extent are such lavish prizes, awards and apologies intended to soften the lingering bitterness that Jews may legitimately feel toward Spain? Do they really think that when 1992 comes around, the Jewish community will docilely and non-critically plunk down its tourist dollars and visit the few Jewish museum relics that survived the centuries-long inquisitorial onslaught? After all, it makes a lot of sense from the Spanish viewpoint to pacify the Jews beforehand, in the hope of silencing them in the process.

With these motivations in mind, it is possible to explain why the Spanish government, after nearly 40 years of non-recognition of the Jewish state, decided in 1987 to establish diplomatic ties with Israel.

But forget what Spain wants. Why do we as Jews want? Certainly we want people to know about the suffering of Jews that resulted from church-based Spanish anti-Semitism. We want people to know that religious intolerance does not pay, that it injures the oppressor as well as the victim. The Inquisition, an instrument designed to combat religious heresy, was redirected in the course of time at the institutions of Spain itself. The Inquisition's shackling of free thought intellectually crippled Spain for centuries; at the university level, the mass exodus of Jews destroyed departments of medicine and mathematics; Spanish science and technology came to a standstill, such that Spain had nothing to contribute during the great industrial and scientific revolutions of Europe; its writers, fearing attacks from the Inquisition, conformed to safe literary genres developed elsewhere; and its economy became bankrupt a century after the expulsion.

To aid in the lesson, we should push for a commemorative linkage between the expul-

sion and Columbus' discovery of America. Jews had to be out of Spain by Aug. 1, and Columbus set sail on Aug. 3 from the port of Palos. Because of this chronological linkage, I once suggested to the leaders of Sepharad '92 that a mock exile in 1992 be arranged at the same time that the re-enactment of the departure of Columbus' three caravels is taking place. Jews from all over the world could dress up in medieval costume and, as their ancestors did when they left Spain 500 years ago, carry their belongings on two-wheeled carts and board the ships.

The Jewish community in Spain today is a fledgling one, composed largely of newcomers from Morocco who still feel cautious and insecure in their relations with the Spanish authorities and their Christian neighbors. Incidents of anti-Semitism still occur, despite official denials. I have personally been witness to several. The community understandably fears repercussions if it is too vocal and strident in criticizing Spain's dreadful historical maltreatment of Jews.

No commemoration would be complete without remembering and thanking those nations that opened their doors to the Jewish exiles. The two countries that merit our retrospective historical thanks and appreciation are the Ottoman Turkish Empire, which welcomed the Sephardim in their search for a place of refuge, and the Kingdom of Fez in Morocco, which likewise took in thousands of exiled Jews. Indeed, Turkey is planning an entire program of activities in 1992 celebrating the Ottoman Empire's welcome of the Jews from Spain.

It is important to make peace with Spain. But it is also important to show one's appreciation in 1992 toward those countries that were kind to our forebears during 1492 and the succeeding centuries.

(David Raphael, M.D., Ph.D., is the author of "The Alhambra Decree," a historical novel about the 1492 expulsion of the Jews from Spain. He also wrote and directed the documentary film, "Song of the Sephardi," and is currently working on a major dramatic film about the expulsion.)

Candle Lighting

JUNE

7TH — 8:08 PM
14TH — 8:12 PM
21ST — 8:14 PM
28TH — 8:15 PM

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762-2705
Rabbi Nathan N. Schorr
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Dover
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Rabbi David Kaplan
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A Torah study group meets
on Saturdays at 9 a.m.

Dvar Torah

Parashat Korach, June 15

Korach and Moses: The quarrel continues

By RAE DENBURG-LEVINE

Special to The Jewish Voice

"In every generation, the soul of Moses returns and the soul of Korach returns. When the day comes that the soul of Korach will willingly subject itself to the soul of Moses, then will Korach be redeemed."

Rabbi Simcha Bunam of Pshyhsa

The ongoing internecine warfare currently raging within the Jewish community and being duly recorded in our modern Torah — the media — is potentially more dangerous than the situation faced by the Israelites in this week's parashah, Korach.

While the classic commentators prefer to focus on the events as a rebellion against God, a clear reading of the text reveals that a power struggle was in progress with the second echelon seeking to unseat and replace Moses and Aaron. That there was general dissatisfaction with the status quo had been evident in the unfolding of events since the congregation's departure from Egypt; that the "colonel's revolt" could have succeeded was manifested by the numbers who flocked to Korach's standard.

Moses needed a miracle to survive their challenge and the Lord obligingly provided one. At least, that is how the story is related. Since none of the rebels lived to write their version of what happened, we must accept the Torah's account. Following the destruction of the troublemakers, Moses then proceeded to strengthen his grip on the Israelites by promulgating a series of ordinances which further enhanced the position of the priests and Levites within the community. If there was any further dissension, it had been effectively stilled.

Several centuries later, Koheleth wisely observed "Only that shall happen which has happened, only that occur which has occurred; there is nothing new beneath the sun." This timeless wisdom is apparent today as we watch our communities both in Israel and the Diaspora, each claiming Moses' mantle as being the undisputed spokesman for this generation, casting all those who oppose their policies into Korach's role.

Who today is Moses? Who is Korach? Many who seek recognition as the former find themselves regarded as the latter — depending upon their publicly-stated positions. Our community is being torn asunder by these self-styled and self-serving prophets whose own aggrandizement seems to be the top priority on their agendas. The welfare of Clal Israel fades into oblivion as the community fragments into ever-smaller factions engaged in hurling ever-harsher invective between them.

Unfortunately, this scenario is being played out on the world's stage, bringing comfort to our enemies and consternation to our friends. Meanwhile, Israel remains paralyzed at a crucial juncture in her history and American Jewry vacillates between inflammatory rhetoric and soporific apathy.

Moses was fortunate since the lines were more clearly drawn then than they are today; he gave the Israelites a choice of a classic either-or situation. As a result, the community could easily choose sides. Today, we are not as fortunate. The lines are blurred and clear-cut choices are not available. Neither do we have the luxury of unlimited time in which to resolve our dilemmas.

When Korach and his followers were swallowed alive by the earth, many innocent people also perished. The Lord's firestorm consumed the rest of the rebel band. The same possibilities exist today. With the world situation in a tumultuous state of change and tension, countries cannot afford a leadership vacuum and delayed responses to earthshaking, rapidly-moving events. Without leadership, such circumstances inevitably lead to disaster.

As we read this portion all of us need to do some serious thinking. We know clearly who was Korach then, and who was Moses. Today we do not have such leadership on either side. Then it was only the rebel community which was lost. Today, without positive leadership, all can be lost.

(Rae Denburg-Levine, writes on a variety of Jewish topics and learns with the South Florida Haurah.)

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Groups dismayed at court decision on rule barring abortion counseling

By HOWARD ROSENBERG
WASHINGTON (JTA) — Major Jewish organizations have expressed deep disappointment with a Supreme Court ruling last month that bars federally funded family planning clinics from discussing abortion with their clients.

Groups opposing the 5-4 ruling include the American Jewish Committee, American Jewish Congress, Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, B'nai B'rith Women, Na'amat USA, National Council of Jewish Women, United Synagogue of America and Women's American ORT.

Orthodox Jewish groups took no position on the decision, urging instead that any Jewish woman considering abortion consult with rabbis versed in traditional Jewish law.

The high court ruling, in Rust vs. Sullivan, upheld regulations that the Department of Health and Human Services issued in 1988. The regulations cover a 21-year-old federal grant program to 4,500 family planning clinics under Title X of the Public Health Service Act of 1970.

Section 1,008 of the act states that "none of the funds appropriated under this subchapter shall be used in programs where abortion is a method of family planning."

Among the regulations was one that states that a federally funded clinic cannot provide "counseling concerning the use of abortion as a method of family planning or provide referral for abortion as a method of family planning."

Sammie Moshenberg, the NCJW's Washington representative, said Congress may try to circumvent the decision by striking the language from Title X that Health and Human Services used as the basis for its regulations.

The Senate last year approved such a provision, which had the support of 62 senators, but it was stripped from a bill reauthorizing Title X for the 1991 fiscal year after President Bush issued a veto threat.

But Moshenberg said there is a "pro-choice majority" in both the Senate and House of Representatives that will grow because of the court ruling, and that could override any presidential veto.

The regulations were challenged by Planned Parenthood of America and the state and city of New York, which argued that the regulations violate the right to free speech guaranteed by the First Amendment. The petitioners also argued that the regulations infringe on a woman's right to

have an abortion, as implied in various constitutional amendments. Many of the Jewish groups joined a friend-of-the-court brief on the petitioners' behalf.

Chief Justice William Rehnquist, writing for the majority, rejected both of those claims, while recognizing abortion as a "protected right."

"To hold that the government unconstitutionally discriminates on the basis of viewpoint when it chooses to fund a program dedicated to advance certain permissible goals, because the program advancing those goals necessarily discourages alternate goals, would render numerous government programs constitutionally suspect," Rehnquist wrote.

Rehnquist cited Congress' establishment of the National Endowment for Democracy, which he said does not alternately require Congress "to fund a program to encourage competing lines of political philosophy such as communism and fascism."

Justice Harry Blackmun, writing the main dissenting opinion, argued that "until today, the court never has upheld viewpoint-based suppression of speech simply because that suppression was a condition upon the acceptance of public funds."

Blackmun also rejected Rehnquist's argument that such regulations do not violate the First Amendment rights of clinic staffers to express themselves freely. "It has never been sufficient to justify an otherwise unconstitutional condition upon public employment that the employee may escape the condition by relinquishing his or her job," he wrote.

Justice Sandra Day O'Connor, who wrote her own dissent, agreed that "serious constitutional problems" are raised because of the regulations' "content-based restrictions on the speech of Title X fund recipients."

The court's decision "denies patients the right to receive full and comprehensive medical advice from their physicians," said Ann Lewis, chairwoman of the AJCongress Commission for Women's Equality.

The decision "amounts to nothing more than a gag order," said Harriet Horwitz, president of B'nai B'rith Women. It "will have especially pernicious consequences for those women who rely on government-supported medical care," said Reese Feldman, Women's American ORT president.

"The ruling actually compels the giving of medical advice that the physician may not believe," said Samuel Rabinove, legal director of the American Jewish Committee.

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This is just one example of the planned giving vehicles that produce tax benefits to a charitable institution. For more information, consult your tax advisor or call Connie Kreshtool, Jewish Community of Delaware Endowment Director, at 478-6200.



Jews who hid during the Holocaust gather in NY to relive their memories

By DEBRA NUSSBAUM COHEN

NEW YORK (JTA) — On the 41st anniversary of her arrival in the United States, Marguerite Mishkin peered at a 44-year-old photograph tacked to the bulletin board of a hotel lobby here, and was shocked to see a face that looked like her own.

The photo, posted at a conference here of people who as children were hidden by Gentiles during the Holocaust, showed a group of Jewish children at an orphanage, like the one in Brussels that Mishkin was taken to after the war. But Mishkin wasn't completely sure until Tandy Stewart, who had put up the photo, produced a card signed by Mishkin and her older sister.

A group of Jewish girls at the orphanage, all of whom had lost their parents during the war, had signed the card just before Stewart, then known as Annie Klein, left to join the family in Pittsburgh that was to adopt her. The Mishkin girls, who were hidden during the war by a Catholic family near Antwerp, were later adopted by a family in Chicago.

The reunion was one of many such encounters that took place here May 26 and 27 at the First International Gathering of Children Hidden During World War II.

The exchanges of stories and mementoes did more than revive long-buried memories. They proved the fact that these survivors, who often knew little or nothing of their own families, had indeed had childhoods of their own. It proved, in fact, that they existed.

It was an awakening for people who had been dogged by a sense of having missed out on the first parts of their lives. "It makes it real," said Mishkin, 50, who was taken in by a Catholic family before her first birthday and never knew any of her family outside of her sister.

Mishkin had not anticipated running into this human link to her past. After more than 40 years, the childhood friends discovered tremendous similarities in their lives. Both Mishkin, a Chicago high school teacher, and Stewart, who lives in Hillsdale, N.J., lost their parents at Auschwitz. Their ages are almost identical.

"I had no idea how overwhelmed I'd be," said Mishkin. "I've never felt that I belonged. I felt utterly alone, and now I've found somebody out there who could almost be my twin!"

The gathering, a joint effort of the Hidden Child Committee and the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, brought together some 1,600 child survivors and their spouses, along with many of their Christian rescuers.

One of these survivors, Abraham Foxman, who is now national director of the ADL, said there are an estimated 10,000 to 100,000 hidden children throughout the world. Many of those children protected by Gentiles during the Holocaust will never know their true identities, because no family members survived the war. And many of the Christians who protected these children were and are still afraid to admit that they harbored Jews.

Some Jewish child survivors, particularly in Eastern Europe, have in fact not gone public with their true identities. There, it could be of no benefit and even dangerous to be a Jew, Foxman said.

Foxman hopes that one result of this gathering will be a new ability for

"I don't know what I came to look for. There are things I have totally blocked out. But after 50 years, I realized it's all right to be alive."

those hidden in their past to come out into the open. "Perhaps if this story is told, if it is put in a positive light," it will "help bring some of them out of hiding," he said. Most of those attending the New York gathering were confronting their memories for the very first time, according to Foxman.

Among those was Jacqueline Sheirr, who stood in front of the bulletin boards scanning hundreds of scraps of paper and photographs. She saw the names of people alive and long dead, coming from all over Europe. She searched in vain for some recognizable names, perhaps the name of the Catholic boarding school near Paris where she had been sent to survive the war. Unable to find anything that would bring recognition, she turned away in tears. "The loneliness never, never goes

away," she said, crying.

Sheirr, who saw her parents and grandparents for the last time as she watched the Gestapo round them up, was hidden by a Christian woman who then took the young girl to each of the homes where Sheirr's mother had left some of the family's possessions, threatening to turn over the 10-year-old girl to the Gestapo if the items were not given to her. The woman, who had succeeded in taking of the family's possessions, then sent her to a boarding school, bringing her back to her home on school vacations only to cook and clean.

Since she was brought to the United States by the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society in 1947, Sheirr has not had much contact with other survivors or the French Jewish community.

She was not completely sure why she decided to spend her day off from her job as an assistant manager at a Manhattan clothing boutique attending the conference. "I don't know what I came to look for," she said.

"There are things I have totally blocked out. But after 50 years, I realized it's all right to be alive."

The two-day gathering included panel discussions, speeches and workshops on such topics as "The Psychological Impact of Being Hidden As A Child," "What Motivated the Rescuers?" and "Memory: Commemoration and Action." There were also screenings of films about the experiences of the hidden children. Speakers included Israeli author Aharon Appelfeld; Nazi-hunter Serge Klarsfeld, who is president of Children of French Jewish Deportees; Nobel laureate Elie Wiesel; and Foxman.

Foxman said the Hidden Child Committee will become part of ADL to continue to reach those who were hidden as children, as well as those who hid children, through education and outreach. Another international conference is expected to take place within a year or two in Europe or Jerusalem.

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Bush Mideast arms control plan could be disadvantage for Israel

By **HOWARD ROSENBERG**
WASHINGTON (JTA)—The pro-Israel community had mixed reactions May 29 to President Bush's new arm control initiative, with some activists expressing concern that it would benefit the Arab world more than Israel. Bush unveiled the plan in

a commencement address at the U.S. Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Colo.

The initiative's most ambitious provisions call for a nuclear-free zone in the Middle East and North Africa, a freeze on the acquisition of surface-to-surface missiles by countries in the

region and the eventual elimination of missiles already in the countries' arsenals. Surface-to-surface missiles, such as the Scuds that Iraq used against Israel and Saudi Arabia, are considered more of an offensive threat in the Middle East than air-launched or sea-launched missiles.

In Jerusalem, Avi Pazner, media adviser to Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, did not comment on these proposals directly. But he said Israel "attaches great importance to the efforts of the United States regarding the arms race in our region." Both countries "share the concern about the potential for destruction in the Middle East," he said.

Pazner welcomed Bush's plan to convene a conference in Paris of the five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council to consider guidelines for limiting future conventional and unconventional weapons technology transfers to the region.

But he went beyond Bush in calling for all arms suppliers to the region—not just China, France, Great Britain, the Soviet Union and the United States—to "completely stop the flow of weaponry."

In Washington, Douglas Bloomfield, former legislative director of the American Israel Public Affairs Committee, said Israel would benefit from the plan if all arms suppliers beyond the top five agreed to such guidelines. He said the Arab nations have a distinct edge over Israel now in the ability to pay for an expansion of their conventional arsenals.

Another former official of the pro-Israel lobby, Morris Amitay, said of the Bush plan: "On the surface, I think it hurts Israel." Amitay, who formerly served as AIPAC's executive director, expressed concern about the initiative's call for an eventual elimination of nuclear weapons from

the Middle East. He said that many believe Israel now has "deliverable nuclear weapons," unlike its Arab neighbors.

Israel's nuclear deterrent is needed because the Arab countries enjoy an overwhelming conventional arms advantage over Israel, Amitay said. Absent any parity in the conventional sphere, a nuclear-free Middle East would "put Israel at a great disadvantage," he said.

In New York, Malcolm Hoenlein, executive director of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, agreed that Israel cannot be asked to give up its nuclear advantage without a reduction in the Arab world's quantitative conventional edge. Any nuclear freeze agreement has to be in the "context of a larger understanding" on conventional arms control, he said.

On the proposed missile ban, one pro-Israel lobbyist, who requested anonymity, said it could make Israel more secure if it were global. If such a ban applied only to Middle Eastern and North African countries, Israel's neighbors could be suddenly rearmed with them, he said.

Also in the proposal is a call on all countries in the region to open their nuclear facilities to inspection by the International Atomic Energy Agency.

Israel might agree to such inspections if Israel officials could participate in the verification of Arab countries' nuclear arsenals, the lobbyist said. "Israel won't rely on just the IAEA to do so."

The most likely aspect of the Bush plan to win acceptance is a proposed meeting in Paris next month of the top arms suppliers to the Middle East and North Africa. That meeting, which would be attended by China, France, Great Britain, the Soviet Union and the United States, would

hammer out guidelines for limiting arms transfers to the region.

The guidelines would restrain the top five countries from selling nuclear arms and associated technology, as well as any destabilizing conventional arms. The guidelines would not bar countries in the region from acquiring conventional weapons that they "legitimately need to deter and defend against military aggression."

To ensure that any weapons sold do not end up in the wrong hands, suppliers would put into place improved export controls. The five suppliers, who an administration official said provide 80 to 85 percent of the conventional arms in the Middle East, would notify other countries in advance of certain arms sales as well.

The suppliers would also consult with each other on an ad hoc basis if a supplier believed a country was violating such guidelines, and would supply each other with an annual report on arms transfers.

Amitay and the other pro-Israel lobbyist said such guidelines should be extended to other arms suppliers, especially North Korea, which recently sold Scud-C missiles to Syria, and Czechoslovakia, which is selling the Syrians T-72 tanks. But Amitay said even this would not stem the flow of arms to the Arab states. There are many Third World countries "that will be willing to sell to the Arabs or act as intermediaries," he said.

The Bush initiative is consistent with Israel's belief that the United States should not agree to a unilateral ban on arms sales to the Middle East. Israel's fear is that such a ban would adversely affect Israel, since it relies heavily on the United States for arms, while Arab states have many alternatives.

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Jewish gays, lesbians gather in S.F.

By **TAMAR KAUFMAN**

Northern California Jewish Bulletin
SAN FRANCISCO (JTA) — "Coming out" means acknowledging one's sexual identity, but during last month's 12th International Conference of Gay and Lesbian Jews here, people seemed most excited about being openly and proudly Jewish. The registration area was a vast bouquet of colorful yarmulkes — topping both men and women — and the joyous sound of Birkat Hamazon, the blessing after meals, resounded through the dining room of the Golden Gateway Holiday Inn.

The three-day conference, sponsored by the World Congress of Gay and Lesbian Jewish Organizations, provided a rare opportunity for some 500 people from 10 countries to be completely open about who they are, and the mood was celebratory.

Olga Zhuk said that, back home in Leningrad, she had to be in two closets — as a Jew among gays and as a lesbian among Jews. But it was harder, she said, to come out as a Jew.

Her observation was echoed by participants from other countries.

"My mother's freaking out that I'm at this conference," said Pascale Bos of Amsterdam, "not because it's gay, but because it's Jewish." Her mother, a Holocaust survivor, is used to her lesbian lifestyle, she added, but the young woman's attempts to reclaim her Jewish heritage are undoing her mother's efforts to erase it. By doing

so, however, "I don't feel so much a victim as a survivor," Bos said.

While most Americans didn't have such dramatic stories, many of them also said that it's harder to come out as a Jew.

Eli Cohen, for example, said he knows gay Jews in Santa Cruz, Calif., but that few do anything Jewish. "I've enjoyed meeting this many gay Jews who are into being Jewish," he said, speaking enthusiastically of a Conservative Shabbat service he'd attended at the conference.

Reform Judaism also was in evidence, both through the host congregation, Sha'ar Zahav, and the participation of representatives from the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, with which the San Francisco synagogue is affiliated. But the Orthodox branch also was there, in the form of Orthodox men who held a daily minyan (prayer quorum), observed the Sabbath, and arranged for kosher food.

In fact, a last-minute addition to the list of 60 workshops was about being frum (observant) and gay. That combination would appear impossible but, when asked, one participant shrugged and said, "We observe 612" — instead of the 613 mitzvot, or commandments, required of observant Jews.

While religious expression was abundant — local Judaica artist Sara Shandelman did a brisk business over the weekend — all aspects of being Jewish were explored. Information

about gays and lesbians in Israel was much in demand, and a well-attended workshop on the subject outlined the challenges they face in the Jewish state.

Meanwhile, a message on the bulletin board announced a new San Francisco group forming for Yiddish-speaking "lesbiankes" — lesbians. "My grandmother never would have let that word out of her mouth," participant Asher Quell said with a laugh. A fellow New Yorker doubted his Yiddish-speaking grandmother even knew the word.

Three workshops were dedicated to parenting — a complicated prospect when both parents are of the same sex. In one session, attorney Roberta Achtenberg, who is one of two Jewish lesbians serving on San Francisco's Board of Supervisors, outlined legal barriers to adoption and the complexities of artificial insemination and child custody. It would have been a disheartening morning for the 50 people who had come to explore their options, except for the presence of four others: lesbian parents Rena Frantz and Ora Prochovnick, sperm donor Ron Elkus, and baby Tsipora Frantz Prochovnick.

At the other end of the life cycle were those with AIDS and other serious illnesses, who worry not only about dying, but about getting a proper Jewish funeral and about their bereaved lovers being recognized and supported by their rabbis and congregations.

Deleted anti-Semitic references reappear in Catholic prayer book

By MICHEL Di PAZ

PARIS (JTA) — Blatantly anti-Semitic references removed from Catholic prayers by Pope John XXIII in 1959 have reappeared in a Catholic prayer book published by Benedictine monks in the south of France.

The text calls on the faithful to "pray for the perfidious Jews, so that God would take off the veil covering their hearts and that they recognize Jesus Christ." The missal also says: "God, Thou who art merciful even to the perfidious Jews, answer the prayer we are addressing to Thee for this blind people. Let them be dragged away from their darkness."

The Benedictines deny having printed an anti-Semitic prayer book, "The term 'perfidious Jews' never had any aggressive or insulting intention toward the Jewish people," said a spokesman for the monks. "The words just mean 'unbelievers,' that is to say that they don't have faith in Christ. It is a theological description and not a moral one. It is without any

anti-Semitism."

The words of this Prayer for the Jews, which is read only on Good Friday, evolved from the Latin, which originally used the word "perifideles," or "half-believers," explained Eugene Fisher, director of Catholic-Jewish relations for the National Conference of Catholic Bishops in Washington. The word evolved into "perfidious" by the 20th century, he said.

Fisher said in an interview that "the prayer was very, very ancient in the church and was suppressed by Pope John XXIII in 1959, even before Vatican II. "So even on their own grounds, they are wrong," he said.

"This group should not have it in the prayer book," he said. "They are not observing the church teaching."

The monks of this monastery, which is located in Barraux, near Grenoble, were followers of the late Bishop Marcel Lefebvre, a schismatic Catholic who did not accept Vatican II and was excommunicated. The

monks were excommunicated, too. But when Lefebvre died, said Fisher, the pope saw an opportunity to bring those who left back into the church fold. These Benedictine monks were allowed back on condition that they remain under the auspices of a mentor, retired Cardinal Paul Agustin Mayer, who is now living in Rome.

Vatican II, which met between 1962 and 1965, changed the Prayer for the Jews, which was described by Fisher as "a prayer for unity and a prayer for the unbelievers." The next text is: "For the Jews, let us pray for the Jewish people, the first to hear the word of God, that they may continue to grow in the love of his name and in faithfulness to his covenant."

A spokesman for the French Catholic Church said that French church officials have no intention at this time of officially reacting to the monk's prayer book. "The bishops do not want to give any publicity to this publication" said the spokesman. But he said that "many bishops saw with

great sadness the new edition of this missal, including sentences removed a long time ago."

L'Amite, the Society for Friendship Between Christians and Jews, blasted the prayer book in a leading French magazine, *Le Croix*.

The daily French newspaper *Le Monde* called the publication of the prayer book symptomatic of "the state of complacency and blindness" of the conservative circles within the government of the Catholic Church in Rome.

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Women's Division of JFD establishes Presidents' Council

While most communal activity traditionally winds down in the spring, Women's Division of the Jewish Federation of Delaware has established a Presidents' Council which convened the first gathering of Presidents of Jewish Women's Organizations of Delaware on May 13.

During the past year, Women's Division, under the leadership of President Judy Topkis, has been focused on reviving the concept of providing a forum in which Jewish women's organization's presidents can discuss mutual issues, plan co-sponsored events and participate in leadership development opportunities. All of Delaware's Jewish women's organizations were invited to attend by sending a president or other officer to attend the meetings.

The next scheduled meeting will be June 13 at 7:30 p.m. The purpose of the meeting will be to coordinate events and to plan specific months when there will be joint or co-sponsored events. The group plans to continue meeting at regularly scheduled intervals throughout the year.

During the past year Women's Division has also worked with two women's organizations, Newark Hadassah and Temple Beth El Sisterhood, to produce joint programming and to promote a closer relationship between the Wilmington and Newark communities. A joint program was held on March 13 called the "Jewish Woman Today: Choices and Conflicts." The second in the series is scheduled for November.

Women in the Women's Division Campaign have also been pace-setters in maintaining a 20 percent increase over last year's campaign totals. Leslie Goldenberg, Chairperson of Women's Campaign, has maintained a corps of campaign solicitors, inspired to provide the community and Israel with the resources they need to construct appropriate agencies and services. They maintained active programming to educate, inspire and to thank workers in the four campaign divi-

sions, ranging from national training seminars, an event with Soviet activist Marina Furman to closing "thank you" social at Goldenberg's house.

In addition to further developing the Presidents' Council, the Jewish

Federation of Delaware Women's Division is planning other programs for 1991-92. To become involved, or for more information, contact Lelaine Nemser, JFD Women's Division Director, 478-6200.

Two represent JFS at annual conference

Jewish Family Service of Delaware President Norman Pernick and Executive Director Arnold Lieberman recently attended the 1991 Annual Conference of the Association of Jewish Family and Children's Agencies, which was held in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. Over 300 Board Members and Executives represented the Association's 125 member agencies at the Conference.

Pernick and Lieberman reported back to the local Board and Staff at their respective May meetings. They concurred that what the local Jewish Family Service is concerned about is typical of agencies throughout the country.

The major areas that were covered

at the Conference included the role of Jewish Family Service agencies in Resettlement and Acculturation, fund raising, public relations and marketing for JFS agencies, Board development and maintaining the Jewish identity of JFS agencies.

Pernick attended programs that were designed specifically for agency presidents and Lieberman attended a series of programs that dealt specifically with smaller JFS agencies. They agreed that both the formal and informal activities at the conference were very helpful to them in both focusing on the specific needs of their local agency, as well as being able to view it in the context of the broad picture.

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Survivors of Polish anti-Semitism skeptical of Walesa

By CATHRINE GERSON
TEL AVIV (JTA) — Many Israelis were deeply moved when Lech Walesa begged them from the Knesset rostrum last month to forgive Poland for centuries of anti-Semitism.

But a number of those who had experienced such anti-Semitism firsthand found the powerful words of

the Polish unionist-turned-president hard to stomach. For a group of old friends sitting at a Tel Aviv cafe, most of them Holocaust survivors, it was unseemly that Poland's chief of state — "that Polish anti-Semite" — was invited to speak in the Knesset, a rare honor even for visiting dignitaries.

"It's enough that he is being treated as a 'mensch,'" said Yashek (Yitzhak)

Behind the headlines

Goldberg, a tall, fragile-looking man who was born in a village near Katowice and survived three years in concentration camps, including Auschwitz. For Goldberg, stirring his coffee in the outdoor cafe on Ben-Yehuda Street, it was enough that Walesa is Polish. "All Poles are anti-Semites until they prove they are not," he said.

He conceded it was good that Walesa wanted to come to Israel and "fine that he should be welcomed. But to let him enjoy the great honor of addressing the Knesset? Why? Like all Poles, he is an anti-Semite, and he doesn't even try to hide it," Goldberg exclaimed.

The others at the table tried to calm him down. "This is not something to get a heart attack over," said one friend.

Goldberg shrugged. "To this day I don't know what happened to my two sisters and three brothers," he said. "They simply disappeared, like the rest of the Jews in Poland."

Walesa was confronted directly with the Jewish wartime experience in Poland when he visited the Yad Vashem Holocaust memorial and museum on May 21. He appeared deeply moved as he gazed at the names, etched in stone, of more than 1,400 Polish Jewish communities eradicated by the Nazis.

But that did not seem to matter to the circle of friends sitting at the cafe on Ben-Yehuda Street.

The Poles "are real anti-Semites," said Bluma Levy, a blue-eyed woman who said she was "older than 60 but not yet 70." Levy, who only recently retired from her small grocery business on Gordon Street, is also Polish-born but the only one at the table without a blue tattoo on her arm. "I was spared the camps, but not the anti-Semitism," she said.

After the war, much of which she spent hidden in the attic of a local monastery, "we went back to our home in Bendin, or at least that was what we wanted to do," she recalled. "When we came there, our neighbor who had always been very nice to us, told us that since we had run away, our flat was now hers, and since we, the Jews, had started the war anyway, it was a small price for us to pay."

According to Levy, that was the

moment she realized a Jew could trust only another Jew. The next day the family was on its way to Paris, where Bluma joined Betar, the militant Zionist youth movement.

Neither Levy nor Goldberg, or anyone else in the group of friends has ever been back to Poland.

"Why should I?" asked Renia Isacowitch. "I have nothing to look for there. My two Israeli sons don't want to go either. They know it is not a place for living Jews, only for dead ones."

"What Shamir said last year about the Poles drinking anti-Semitism with their mothers' milk is true," said Goldberg, referring to a widely publicized remark by the Israeli prime minister, Yitzhak Shamir, that offended the Polish people.

The veracity of the remark is proven every few years, Goldberg maintained. "First the pogroms in Poland, when the surviving Jews came back from the camps," he recounted. "Then in 1956 Gomulka, who threw out most of the Jews, (followed by) the convent at Auschwitz, an now Lech Walesa, an electrician, the Polish president, who is not ashamed to

visit Israel after declaring he is 100 percent Polish."

Walesa has apologized for that remark, made when anti-Semitism was injected into the presidential election campaign in Poland.

Goldberg's complaint against Wladyslaw Gomulka, who was installed as Communist Party boss in 1956, referred to the events of 1968, when the country was rocked by student riots.

Party conservatives opposed to change and hoping to oust him in the wake of the riots, seized on anti-Semitism and anti-intellectualism. As a means of attacking Gomulka indirectly, they began a war against liberals and intellectuals, many of whom were Jews.

Gomulka turned the tables on his opponents by supporting their campaign. Zionism was denounced at factory meetings held all over Poland. Many Jews were dismissed from their jobs, and thousands who decided to leave Poland were stripped of their citizenship and given one-way travel documents out of the country.

White House not swayed by changes in proposed civil rights legislation

By DAVID FRIEDMAN

WASHINGTON (JTA) — President Bush will veto the civil rights bill now being revised by Democratic leaders in the House of Representatives because he believes the proposed legislation continues to require quotas, the White House said last week.

The bill, designed to make it easier for women and members of racial, religious and ethnic minorities victimized by job discrimination to sue for compensation, was characterized by White House spokesman Marlin Fitzwater as a "wolf in sheep's clothing."

As proof that the original bill introduced in the House was a quota bill, Fitzwater pointed to the fact that the revised bill specifically makes quotas illegal. But he said the bill contains a Catch 22, forcing employers to "hire by numbers in order to meet provisions of the bill," while rendering such a practice "illegal because it violates" the provision banning quotas.

Two Orthodox Jewish groups, Agudath Israel of America and the Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations of America, agree with Bush that the bill would force employers to institute quotas in order to avoid costly law suits. But most major Jewish organizations support the legislation, denying that it calls for quotas. They have welcomed the change incorporating that position within the language of the bill. House Democratic leaders were continuing Thursday work on the bill, which is expected to reach the House floor sometime next week.

One change would outlaw race-norming, in which employment aptitude tests are scored — by percentile — separately for blacks, Hispanics and whites. It would also outlaw biased employment tests. Race-norming was actually introduced by the Labor Department in the Reagan administration because of charges that employment tests were biased against minorities. Fitzwater said Labor Secretary Lynn Martin is studying whether her department's testings are really race-norming, since the administration disapproves of the practice.

The civil rights legislation is aimed at reversing five 1989 Supreme Court decisions which put the burden on employees to prove discrimination rather than forcing the employer to prove the lack of discrimination.

Silverman Scholarships awarded

Aviva and Joseph Kamm of Green Acres are this year's recipients of Sylvia and Isadore N. Silverman Scholarships for Jewish Summer Programs. The Sylvia and Isadore N.

Silverman Scholarship Fund was established in 1989, on the occasion of the Silvermans' 55th wedding anniversary, by their children and friends. The award honors their years

of dedication to the Wilmington community, especially to Adas Kodesch Shel Emeth Congregation and to the Boy Scouts of America. Scholarships are given each year to assist young people who will participate in a summer program of Jewish study or enrichment.

Aviva and Joseph Kamm will both attend Habonim Dror Camp Galil. Aviva has graduated from the Adas Kodesch Shel Emeth Talmud Torah and will attend Gratz Hebrew High School. She is a student at Talley Junior High School. Joseph is a student at the AKSE Talmud Torah and at Burnett Elementary School. Aviva and Joseph are the children of Marga Hirsch and Ken Kamm.

The Sylvia and Isadore N. Silverman Scholarships are open to all Jewish youth in Delaware. For an application for next year's award, call the AKSE office at 762-2705.



Sylvia and Isadore Silverman with Aviva and Joseph Kamm, recipients of the 1991 Silverman Scholarship.

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Jewish groups welcome decision by Bush to waive Jackson-Vanik

By DAVID FRIEDMAN
WASHINGTON (JTA) — American Jewish organizations have welcomed President Bush's decision to recommend a one-year waiver of longstanding restrictions on commercial dealings with the Soviet Union, in recognition of the steady flow of emigration from the country. Bush's action Monday in effect extends a decision he made last December to temporarily waive sanctions contained in the Jackson-Vanik Amendment to the U.S. Trade Act of 1974.

The amendment, named for the late Sen. Henry "Scoop" Jackson (D-Wash.) and former Rep. Charles Vanik (D-Ohio), links U.S. trade benefits to Soviet emigration reform. Technically, the waiver allows the Soviet Union to remain eligible for export credit-guarantee programs of the Agriculture Department's Commodity Credit Corporation and the Export-Import Bank.

The president made the move last December to enable the Soviet Union to obtain \$1 billion worth of U.S. credits for the purchase of wheat and other American agricultural products.

The Soviets are now seeking \$1.5 billion more of such credits. But Bush's decision Monday does not guarantee that Moscow will get them. Nor does it guarantee that the president will extend most-favored-nation trade status to the Soviet Union, which Jackson-Vanik bars until Moscow allows free emigration.

White House spokesman Marlin Fitzwater said no decision has yet been made on MFN, which would allow the Soviets to export products to the United States at the lowest tariff rate. He said a decision also has not been made on when to ask Congress to ratify the trade agreement Bush signed in Washington a year ago with Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev. Bush said at the time

that he would not ask for ratification until the Soviet legislature adopted an emigration reform bill.

The Supreme Soviet passed an emigration bill last month, but many of its provisions will not be implemented until January 1993.

But one Jewish official said he expected Bush to ask for ratification and approve MFN status for the Soviets within the next two weeks.

In recommending a Jackson-Vanik waiver to Congress, Bush argued that such a move would promote the objective of the amendment: to encourage free emigration, Fitzwater said in a statement.

"The president made the decision in view of the fact that the Soviet government substantially reduced barriers to emigration for Soviet citizens," Fitzwater said.

"Numbers of Soviets emigrating rose from 2,000 in 1986 to over 370,000 in 1990. The administration believes that this positive trend will continue," he said.

The National Conference on Soviet Jewry expressed "satisfaction" with Bush's action "in light of the emigration of more than 300,000 Soviet Jews since June 1989, when the NCSJ first expressed support for such a waiver." The group cited the increased emigration last Thursday in again expressing support for a waiver.

But Mark Levin, the organization's associate executive director, said Monday that at the same time, "we must voice our concern over inadequacies in Soviet emigration practices, including the denial of visas to long-term 'secrecy' refuseniks and 'poor relatives,' as well as over new refusals imposed on individuals on grounds of 'secrecy.'"

The National Conference also expressed concern over "difficulties which have arisen recently in the processing of emigration applications

to the United States." This slowdown in the processing of applicants means that the 40,000 places held for Soviet Jewish refugees coming to the United States will not be used by the end of the fiscal year on Sept. 30.

As it did last December, the Union of Councils for Soviet Jews said Monday that it did not oppose granting the one-year waiver on humanitarian grounds. But the group urged Bush not to grant most-favored-nation trade benefits or submit the trade agreement to Congress, because it does not believe the new emigration law is adequate.

"The law that was passed is no triumph for human rights, and runs contrary to international standards of free movement and reunification of families," said Pamela Cohen, the group's president. "It simply formalizes the arbitrary bureaucratic practices that governed the emigration practice during the period of stagnation," she said, referring to the pre-Gorbachev era.

Cohen argued that by continuing to withhold MFN, at least until the law goes into effect, Bush can encourage Gorbachev "to take the lead in implementing democratic emigration reform."

But David Harris, executive vice president of the American Jewish Committee, welcomed the president's decision without qualification. He argued that since the waiver is only good through June 1992, "there will be time to monitor ongoing Soviet performance and continue to seek to ensure that any remaining restrictions on free emigration by Soviet authorities have been ended."

Abraham Foxman, national director of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, said that "as long as the flow of Jews continues virtually unimpeded, we believe granting credits to the USSR is in accordance with the spirit and intent of the U.S. law."

Services conducted again at Moscow Shul seized in 1938

By WILLIAM SAPHIRE
NEW YORK (JTA) — For the first time in 53 years, services were conducted last month at the Poliakov Synagogue in Moscow.

The building, confiscated in the prewar Stalin era, will soon be officially restored to Jewish ownership, according to Lishkas Ezras Achim, a Brooklyn-based organization connected to the Chabad Hasidic movement that ministers to the religious needs of Jews in the Soviet Union.

The occasion for the revival was the Shavuot holiday. The Orthodox service was attended by 1,200 worshippers, said Rabbi Moshe Levertov, spokesman for the group. He said he recalled vividly the day in 1938 when, as a boy in Moscow, he

saw the authorities seize the synagogue. They distributed its Torah scrolls among shoemakers but allowed the Bibles and prayerbooks to be transferred to other synagogues, he said.

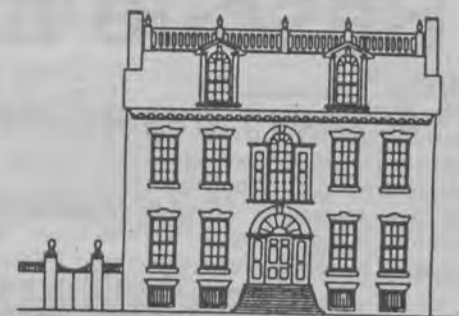
Levertov said that after Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev introduced the liberal policies of glasnost, the Chabad community in Moscow applied for the synagogue's return to its former owner. The transfer was approved a week ago by the Moscow City Council and will be completed in three months when the shul becomes the property of Agudas Chabad.

Meanwhile, the community was allowed to conduct services in the building. "Word got around, and

1,200 people showed up," Levertov said.

According to Levertov, Lishkas Ezras Achim has been active for 28 years on behalf of Soviet Jews. Until the glasnost era, it operated underground, he said.

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A miracle called

Rescue had been planned for months, es

By ALIZA MARCUS

NEW YORK (JTA)—Planning for the recent emergency airlift of Ethiopian Jewry to Israel began last October, when Israeli officials and others concerned with the cause realized there was a danger of the Ethiopian government being toppled by rebel forces.

The airlift of more than 14,000 Jews was the culmination of months of intensive negotiations with Ethiopian officials, who viewed the Jews as bargaining chips for military hardware. Although Israel refused to send arms to Ethiopia, in line with U.S. foreign policy toward the former hard-line Marxist regime, the Jewish Agency for Israel is said to have paid \$35 million for the emigration, according to a report May 26 in the Israeli paper *Yediot Achronot*.

The report said that former President Mengistu Haile Mariam, who fled the country last month, secretly visited Israel last summer and presented to Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir and Defense Minister Moshe Arens a long list of arms requests. After much foot-dragging, Israel agreed to furnish some military equipment, "but nothing that actually shoots," the newspaper reported.

The refusal to send arms represented a policy change for Israel, which until the end of 1989 supplied the Ethiopian government with military hardware.

Jewish Agency officials had no comment on the report that money was paid for the airlift, but one well-placed source said the \$35 million was given partly to offset the revenue lost by Ethiopian Airlines for not being the sole transporter of the Jews. The hurried airlift was conducted mainly by Israeli planes.

During weekly immigrant flights

arranged in the waning months of Mengistu's rule, Ethiopian Airlines charged \$1,000 for each adult carried, and \$500 for each child, according to the source.

Mengistu's shaky hold on his country, which was under attack from three rebel groups, fell apart when he fled to Zimbabwe. Before he left, he turned the government over to Vice President Tesfaye Gebre-Kidan, who has since ceded control of the capital to the advancing rebels.

The insurgent groups, from the northern provinces of Eritrea and Tigre, have been at war with the ruling government for more than 25 years, but only in recent months had they consolidated their control over the northern sections of the country.

Although the rebels made promises that they would not harm the Jews remaining in the capital, Jewish officials were worried that a rebel takeover might lead to a general bloodletting in Addis Ababa.

Despite the country's notoriety as one of the poorest on earth, the Jews have been receiving better treatment than other Ethiopians. And that prompted concern that they could be subject to reprisals if the central government fell.

The Jews, who were being fed and otherwise assisted by the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, were in danger of coming under attack even from civilians, Jewish officials here said May 28.

"Everyone was afraid that unless the Jews were moved out before the rebels walked in," their situation would become extremely precarious, said Michael Schneider, president of the Joint.

The months of negotiations over the fate of Ethiopian Jewry began in earnest last October, when Prime



A young Ethiopian Jew is carried off the plane that brought him to Israel during the rescue mission. (Photo: Z. Ozeri)

Minister Shamir appointed veteran diplomat Uri Lubrani to negotiate the exit of Ethiopian Jews. Israel and Ethiopia had resumed diplomatic relations in November 1989, four years after Israel had to abort the highly successful "Operation Moses," under which at least 12,000 Ethiopian Jews emigrated secretly from neighboring Sudan.

Lubrani, a former ambassador to Ethiopia, then contacted the Joint and asked it to enlist U.S. Jewish organizations in obtaining coopera-

tion from the U.S. government, Schneider said.

The organization worked under a shroud of secrecy and were in almost daily contact with the U.S. administration. Those involved included the American Association for Ethiopian Jewry, American Jewish Committee, Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, Council of Jewish Federations and the National Jewish Community Relations Advisory Council.

The Joint, an apolitical organization whose aim is to assist Jews in distressed countries, was a key player both in coordinating efforts in the United States and in providing relief to the Jewish community in Ethiopia.

The president of the Ethiopian Jewry association here, Nathan Shapiro, praised Schneider of the Joint as having been a prime figure in coordinating the emigration of the Jews. "He is responsible for what is

Euphoria over airlift tempered by concern

By GIL SEDAN and HUGH ORGEL

JERUSALEM (JTA)—The euphoria Israel is experiencing over the successful airlift of more than 14,000 Ethiopian Jews to Israel has

been tempered by the realization that as many as 2,000 Jews were left behind.

But they have not been forgotten.

It is believed that between 1,500 and 2,000

Jews living in remote areas of Ethiopia never reached the capital of Addis Ababa, where the Jews had congregated and were cared for by Israeli officials and Jewish relief workers from abroad until they could leave the strife-torn country.

The Israeli ambassador, Asher Naim, and his two aides, who remain in Addis Ababa, reported that all is well with the Jews left behind, who have been assured of their personal safety by the Ethiopian rebels now storming the capital. Officials of the Jewish Agency for Israel said that every effort will be made to extricate them and bring them to Israel.

But there is still the dilemma of an estimated 3,000 to 3,500 Ethiopian Jews who had converted to Christianity and were turned away at the gates of the Israeli Embassy in Addis Ababa.

The Israeli rabbinical establishment, which in the past has offended Ethiopian Jews by claiming they must undergo ritual conversion to Judaism, had done an about-face and given the green light to include the converts in Operation Solomon. But Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir decided against it.

Shamir explained May 26, "There was no way to add them on to the list of immigrants without jeopardizing the entire operation."

The converts, whose reasons for conversion varied, had joined the trek to the capital made over a year ago by Jews from Gondar province in the northwest. Although Jewish Agency

officials in Addis Ababa did not give the converts immigrant cards, they provided them with medical aid and food packages. The converts lived together with the Jews in the same poor conditions in the slums of Addis Ababa, hoping that they, too, could make aliyah.

A moving report was filed May 27 by Tamar Golan, *Ma'ariv's* correspondent in the Ethiopian capital, which was ringed by rebel forces intent on taking the capital after some 30 years of civil war in that country. She described how embassy officials had to turn back the thousands of converts, known as Faras Mora, who then threatened to break into the embassy compound.

"The Faras Mora moved to the other pavement," wrote Golan. "They were standing there, watching the Jews leaving for Israel, to freedom. They remained there for 24 hours, in the typical kneeling position, alone opposite the closed gates."

The converts began leaving May 25. "There was no reason for them to hurry, because there was no other place to go." Unable to return to their ancestral villages in Gondar, "they were aliens in Addis Ababa," she wrote.

On Monday, Sephardic Chief Rabbi Mordechai Eliahu said that even though converts are no longer legally Jews, they should be brought to Israel, because "a Jew, even if he has sinned, is still a Jew."

Airlift

Continued from 1

a group of IDF soldiers from an elite unit. Their mission was to ensure the safety of the new immigrants, Israeli personnel and the aircraft themselves.

But the fighters were not needed on the airfield, the perimeter of which was guarded by Ethiopian troops. Instead, they helped carry babies and escort the elderly off the buses that had brought the masses from the Israeli Embassy compound to the waiting aircraft.

Another group of soldiers was made up of young Ethiopian recruits now serving in the IDF. They were called together on May 23 for what was ostensibly a day of relaxation. But once aboard military buses, they were told they were on their way to Addis Ababa, to serve as interpreters, translating Amharic into Hebrew and vice versa.

In Ethiopia, group leaders appointed by a central committee of local Jewish leaders were informed that night that they should begin rounding up early the next morning the 30 families on each of their prepared lists.

The Ethiopian Jews would then be herded to the Israeli Embassy compound, carrying

only the clothes on their back, for transport to Israel in an airlift beginning on the morning of May 24.

Numbers were pasted on the foreheads of all children to ensure they kept with their group and could be rejoined if lost. Miraculously, none were.

Ironically, Israelis were some of the last people on earth to learn of the airlift, because of strict censorship rules that had barred any mention of Ethiopian Jewry since the May 21 resignation of Ethiopian leader Mengistu Haile Mariam. The news blackout was imposed for fear that publicity from Israel might jeopardize the operation, just as published reports about Operation Moses halted the 1985 airlift of Ethiopian Jews from neighboring Sudan.

Israelis who listened to the BBC or the Voice of America learned of the airlift on Friday night and Saturday. But most Israelis found out about the breathtaking operation only once it had been concluded on Saturday evening.

Perceptive Israelis, however, figured out that the news blackout meant "something was in the works."

led 'Solomon'

s, estimated to have cost Israel millions

one of the proudest moments in Jewish history," said Shapiro. "He is legitimately a hero."

Shapiro said that plans for the airlift were in place a month before the actual event took place, and that the last few weeks "were like living hell."

"We felt very certain that the airlift would happen, because we had the cooperation from everyone," Shapiro said. "The question was how long before it would happen. Could we get it done before the chaos?"

Avi Mizrahi, deputy head of the Jewish Agency operation in Ethiopia, told the Jewish Agency Executive in Israel on Tuesday that in anticipation of transferring the Jews, several plans were drawn up. The one implemented, the airlift, was given the lowest probability of succeeding.

Two weeks before the operation, officials from the Jewish Agency and the Joint met with the heads of the Ethiopian Jewish families and gave out the necessary papers to allow for quick processing of their exodus. Paths on the embassy grounds were fenced to help organize the masses of Ethiopian Jews that would descend on the premises during the operation.

A day before the airlift took place, buses were ordered on the pretext that the Jewish Agency was organizing a visit to the local zoo for the 4,500 pupils on the embassy grounds.

U.S. diplomatic efforts to bring about the mass emigration have received high praise from Jewish groups, especially President Bush's decision last month to send former Sen. Rudy Boschwitz (R-Minn.) to Addis Ababa as a special envoy.

Boschwitz told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency May 24 that his 13 hours of talks with Mengistu and Prime Minister Tesfaye Dinka had



A group of rescued Ethiopians walks down the cargo ramp of the plane and onto the soil of Israel. (Photo: UJA)

produced no formal agreement on the airlift.

Another source said Mengistu showed little interest in speeding up the emigration, but as "the rebels got closer, it became apparent that it was necessary to expedite matters."

On May 22, a day after Mengistu fled the country, Bush wrote a letter to Ethiopian acting President Tesfaye, asking him to allow the airlift to begin. He agreed late the following day, and the operation got under way May 24.

Boschwitz said Bush's letter was necessary to "cement" the negotiations, which mainly involved Ethiopia and Israel. The former senator said Mengistu had been holding the Jews as a "shield" and that his resignation made the emigration possible.

"Mengistu felt that as long as he held onto the Jews, the Americans and the Israelis would prevent him from collapsing," he said.

Bush is known for his longtime involvement in the Ethiopian Jewry cause, which began while he served as vice president in the Reagan administration. He was a driving force in the last major exodus of Ethiopian Jews, Operation Moses, which occurred in 1984 and 1985. The clandestine operation was halted after news of it was leaked to the news media in early 1985. The sudden cessation of the operation left many families divided, with some relatives

in Israel and others stranded behind in Ethiopia.

Although the flow of emigres reportedly never completely dried up, it amounted to little more than a trickle until Ethiopia restored diplomatic relations with Israel in November 1989.

Shortly after ties were re-established, Ethiopia began allowing Jews to leave for Israel under a family reunification program. When word of the program spread, Ethiopian

Jews began leaving their villages in the northwestern province of Gondar and streaming into the capital by the thousands. At one point, as many as 22,000 Ethiopian Jews were said to be situated in Addis Ababa, living in miserable conditions amid rampant disease.

The Joint was allowed to begin a humanitarian relief program to provide food, clothing and work for the Ethiopian Jews as they waited their turn to emigrate.

Airlift of Ethiopian Jews is latest of numerous Israeli rescue operations

TEL AVIV (JTA) — Israel's dramatic airlift of the Jews of strife-torn Ethiopia is but the latest chapter in a history of spectacular rescue operations mounted by the Jewish state.

Operation Solomon, the name given to the emergency airlift that brought more than 14,000 Ethiopian Jews to Israel in a 36-hour period from May 24 to May 25, is, in fact, the 16th rescue operation Israel has staged to save Jewish communities since the founding of the state in 1948.

According to the daily *Yediot Achronot*, the 15 previous rescue operations were devoted to evacuating the Jews of:

YEMEN: Code-named Operation Magic Carpet, the rescue brought about 45,000 Yemenite Jews to Israel between 1948 and 1950. A few thousand Jews are known to remain there.

IRAN: About 25,000 Persian Jews were brought to Israel between 1949 and 1950. On the eve of the Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini's rise to power in January 1979, about 2,000 Iranian Jews were brought out to Israel. Many Iranian Jews opted, however, to immigrate to other countries, and a significant number of Jews remain in Iran today.

IRANIAN KURDISTAN: Some 7,000 Kurdish Jews were brought to Israel between 1948 and 1950.

AFGHANISTAN: Some 4,000 Jews were brought from the Moslem country to Israel via Iran between 1949 and 1950.

IRAQ: More than 110,000 Iraqi Jews were brought to Israel between 1948 and 1950 in an operation code-named Ezra and Nehemiah. They were flown to Israel in 2,000 flights from Baghdad to Lod, most of them direct flights, some of them via Cyprus.

LIBYA: About 32,000 Jews were brought to Israel by boat between 1949 and 1951.

TURKEY: Through 1953, about 35,000 Jews were brought to Israel by boat. Many Jews remain in Turkey, a Moslem country long hospitable to Jews.

EGYPT: About 10,000 Jews were brought to Israel between 1948 and 1953 in a maneuver code-named Operation Goshen. Some 4,000 Karaites, who observe Torah Judaism to the letter of the ancient law, were also brought out at that time. About 12,000 more Egyptian Jews were brought to Israel in 1956 in a speeded-up rescue operation carried out during the Sinai campaign.

SYRIA: Some of an estimated 4,000 Jews who left were brought to Israel via Lebanon. Others immigrated to Europe. Emigration from Syria has been dangerous and carried out slowly.

COCHIN, India: In 1951, most of the 2,500 Jews living in the Indian port city were brought to Israel. Another 12,000 Jews of the Indian Jewish community called Bene Israel were brought to Israel in the 1950s.

THE MAGHREB: Most of the Jews from Tunisia and Algeria were brought to Israel intermittently since the creation of the state. Between 1959 and 1965, the Mossad, Israel's secret security agency, brought out 250,000 Jews from Morocco in a maneuver known as Operation Yachin. A Jewish community variously estimated at between 12,000 and 16,000 Jews continues to live comfortably in Morocco.

ROMANIA: Since 1948, more than 300,000 Jews have been brought to Israel.

ETHIOPIA: The first rescue airlift of large numbers of Ethiopian Jews took place during the tenure of Prime Minister Menachem Begin, who ordered all efforts made to bring out the Jews of that country. The rescue was carried out in several stages, mostly by plane, and included secret operations assisted by U.S. presidents. The most well known of the rescues was the 1985 Operation Moses, in which Ethiopian Jews were flown out of neighboring Sudan. It was cut short when information about the airlift was leaked to the news media.

ALBANIA: Earlier this year, about 300 Jews, nearly all of the known Jewish community of Albania, was brought to Israel in a hurried operation.

SOVIET UNION: Operation Exodus, which has brought out about a quarter of a million Soviet Jews since mid-1989, continues to assist thousands of Soviet Jews each month in making aliyah.

Israelis pour forth with aid for new olim from Ethiopia

JERUSALEM (JTA) — One of this weekend's most moving pictures was a photograph of an Israel Defense Force corporal carrying a baby new immigrant in his arms. Both are black, both Ethiopians. The soldier, a former immigrant, now a veteran Israeli, is all smiles as he takes part in the holy mission of absorption. But the baby seems to be on the verge of tears, as if asking, "Now what?"

In the lobby of the Diplomat Hotel in Jerusalem, one of the temporary absorption centers housing the new Ethiopian immigrants, expressions on the faces of veteran Israelis dra-

matically contrasted with those on the faces of the new immigrants.

The veterans seemed more excited than the brand new Israelis, and kept telling each other how exciting it was to watch history in the making. They poured into the five-star hotel carrying plastic bags loaded with used clothing and toys for the children. Some carried trays of food.

By noon on May 26, Jewish Agency officials at the hotel had to ask Israel Radio to tell the Israelis to stop bringing gifts. There was simply no more room in the building to store all of the clothes.

Most of the adult immigrants at the

Diplomat were silent. Not only because few can speak Hebrew, but also because by nature, Ethiopian Jews are soft-spoken and reserved. Perhaps they were troubled by thoughts of the difficulties that lay ahead: reuniting families, finding housing and employment, and bridging the vast cultural gap.

But their jubilant, smiling children went from one visitor to another, shaking their hands. Just a few knew enough Hebrew to hold a conversation. Those children who had been stuck in Addis Ababa waiting to leave for Israel had picked up their language skills at a school run by the Jewish Agency for Israel on the grounds of the Israeli Embassy. The school had been the largest Jewish school in the world, said Jewish Agency Chairman Simcha Dinitz, who proudly added, "It is now closed forever."

"At long last, the Jews of Ethiopia are in Israel with their families," said Dinitz after the last of the planes used for Operation Solomon had landed. "Another chapter in the history of Diaspora Jewry is closed."

But for those who were reunited with relatives they had not seen in too many years, the next chapter was just beginning. Moshe Shete silently faced two of his sisters, whom he had not seen for the past eight years. The girls, exhausted and shocked by the dramatic trip, just sat crying and staring at their brother, unable to talk.



An Israeli family reaches out to a newly-arrived Ethiopian family. (Photo: Z. Ozeri)

A miracle called 'Solomon'

At absorption centers on Ashkelon, Ethiopians adjust to new lifestyle

By CATHRINE GERSON

ASHKELON, Israel (JTA) — The sounds are strange, the smells are different, but the "Shalom" is the same greeting used by Jews all over the world. It is used by Israelis whose parents came from Germany, Poland and Morocco. Now the greeting is offered with the same intent and meaning by dark-skinned Ethiopian children playing on a lawn in Ashkelon. They stare at a reporter's white skin and blue eyes with unabashed curiosity and, if they can gather the courage, cry out "Shalom,

rental agency. They throw a worn-out basketball at each other, wearing baseball caps donated by another company.

The manager of this Jewish Agency-run absorption center is a woman familiar with the problems of settling in a new country. Ofra Aloni came from Morocco about 30 years ago. She manages three absorption centers in Ashkelon. "Each group has its own problems," she said, "but in the end, most sort themselves out."

Aloni had only 48 hours to pre-

Behind the headlines

without much formality. Each of the ex-spouses usually remarried in a few months. That worries Israel's Orthodox Chief Rabbinate, which insists that Ethiopian Jews undergo ceremonial conversion. Without it, thousands of Ethiopian children will be branded "mamzerim" — illegitimate — by the rabbinate because their

when Gila writes a note, attaches it to the thin paper file and declares Atshane's age to be 15.

Although only two families were registered in four hours, everyone took a break when Aloni entered the room to announce they were all invited to the brit milah (ritual circumcision) of the first Ethiopian baby born in Ashkelon since Operation Solomon.

The ceremony took place in the communal dining room, with only the passive participation of the parents. Danake, the mother, sat on a chair holding the baby born only hours after she arrived Saturday. She was surrounded by her five older sons, while the father sat on a chair outside, surrounded by his brothers. The mohel directed the ceremony without help from the kess, who was placed on a chair next to the mother.

Yehuda Amar, who came to Israel 30 years ago from Morocco, is the unofficial mohel of the Ethiopians in Ashkelon. He reads the blessings word by word for the father to repeat while the kess holds the infant, trying to quiet him. His name is Shai, which means "gift" in Hebrew.

After the circumcision, while most of the families settled down to an Israeli-style lunch of rice, vegetables, salad and a meat stew, a happy family reunion took place near the entrance of the absorption center.

Shaul, a 24-year-old soldier from Afula, arrived in Israel from Ethiopia six years ago with his mother and five younger brothers. He had searched the length and breadth of the country for relatives. Here, in the former French resort village, he found his mother's younger brother and was happily explaining to him how to use one of the public telephones to call

his sister in Afula. Although he heard his uncle might have been among the new arrivals, Shaul had about given up hope.



On his way to an absorption center, a new immigrant pauses for a drink of water at a rest stop set up by the Israel Defense Forces. (Photo: Z. Ozeri)

"I have been nearly everywhere the last few days," he said. "In Jerusalem, I found my father, who had heard that I died on the way to Israel. It was wonderful, just wonderful," he said, on the verge of tears. "We didn't talk, we just held each other, hugged and couldn't say a word, we were so happy."

On the way to the office, a Jewish Agency official passing the happy scene stopped to shake hands with the soldier and ask which unit he serves in. "It is at times like these I understand what Zionism is all about," she said after the conversation.



Ethiopian children are greeted as they arrive at their absorption center — the Diplomat Hotel in Jerusalem — following the emergency airlift out of Addis Ababa. (Photo: Z. Ozeri)

shalom."

Almost two-thirds of the 578 newly arrived Ethiopians housed at the former French Recreation Village in Ashkelon are children. As usual, they are the quickest to adapt. While their parents are busy dealing with the seemingly endless paperwork involved in registering as new immigrants, the Jewish Agency has set up a day-care center to amuse the nearly 400 children.

Until a few years ago, Israelis came here to vacation in a Club Med environment. Now, the facilities have become an absorption center for the Ethiopian immigrants who arrived in Operation Solomon at the end of May.

Kindergarten teachers organize play groups and continue Hebrew lessons begun at a school run by the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee in Addis Ababa. The children familiarize themselves with the heaps of toys donated by Ashkelon residents. The weather has been benevolent as well. It is sunny with mild breezes. The youngsters can sit on the lawn, which allows for easy access to their parents.

Walking around the well-kept grounds, one can see that the Ethiopians are trying hard to adapt themselves to the new, unfamiliar surroundings.

Most of the women wear their traditional white gowns but with Israeli sneakers. The children play in colorful T-shirts donated by an auto

pare for the Ethiopians sent to Ashkelon. She is happy she managed to find this one-time resort village. Her only regret is that it has a central kitchen, rather than separate cooking facilities in each apartment. That "might break up the family units. It is very important" for these patriarchal families, she believes, "that the husband can come home, walk into the kitchen and lift the lid of a pot on the stove to see what his wife is cooking."

After the registration, the immigrants undergo in-depth medical examinations. "Then we will really start getting them ready for life," Aloni said.

But registering these Ethiopians is a slow matter. There are no statistics available, but it seems that a majority of the newly arrived families consist of husbands and wives who have each been married at least once before.

Jewish Agency officials, helped by an Ethiopian translator, require an average of two to three hours to unravel the often very complicated social and blood lines of each family. Due to the haste of the initial registration in Addis Ababa, mistakes were made. Patience and repeated questioning are needed now to make sure that ages and names of parents, children and siblings are correct.

While a kess — the Ethiopian Jewish religious authority — officiated at most of the marriages, divorces were often quick split-ups

father is not the man their mother is currently married to.

Two of these children in danger of being stigmatized are Aramito Bitscha and Wasu Federe, born to the same mother, Imawai Federe. Aramito, a thin 12-year-old girl with a serious eye infection, is not the daughter of Imawai's current husband; nor is she the daughter of her first husband, Abitscha Whasu, to whom she was married at the age of 12 and divorced from without the aid of a kess. Aramito is the offspring of Imawai's second marriage, to Zemu Eremi, which lasted less than a year. No kess officiated at that wedding, and there were no witnesses.

When the social worker, Gila, heard his, she gave up, closed the file and announced that the case would be sent to Tel Aviv. Ethiopians have learned to fear that pronouncement. Anything unclear goes to Tel Aviv for further investigation and more probing into the family history.

Some cases are simpler. The next person brought in by Ezra, the translator, is Atshane Kanot, a young girl mistakenly registered in Ethiopia as having been born in 1964. That would make her 27. To support her claim that she is only 15, she brings into the room her half-sister, Metoke Naga. In broken Hebrew, Metoke, who arrived in Israel two years ago, explains that her sister cannot be 27 because she herself, who is 18, is three years older than Atshane. The case is solved to their satisfaction

New Ethiopian regime will allow remaining Jews to leave, says envoy

By HOWARD ROSENBERG

WASHINGTON (JTA) — Ethiopia has assured the United States it will not prevent Jews remaining in the strife-torn country from emigrating, former Sen. Rudy Boschwitz (R-Minn.) said Tuesday. Boschwitz served as President Bush's special envoy to Ethiopia and is credited with helping to negotiate the Operation Solomon airlift that brought more than 14,000 Ethiopian Jews to Israel on May 24 and 25.

The airlift began three days after Ethiopian leader Mengistu Haile Mariam fled the country and ended scarcely three days before the capital fell to rebel forces.

Speaking to reporters after receiving the Presidential Citizens Medal at the White House, Boschwitz said, "We did get an agreement from the new government that there will be no barriers to their leaving," he said. The agreement covers "several hundred, perhaps" left in Addis Ababa, the Ethiopian capital, Boschwitz said. It also covers "1,000 or 1,500 left up in Gondar," he said, referring to the northern province where most of the country's Jews lived before migrating to the capital.

Asked about the chances of getting to Israel the tens of thousands of Ethiopians who have converted from Judaism to Christianity, Boschwitz said, "I leave that to the liturgical department (in Israel). That's a little bit out of my line." But he added, "I don't think that the Ethiopian government has any particular reason to create barriers for anybody (who) wants to leave."

Bush, in presenting the medal to Boschwitz, said the airlift "unfolded with dazzling speed" and became "one of the most humanitarian airlifts in history."

"I think that for all Jews around the world this was an event of emotional proportions, and I just want you to know that I share in that emotional feeling, that something wonderful has happened," the president told 70 guests, mainly from the organized Jewish community.

Nobody from the Israeli Embassy was invited to the ceremony. But an embassy official said he was not upset. "It was a private ceremony, as far as we know. We don't run the White House operation."

A miracle called 'Solomon'

Jewish Agency requesting \$40 million by June 15

By ALIZA MARCUS

NEW YORK (JTA) — The American Jewish community is being asked to come up with \$40 million by June 15 to pay for the initial costs of absorbing the more than 14,000 Ethiopian Jews airlifted to Israel last month.

But the amount is small compared to the enormity of Israel's heroic effort to help these people adjust to their new homeland, said Martin Stein of Milwaukee, chairman of the Immigration and Absorption Committee of the Jewish Board of Governors and a past national chairman of the United Jewish Appeal. "The fact that this little country is doing that is just a miracle. It's a legitimate miracle," said Stein, who returned May 26 after an overnight "eyewitness mission" to Israel with 16 other UJA and federation officials. Stein, who watched two planes on May 25 unload their emergency cargo of hundreds of Ethiopian Jews, said the "image is burned in your memory."

"You see people coming off who have nothing other than the clothes on their back, having this real appearance, this wonderful appearance of being in the right place, of being home," he recounted in a telephone interview.

The \$40 million is the initial installment of an estimated \$130 million that will be needed to cover the first-year absorption costs for the olim.

said Gerald Nagel, a UJA spokesman. The money will be raised by federations in conjunction with USA and administered in Israel by the Jewish Agency. The sudden and dramatic financial need comes on top of the Jewish community's past and planned outlays to assist the 1 million Soviet Jews expected to immigrate to Israel by the end of 1993.

"We are inspired by the bold commitment of the people of Israel and reminded of our own challenge, through our regular and Operation Exodus campaigns, to help make this aliyah successful, like the continuing and not-less-remarkable aliyah of the Soviet Jews," said Nagel.

Last year, Operation Exodus in the United States raised over \$420 million for Soviet Jews. Worldwide Jewry will be contributing, through a loan guarantee program and more fund raising, an additional \$1.5 billion to Israel's ongoing absorption needs.

The money needed for the Ethiopians is "an additional challenge, and we welcome the opportunity, the challenge presented by our hopes and efforts being realized by having the Ethiopian Jews reunited with their families in Israel," said Nagel.

The Jewish Agency has open 44 absorption centers around the country, where the Ethiopian Jews will live for the first year. Because of the vast differences between Ethiopian



A young Ethiopian Jew steps off the plane in Israel. (Photo: Z. Ozerl)



and Israeli cultures, the Ethiopian Jews could not merely be provided money and expected to find their own apartments, as Soviet Jews are these days.

Stein said that as the Ethiopians arrived, the outpouring of support from Israelis was tremendous. "At hotels, the people coming with clothes were like a stream, and they were finally asked to stop," he said.

Joel Tauber of Detroit, a UJA national vice chairman who was also part of the mission to Israel, said that the street outside one hotel had to be closed because it was so crowded with Israelis coming to offer their help.

"On top of everything else, it's so overwhelming to think that Israel will absorb these people, and American Jews want to be part of this," Tauber said.

Many of the newly arrived Ethiopian Jews have relatives who came during the secret Operation Moses airlift of 1984-85, when about 12,000 were flown to Israel. Stein described one moving scene in which an Ethiopian young man, who came to Israel seven years ago and now is a university student, was waiting at one of the reception hotels to assist the new immigrants. "The first two people coming off the bus were his parents," he said.

Jewish Agency plans to settle all Ethiopian olim by end of year

JERUSALEM (JTA) — Israel's ministerial committee on immigrant absorption gave its approval Monday to a detailed plan aimed at settling every Ethiopian immigrant in permanent housing by this time next year. The ministers acted little more than a week after the remarkable Operation Solomon airlift brought more than 14,000 Ethiopian Jews to Israel in 30 hours.

The Jewish Agency for Israel presently operates 69 absorption centers for the 23,600 Ethiopian immigrants now in the country.

The approved plan was worked out by the Jewish Agency to avoid repeating the situation which kept earlier Ethiopian olim stuck in absorption centers for years because the authorities could not find them permanent housing. Under the plan, the new immigrants will be installed in permanent homes no later than May 1992, just a year after their arrival.

A key element of the plan is a financial incentive to relatives of the olim to help them achieve permanent housing.

The government plans to provide another 600 mobile homes for the new arrivals to replace hotel accommodations, which are inadequate. The immigrants living in hotels will be the first to move.

What's in a name? A lot of trouble for new olim

TEL AVIV (JTA) — Immigration and Jewish Agency officials are experiencing great difficulties in registering the more than 14,000 Ethiopian Jews who arrived in the Operation Solomon airlift last month.

The newcomers themselves are being kept confined to the hotels and absorption centers to which they were sent, until the complicated process can be completed. The officials do not want them wandering around a still-unfamiliar country, in search of family members who preceded them to Israel. The problem is compounded now because even the relatives who preceded the new arrivals are themselves wandering from one reception center to another, seeking family members.

The search for missing kin is being assisted by the Israel Broadcasting Authority's latest program, an Immigrants Network, which broadcasts two hours a day in Amharic the names of the newcomers and the reception centers where they have been placed.

But the problem remains of registering the names.

The difficulties are myriad. There is presently no available means in Israel of printing out the unusual Amharic script, of which no print fonts are available. The Israeli newspaper *Ma'ariv* has adopted the only available method, printing daily a photograph of lists of the new immigrants written roughly by hand.

But even the names themselves represent a problem. Family names have not been in use within the Ethiopian Jewish community, whose members bear only a given first name, followed by a patronym, the name of the father. Computer lists are therefore useless in compiling a register of families. It has been suggested that the immigrants be given new family names, based on the given name of the grandfather most recently deceased.

Government and Jewish Agency officials are struggling in the meantime to transliterate into Hebrew the names they are being given verbally in Amharic.

Another problem arises from the fact that none of the newcomers was ever issued certificates indicating date and place of birth. And for most Ethiopian Jews, calendar dates are vague. Most of them recall they were told they were born, or that a certain event happened, in "the year the Italians bombed Gondar," "when Haile Selassie left Addis Ababa" or in "the third year of the great famine."

But absorption officials are determined to overcome all the problems.

"It's going to be like Ellis Island at the turn of the century," one veteran official said. "When a new immigrant from Russia or Poland, responding to an immigration official's question as to his name, said 'Nicht verstanden' (I don't understand), he was registered as Nick Vorstand."

Now Israel must begin process of absorption

JERUSALEM (JTA) — Once the 40 flights of Operation Solomon had landed at Ben-Gurion Airport, the long and daunting process of absorbing the 14,087 Ethiopian Jews began.

Some 300 buses operated by the Jewish Agency for Israel transported the new immigrants directly to 45 hotels, guest houses and mobile homes throughout the country. About 3,200 olim were directed to the south, some to Ashkelon and Eilat, most to mobile homes set up by the Jewish National Fund at various sites in the Negev, including kibbutzim and moshavim. Other immigrants were taken to facilities in Jerusalem, Tiberias, Nahariya and Haifa.

About two-thirds of the immigrants are children under the age of 18, and some of them will go to institutions operated by the Youth Aliyah Department of the Jewish Agency for Israel. Those organizations are able to accommodate as many as 2,000 of the newly arrived children, who will join the 3,400 Ethiopians already there.

Arnon Mantver, director general of the Jewish Agency's Immigration and Absorption Department, predicted that the Ethiopians' absorption will be difficult.

Operation Solomon doubled the number of immigrants who arrived in Israel during May: 28,718 immigrants have arrived since the beginning of the month, including about 15,000 from Ethiopia and 12,900 from the Soviet Union.

That adds up to 84,000 immigrants since the start of 1991, according to figures released by the Ministry of Absorption, including approximately 63,000 from the Soviet Union and 18,000 from Ethiopia.



A Soviet immigrant reaches out to an Ethiopian child as they each wait for processing at Ben Gurion airport.

One of the primary problems facing the new immigrants is locating family members who arrived in Israel in either the earlier Operation Moses airlift or on flights since then.

The Israel Broadcasting authority, which began operating a special new-immigrants radio station May 26, broadcast special programs in Amharic, the language of the Ethiopians. The names of all of Operation Solomon's newcomers were announced, with details of where they had been taken.

Some families had been divided as they made the trek through Ethiopia

and arrived in Israel at different times. In many instances, one parent and a few children had been sent to one end of the country, the other parent and more children sent elsewhere.

Social workers and government officials were kept busy trying to bring together the divided families.

The new radio station began operation with 10 hours of Russian broadcasting and two hours of Amharic programming.

The Israeli public was urged to donate transistor radios to the newly arrived Ethiopians, most of whom do not have their own.

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Obituaries

Marjorie Epstein
 Marjorie Epstein, 92, of New York, died May 23. She is survived by her son, Bennett N. Epstein of North Hills. She is also survived by 3 grandchildren and 1 great grandchild. Arrangements were made by the Schoenberg Memorial Chapel.

Edith R. Danberg
 Edith R. Danberg, 71, of 11 1/2 Vilone Road, Vilone Village, Elsmere, died May 24 of complications from a ruptured aorta in St. Francis Hospital, where she was a patient. Mrs. Danberg, an accounting clerk for 11 years at Greenberg Supply Co., Church Street, retired in 1987.

She was a member of Congregation Beth Emeth and its Sisterhood, Deborah Heart and Lung Foundation and Jewish War Veterans Auxiliary.

She is survived by her husband, Irvin L.; a son, Frank M. of Arundel; a brother, Stan Roth of Dallas; a sister, Terry Bergfalk of Porterville, Calif.; and two grandchildren.

Arrangements were made by the Schoenberg Memorial Chapel.

Instead of flowers, the family suggests contributions to Deborah Heart and Lung Foundation, care of Edith Steinberg, Wilmington.

Anita Nardello Markel
 Anita Nardello Markel, of 1401 Pennsylvania Ave., Wilmington, died June 4 of cancer in Wilmington Hospital, where she was a patient. Her age was not disclosed.

Mrs. Markel, a homemaker, worked many years ago as a volunteer at Wilmington Hospital.

She was a member of Congregation Temple Beth Emeth.

Her husband, Adolph Jr., died in 1982. She is survived by two sons, Richard J. Wiener and Ronald C. Wiener, both of New York City; a sister, Ovilla Lorber of Emmaus, Pa., and three grandchildren.

Instead of flowers, the family suggests contributions to American Cancer Society or Temple Beth Emeth.

Herrmann

(Continued from 1)
 iting professor at Delaware Law School of Widener University.

Mr. Herrmann was elected to the Institute of Judicial Administration of New York University's School of Law, participated in the National Conference of Chief Justices and served on the board of directors of the American Judicature Society. He served on the board of trustees of the University of Delaware and was a vice president from 1963 to 1975. He received honorary doctor of law degrees from Georgetown University, the University of Delaware and Widener University.

He also served the Jewish community of Delaware in a number of capacities. From 1956 to 1958 he served as President of the Jewish Federation of Delaware. He was also active in the Jewish Community Center, the Milton and Hattie Kutz Home, B'nai B'rith, the old Avoda Club, the Jewish Community Relations Council and the YMHA. He was building chairman for the construction of Temple Beth Emeth.

Mr. Herrmann "represented everything that was fair and right," said Justice Andrew G.T. Moore II. "He was the embodiment of the true meaning of the word 'justice.' No finer tribute to him exists than the words he selected from the Book of Micah to appear on the outside wall of Temple Beth Emeth: '...justly...love mercy and walk humbly with thy God,' that was Chief Justice Herrmann."

Mr. Herrmann's first wife, Zelda, died in 1980. He is survived by his wife of six years, Millicent H.R. Herrmann; two sons, Richard and Stephen, both Wilmington attorneys; a brother, Jay of Wilmington; a sister, Edna Solomon of Long Island, New York; four grandchildren and two stepgrandchildren.

Instead of flowers, the family suggests contributions to the Widener University School of Law, Delaware Campus, or the Jewish Federation of Delaware.

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'Brotherhood Pact' is seen by Israel as virtual takeover of Lebanon

TELAVIV (JTA)—Israel has asked the United States to convey a warning to the Syrian government that it will not tolerate changes in the military status quo in Lebanon as a result of the Syrian-Lebanese "brotherhood pact" signed in Damascus on May 22.

Israeli officials consider the accord a virtual takeover of Lebanon by Syria, with some calling it tantamount to annexation. But the message sent via Washington was to caution President Hafez Assad not to exercise his new control in a way that would cross the metaphorical "red line" that has kept the two nations from clashing in Lebanon in recent years.

The most serious infringement would be the southward movement of Syrian troops toward the Israeli border, which Israel would not permit.

Otherwise, Israel will measure Syria's intentions by the extent to which it allows terrorist groups to operate against Israel from southern Lebanon.

Palestinian guerrilla groups and two Shi'ite groups, the pro-Syrian Amal militia and the pro-Iranian Hezbollah or Party of God, were said to be bracing for a pre-emptive Israeli

Analysis

military strike in response to the Damascus agreement. But there were no signs of the massive Israeli military buildup in the southern Lebanon security zone or along the Israeli-Lebanese border that had been reported by foreign news media.

Israeli officials have denied anything more than a heightened alert in response to events in Lebanon. Officers of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon confirm that there have been no unusual Israeli military preparations in the region.

Israeli experts acknowledge that Syria won a diplomatic victory by subjugating Lebanon. But one expert on Syria, Hebrew University Professor Moshe Maoz, believes Assad will proceed with caution. "I think Syria's aim is not to swallow Lebanon because they tried to do that in 1976 and had problems digesting it," Maoz said.

He was referring to the entry of Syrian troops into Lebanon, at the nominal request of the Arab League,

to try to end the civil war that had broken out between Moslems and Christians. "I think that Assad has now become more clever, more realistic. His control will be indirect," Maoz predicted.

But he expects Damascus to muzzle the Beirut press, which has operated freely until now. And while Syrian control may halt interethnic violence, there will be increased terrorist activity against the security zone and Israel, Maoz forecast.

According to other experts, the "brotherhood pact" contains no timetable for the withdrawal of Syrian troops from Lebanon and thereby legitimizes their presence. It weakens calls for the withdrawal of all foreign forces from Lebanon and turns the country into a Syrian protectorate, these experts say.

They point to the growing weakness in the Christian camp, which has refrained from confronting Syria. The Lebanese president who signed the pact, Elias Hwari, is Christian. But he owes his position entirely to the Syrians.

According to some Israeli analysts, the feeble response from the once militant Christian community stems from a lack of support abroad and Syria's improved image in the West, including the United States, which appreciates its participation in the recent war against Iraq.

The Israeli daily *Yediot Achronot*, in a long analysis of the Syrian-Lebanese pact, says it may have "affected Israel's prestige among its supporters in Lebanon" but "did not substantially change the security situation along the northern border."

"Moreover, the claim that increased Syrian involvement in Lebanon provides Israel with more security is not groundless," the newspaper observed.

It said there has been a longstanding covert agreement between Israel and Syria, dating from 1976, when Syrian troops entered Lebanon "with the blessings of the then prime minister (of Israel), Yitzhak Rabin." The understanding was broken briefly when Israel invaded Lebanon in 1982

and clashed with Syrian forces.

Thereafter, "Israel obtained Syria's covert agreement to its operations in the security zone while Syria obtained covert Israeli agreement to its operations in the rest of Lebanon," *Yediot Achronot* said.

"Damascus and Jerusalem alike have created a murky picture of their relations in Lebanon. But the truth is there are more points of assent between Syria and Israel regarding Lebanon than points of dissent," the newspaper claimed. "Although the Syrians with Israel could be rooted out of the security zone, they will shed no tears if Israel remains there, because that provides more legitimacy than yesterday's agreement to the continued presence of Syrian forces in Lebanon," it said.

Greek court allows extradition of Achille Lauro suspect

By JEAN COHEN

ATHENS (JTA)—A three-member appeals court here ruled May 28 that an Arab man suspected of taking part in the October 1985 hijacking of the Achille Lauro cruise ship may be extradited to Italy. But the suspect, Abdulrahim Khaled, 56, is appealing the ruling to the Greek Supreme Court.

And even if the high court backs extradition, it will be up to the Greek justice minister to decide whether to comply with Italy's longstanding request. In the past, the justice minister has decided against extraditing Arab terrorists arrested in Greece.

Moreover, the prosecutor said any extradition would have to be delayed, because Khaled must first stand trial for crimes allegedly committed in Greece and serve time if convicted.

Khaled, who has been variously described as a Palestinian, Yemenite or Arab, was tried in absentia by a Genoa court and sentenced in 1987 to life imprisonment for his role in planning the hijacking, in which an American Jewish man, Leon Klinghoffer of New York, was killed and thrown overboard in his wheelchair. The attack was masterminded by the Palestine Liberation Front of Mohammed (Abul) Abbas. Khaled has been described as Abbas' top lieutenant.

The appeals court rejected a request by Khaled's lawyer, Constantine Koutras, for a 15-day postponement of the hearing. Koutras said he needed that time to collect evidence proving that his client is not the person wanted by the Italian authorities.

Khaled was arrested in Athens on March 5, along with three Greeks, one of whom, Petros Floros, had likewise been tied to the Achille Lauro affair. The Italian court had not found substantial evidence, however, to convict Floros.

Police found 12 sticks of dynamite in Floros' apartment at the time of the arrest and determined that the explosives had been intended to blow up a local branch of Barclays Bank.

Prosecutor Alexandros Metaxas said execution of the extradition order will be delayed, because Khaled must first be tried for crimes allegedly committed in Greece, such as the possession of explosives.

That case is expected to be brought to court in two months.

In New York, Kenneth Jacobson, director of international affairs for the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, which has been involved in the case, said, "We are much more optimistic that the person will be turned over to Italian authorities."

"The government of (Conservative Prime Minister) Constantine Mitsotakis has shown a much more positive attitude on the subject of terrorism" than the previous Socialist regime of Andreas Papandreu, he said.



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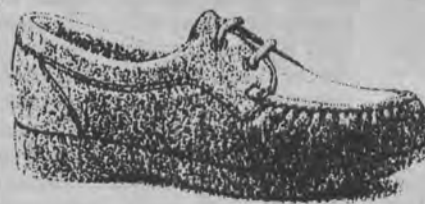
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Announcements/Events

JWV convention held at Congregation Beth Shalom

The 44th annual convention of the Jewish War Veterans of the United States, Department of Delaware, held at a breakfast meeting at Temple Beth Shalom on Sunday, May 26, "was an occasion to look back at the

past 1990-91 year with genuine satisfaction at significant accomplishments, and to commit to increased efforts and community service in the years ahead," according to Bob Barnett, Senior Vice Commander.

Certificates of Merit were presented to Paul Hirschman for 42 years of dedicated service to the Elsmere VA Hospital and to Bob Golder, Morris Freschman and Ralph Safran (posthumously) for over 25 years each of accomplishment in various assignments. New members Allen Baker, Bernie Shaffer and Martin Berger were sworn in.

Special memberships and a place of honor in the City Memorial Day Parade on Thursday, May 30, were awarded to two Delaware World War I Veterans; Samuel H. Groundland and Dr. Louis Levinson.

Guest speaker was Levinson's father, Delaware Insurance Commissioner David Levinson. Following the Convention, Cantor Norman Swerling, JWV Department Chaplain, conducted a Memorial Service at the Jewish Community Cemetery.

Included in the projects completed by JWV during the preceding year were:

- A pall cover was donated to the Delaware Veterans Cemetery near Chesapeake City for use in funerals of veterans of all faiths.

- VA Hospital activities included the donation of 6 hearing aids to veterans who do not qualify for government issue equipment; the donation of a special bedboard used in transporting and transferring patients; and sponsoring and conducting once-a-month bingo games for the patients — a very well received diversion for these shut-ins.

- Essay contests were conducted at two local high schools; the subject was Americanism; and U.S. Savings Bonds were awarded to the winning senior.

- Special efforts were made to

welcome Russian emigrants now living here. The six WWII war veterans among them have been given associate memberships in the JWV, according to Barnett.

- On National Holidays and other community ceremonies, JWV members participate as a civic duty. The JWV Department of Delaware sponsored the November 11, 1990 Veterans Day observance at the Memorial Bridge Plaza. JWV members joined other Veterans groups at the Veterans Cemetery and in the City parade on Thursday, May 30. At the Jewish Community Center 90th Anniversary Dinner, the JWV Color Guard paraded the Colors and led the Pledge of Allegiance and also raised the flag at the JCC Campsite opening. Flags were placed on Jewish Veterans graves at local cemeteries prior to Memorial Day.

- A JWV Wall at the Jewish Community Center was dedicated. When completed, memorabilia and plaques perpetuating veteran activities and deceased members will be displayed.

Maintaining a veterans tradition, members sold poppies to the public on Memorial Day. All proceeds are used to benefit less-fortunate veterans.

Officers for the 1991-1992 year include: JWV Department of Delaware Commander, Israel Weiner; Senior Vice Commander, Norman Robbins; Junior Vice Commander, Betty Lubin and Adjutant, Seymour Donner; Harry Fineman Post 525 Commander, Harry Lubin; Senior Vice Commander, Garry Greenstein and Junior Vice Commander, Tom Mattes; Nathan Balick Post 747 Commander, Sam Braxman; Senior Vice Commander, Bob Barnett, and Junior Vice Commander, Len Dukart; Arthur Blatman Post 767 Commander, Sam Geller; Senior Vice Commander, Morris Glazier, and Junior Vice Commander, Al Goldstein.

Rosh Hodesh service

The Adas Kodesch Shel Emeth Women's Tefillah Group will celebrate Rosh Hodesh Tammuz on Thursday evening, June 13, promptly at 8 p.m. The brief service will be led by Ann Jaffe, with a D'ver Torah by Naomi Goldstein. The group invites

all women and teenage girls of the community to join in marking Rosh Hodesh, the New Moon. Traditionally a women's holiday, Rosh Hodesh has become an occasion for contemporary Jewish women to join in prayer, study and fellowship.

Lunch 'n Learn on Jewish Law

Chabad-Lubavitch announces the continuation of its Lunch 'n Learn series on Tuesday, July 2, at 12:15 p.m., in the law offices of Skadden Arps, One Rodney Square in Wilmington. The guest lecturer is Rabbi Dr. Heshel Greenberg and his topic will be, "The Philosophy of Punishment in Jewish Law."

Greenberg is returning to Wilming-

ton having spoken last March at a Lunch 'n Learn session and also at a community lecture at the JCC. Greenberg is adjunct professor in the Judaic Studies Dept. at SUNY-Buffalo, currently teaching Jewish Medical Ethics, Philosophy and Talmudic Law. His most recent book, "P'are Hamelech," an intricate commentary on Maimonides' legal code, Mishnah Torah, has received wide acclaim by Jewish legal experts.

"We look forward to hearing Rabbi Greenberg once again. He is indeed an erudite scholar and an excellent presenter of Jewish law and philosophy," said David Margules, coordinator for the program. For more information and reservation, call Margules at 651-3115, or the Chabad office at 478-4400.



Rabbi Greenberg

Wilmington AZA renamed

Wilmington AZA recently held a special meeting to rename its chapter to "Brian L. Dombchik AZA." Brian was a active member of this organization throughout his high school years. He passed away in December after a battle with cancer.

"Though I never knew Brian, he effected my life just by witnessing the effect he had on others," said Jason Stein, President.

The Dombchik Family has established the "Brian L. Dombchik Award" to be presented annually to an individual in the Central Region East who "exemplifies an all around BBYO'er."

BBYO elections held

On May 12, 1991, at "Spring Fling," the B'nai B'rith Youth Organization's Spring Convention, seven Wilmington BBYO members were elected to the Aleph Zadik Aleph and B'nai B'rith Girls Center Region East Executive Board.

Elected to the AZA board from Wilmington are Dan Weinstein, Regional Aleph Godol (President); Eric Connor, Regional Aleph Sigan (Vice President); Craig Koniver, Regional Aleph Moreh (Membership); and Pete Rothschild, Regional Aleph Dovair (Fundraising).

BBG board members elected from Wilmington are Staci Levin, Regional N'Siah (President); Alli Meyer, Regional Mit-Mom (Membership); and Stacy Hochheiser, Regional Mazkirah (Secretary).

Locally, both the Brian L. Dombchik AZA and Wilmington BBG conduct meetings, plan activities for themselves under the guidance of BBYO adult volunteers and JCC professional staff, and elect chapter officers. On May 15, local chapter elections were held and the results are: Natalie Heiman, N'Siah (President); Ellen Levy, S'ganit (Vice President/Programmer); Shana Deitch, Mit Mom (Membership/Recording Secretary); Alexis Barth, Mazkirah (Corresponding Secretary); Wendy Goldberg, Dovairit (Treasurer); and Alli Meyer, Madricha (Past President).

These new officers will be inducted on June 13 and will hold their offices for a one year term.

For more information regarding BBYO, contact Paul Mann, City Director at the JCC, 478-5660.

Hebrew reading course

Chabad-Lubavitch of Delaware has announced the return of its summer Hebrew reading course titled, "Learn to Read Like a Mayven." The course is open to the entire community, from total beginners to those wanting pre-Rosh Hashannah "tune-ups."

According to Rabbi Chuni Vogel, director of Chabad of Delaware, "We are addressing a significant need in the community. We have, today, the most highly educated generation of American Jews — scientists, doc-

tors, lawyers, etc. — of whom many are, for whatever reason, unacquainted with the Hebrew language and tradition. This imbalance in education is the most serious problem we face and its remedy is crucial."

Classes are on various levels, with emphasis on maximum participation, and are kept small. For registration and more information, call the Chabad office at 478-4400.

Moshiach to be subject of Chabad lecture

Chabad-Lubavitch announces its upcoming community lecture to be held at the JCC on July 2 at 7:30 p.m. Rabbi Dr. Heshel Greenberg, adjunct professor at the Judaic Studies Dept., SUNY-Buffalo, is the guest lecturer and his talk is titled, "A New World Order and the Moshiach Concept."

Greenberg currently teaches Jewish Law and Philosophy and is a noted author and speaker on Jewish issues. The lecture will explore the origins of the belief in Moshiach in Torah, law and history, and the non-Jewish Messiah as opposed to

Moshiach in Judaism. It is a principle of Jewish tradition, or a practical method of hope and survival through the suffering and trials of Jewish history? A question and answer period will follow the talk.

"The subject of Moshiach is, for most Jews, at best a clouded mystery with Christian undertones," said Rabbi Chuni Vogel, director of Chabad-Lubavitch of DE. "This lecture will shatter myths and provide a uniquely Jewish view."

The lecture is open to the community. For more information call Chabad at 478-4400.

Beth Sholom trip to A.C.

Congregation Beth Sholom of Dover is sponsoring a trip to the Claridge Hotel and Casino in Atlantic City on Sunday, July 14, to see the Broadway musical "Barnum." Cost for the trip is \$20 which includes round-trip bus transportation, a ticket for the 6 p.m. performance of "Barnum," and one drink coupon. The bus will depart from Beth

Sholom at noon and will arrive in Atlantic City at 3 p.m. The bus will arrive back in Dover at 11 p.m. Passengers from the Wilmington area can be picked up and dropped off at Clemente's in Wilmington.

For reservations, call the synagogue office at 734-5578 by July 1. Participants must be 21 years of age or older.

YJAD elections

The Young Jewish Adults of Delaware (YJAD) held elections on Tuesday, May 20, at the Jewish Community Center. The following people were elected to office for the 1991-1992 term: Aaron Gobler - YJAD Chairman; Debbie Sadoff - Programming Chairperson; Sandy Cook - Membership Chairperson.

YJAD publishes a monthly newsletter, *The Schmoozletter*, on a monthly basis. There are currently over 400 people who receive this publication. To receive a copy, call the JCC Front Desk at 478-5660.

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Jewish population in Israel may overtake diaspora

By TOM TUGEND
 LOS ANGELES (JTA)—The good news is that in about 25 years there may be more Jews in Israel than in

the entire Diaspora. The bad news is that at about the same time there may be more Arabs than Jews in the Jewish state.

These projections by demographer Sergio DellaPergola of the Hebrew University rest on a fair number of cautionary "ifs." If aliyah over the

next two to three decades reaches 1 million, then, given a steady Israeli birthrate, there will be about 6.5 million Jews in Israel by the year

2020 C.E. If, over the same period, the Diaspora population drops by 500,000, due to emigration, intermarriage and low birth rates, only about 6 million Jews will remain outside Israel.

Similarly, the future Arab-Jewish ratio depends on certain assumptions. If aliyah in the next 25 years comes only to 500,000, and if — and that's a big if — Israel holds on to the West Bank and Gaza Strip, Arabs will equal and then gradually overtake a Jewish population of about 5,800,000 by 2020.

"Every 100,000 new Jewish immigrants above the half million figure will postpone the Arab-Jewish population tie by one year," said DellaPergola, who heads the division of Jewish demography and statistics at the Hebrew University's institute of contemporary Jewry.

The 42-year-old, Italian-born demographer presented his projections and some of their implications May 5 at the 18th annual Hebrew University academic conference, hosted by the Western States Region of American Friends of the Hebrew University.

Whatever the picture in Israel, DellaPergola foresaw a slow but steady decline of the constantly aging Diaspora Jewry, particularly in Europe and Latin America. The United States will continue as the main Diaspora community, he predicted, but the population shift toward Israel will alter the relationship between the two premier Jewish communities.

How to do business in the Arab world

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 4. Participate or own shares, now or in the past, in Israeli firms or businesses in or outside Israel?
 5. Render or ever rendered any technological assistance to any Israeli firm or business?
 6. Represent or ever represented any Israeli firm or business in Israel or abroad?
- II. A list showing the names and places of incorporation of all companies into which your company or any of its subsidiaries holds shares, as well as the percentage of shareholding in each case.
- III. A list showing the names and places of incorporation of all companies holding shares in your company or any of its subsidiaries, as well as the percentage of the holding of each of them.

It should be noted that the above questionnaire represents in a nut-shell the basic rules of the Arab Boycott of Israel. However, in case you wish to have the position of your company settled so that to continue its trade with the Arab countries, you should furnish us with the following two additional documents—in addition to the answers to the above questions —after having all those documents duly authenticated by an Arab embassy or diplomatic mission in the U.S.A.:

- a. A declaration to the effect that your company, as well as all of its subsidiaries, have completely and conclusively ceased to import any Israeli materials or products in the future.
- b. An undertaking to the effect that your company, as well as all of its subsidiaries, will never export to the Arab countries any Israeli products in the future.

We hope to receive all the above requested documents within a grace-period not to exceed three months from this date.
 We remain,

Very Truly Yours,
 (signature)

Zouheir Akil
 Commissioner General
 Central Office for the Boycott of Israel

The above letter, which first appeared in the Near East Report, was sent recently to a U.S. company.



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Jewish population survey highlights American successes, problems

The American Jewish population is highly educated, overwhelmingly American-born, politically liberal, consists in great part of the baby boom generation, is extremely mobile, lives increasingly in the South and West, has a strong attachment to Israel and to a substantial extent is secular rather than religious. In addition, intermarriage has been increasing steadily and is a major factor in the American Jewish experience with significant implications for current involvement and the next generation.

These are among the findings revealed in the Highlights of the National Jewish Population Survey, which has just been released by the Council of Jewish Federations.

It is the most comprehensive study ever undertaken of the Jewish population of the United States. The survey highlights, in their final printed form, will be available to the public this summer at a cost of \$10 per copy.

The survey was conducted by CJF, the continental organization of almost 200 Jewish Federations.

As revealed last fall, the survey found that there are just over 5.5 million "Core Jews" — those who reported themselves Jews by Religion (Born Jews or Jews by Choice), or as "Secular Jews" (those born Jewish who report having no current religion); this represents a slight increase in the Jewish population since the 1970 CJF national study which put the population level at 5.4 million.

The stability of the Core population over a 20-year period goes against some predictions made after the previous study of a rapidly declining Jewish population. The total population in the survey, however, numbers 8.2 million living in 3.2 million households in which there is at least one member who is Jewish or had a Jewish parent.

The survey obtained an enormous

amount of information which will take years to analyze fully. Among the significant findings are:

- More than 90 percent of American Jews were born in this country;
- One-third of the entire Jewish population was born between 1946 and 1964, the baby boom years;
- The stereotype of the nuclear family, with two Jewish parents and children, is present in only 17 percent of the 2.7 million households containing a Core Jew; the Jewish fertility rate is lower than that of the U.S. white population as a whole;
- There is a high proportion of elderly among the Core Jews (15 percent), which is one-third higher than in the general U.S. population;
- Since 1985, less than half of Jewish marriages involve two partners who were born Jewish, with some five percent of these unions involving one partner who is a convert to Judaism; the Survey finds increasing acceptance of intermarriage, even among those who practice the religion;
- Nevertheless, Jews by Choice (converts) number 185,000, not substantially less than converts from Judaism (210,000);
- There is a remarkably high level of education, with over 50 percent of Jewish men being college graduates, compared to 24 percent of the population as a whole. As far as women are concerned, 45 percent of Jewish women are college graduates, compared with 17 percent in the general population;
- The regional distribution of the Core Jewish population shows that 44 percent live in the Northeast, 23 percent in the West, 22 percent in the South and 11 percent in the Midwest; the South and West have doubled their Jewish population since World War II, while the Midwest has lost one-quarter of Core Jews born there;
- American Jews are a mobile population; nearly half changed their

residence in the last six years;

•Of the 8.2 million people in a household where a Jew is present, 6.1 million are in the work force, with 70 percent in the private sector, nine percent in the non-profit sphere, 15 percent in government, with six percent listed as "other"; 16 percent are self-employed;

•There are four times as many Jews who practice the religion as there are secular Jews: 4.4 million to 1.1 million;

•Nevertheless, more respondents chose cultural or ethnic group than chose religious group to describe what it means to be Jewish in America;

•There has been recent growth in numbers of children receiving a Jewish education, particularly among younger children;

•The vast majority in the Core Jewish population receive some Jewish education and have Bar/Bat Mitzvah ceremonies;

•80 percent of the Jews by Religion population have a denominational preference for the Conservative and Reform synagogue movements;

•There is a surprising level of residual Jewish behavior even in households beyond the Core population, for example, attending a Passover seder, fasting on Yom Kippur, lighting Chanukah candles or never having a Christmas tree;

•The emotional attachment to Israel is highest among Jews who practice the religion (83 percent) but spans the entire range of the population of Jewish descent;

•Jews across the spectrum, averaging 79 percent of all segments of the Jewish population, perceive anti-Semitism to be a serious problem in the United States today; nevertheless, only five percent have personally experienced discrimination in a job situation;

•45 percent of the Jewish population defines itself as liberal or very liberal, 20 percent conservative or very conservative, with 30 percent calling themselves middle of the road. In addition, American Jews vote: over 80 percent of adults are registered voters, while 35 percent contributed to a political campaign in the past three years;

•80 percent of Jewish households give to charities, including Jewish and non-Jewish causes; 50 percent of the adults serve as volunteers.

The survey was based on 2,441 completed interviews in 49 states drawn from an initial sample of 126,000 randomly selected Americans. The procedure allowed for an equal probability of Jews to be selected from every state whether in small towns or in major metropolitan areas so that a national picture could emerge so.

During the course of the survey it was learned that beyond the 8.2 million people, a considerable number of Americans who are not Jewish consider themselves Jews because of an affinity for Jewish values or, as in the case of some Christian fundamentalists and others, a biblical sense of being Jewish. Those without identifiable Jewish background were later dropped from the sample.

The survey data will be used by CJF, Federations and other Jewish organizations across the country to assist in their planning for present and future communal needs.



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Dear Rachel

For the past year, I have been going out with a wonderful, sweet, sophisticated, successful man who is 16 years older than I am. We have been talking off and on about the possibility of getting married. He has ten and fourteen year old boys from his first marriage, which is kind of weird but I think I can deal with it.

Last night I overheard him talking on the phone with a childhood friend of his from California about whether or not to marry me. I got so angry I was ready to throw him out of my life — through the nearest window. How can he discuss my life and my future with someone who has met me for three hours over dinner one time six months ago? He said he needed to talk to someone who knew the real him. If he has questions about whether we should get married, I'm the one he should be talking to! What am I, his armpiece? I thought he loved me for me, and that we were everything for each other. Can this marriage be saved? Or should I tell him to go spend his nights in California with his friend?

Fiancées Before Friends

Dear Fiancee,

If you have to ask forget the wedding. For this relationship to have a future, you two will have to do a lot of talking. Your belief that you can be all things to each other is on a collision course with your fiance's knowledge of his first marriage. It doesn't matter how wonderful he is. He knows from experience that he is incapable of being everything to you. He also knows that juggling the needs of two boys impacts on a relationship. He is scared. He is reaching back for "unbiased" advice from someone who knows him without the trappings of success. The answers he got are not significant. The fact that he had to ask the question is.

Your fiance has a long history that you do not share. That previous life, and your own background, will impact again and again on your relationship. You will have to deal with your age difference if things are going to last. Why, for instance, are you attracted to each other? How do you deal with his previous life experiences, including friendships, children, and his ex-wife? If you haven't thrown this wonderful man out by the time your letter is published, I suggest the two of you seek some professional help in sorting all this out. Good luck.

Rachel

Send letters to, "Rachel, c/o The Jewish Voice, 101 Garden of Eden Rd., Wilmington, DE. 19810." Names and details will be altered to protect your privacy.

Changes sweeping Latin America mean promise, peril for Jews

By DAVID LANDAU
JERUSALEM (JTA) — Profound political changes and negative economic developments that have overtaken South America in recent years hold both promise and peril for the estimated 800,000 Jews who live on the continent, mainly in Argentina and Brazil.

That is the opinion of Rabbi Henry Sobel, a transplanted North American who for more than 20 years has been religious leader of the Reform temple in Sao Paulo, Brazil, the largest Jewish congregation in Latin America. Sobel, a vice president of the Latin American Jewish Congress, was in Jerusalem last month attending the ninth plenary assembly of the World Jewish Congress, of which the Latin American Jewish Congress is an affiliate.

He was happy to note, he said, that Latin America is no longer a "stepchild" of the world Jewish community. Sobel recalled that at the WJC's 1977 international parley in Washington, "there was hardly a minyan at the session devoted to Latin America. This time, the conference hall was filled to overflowing," he said.

Sobel said the political changes that swept the continent in recent years in the direction of democratization and away from military rule mean "that politics are no longer taboo. Those of us who were involved in the human rights movement during the bad years have now gained credibility," he said.

He said the "great moral issues" now challenging the continent are "hunger and corruption."

According to Sobel, "the common denominator among most of the countries is poverty and often violence and terrorism. The Jewish establishment now understands the need for Jews to get into these issues, partly to ensure the qualitative survival of our own Jewishness," he said.

He said the top priority "is to make Jews more Jewish" through direct religious experience and education. "But for some of the best elements of the community in Latin America, for

the intellectuals, religion alone is not enough," Sobel said.

"Young Jews felt the community was not interested in the moral and human rights issues in the bad years — and they were right," he said. "The Jews preferred to play it safe."

But greater political openness and involvement has not reduced other Jewish concerns. The severe instability that affects many South American countries worries the Jews because it could lead to anti-Semitism.

"Throughout the continent, the fundamental question staring at everyone," said Sobel, "is: Is the recession temporary or will it do permanent damage to our society? Is inflation under control, or will it surge into hyper-inflation?" The uncertainty for the future creates "a situation in which Jews tend to neglect their Jewishness," he said.

He said that pro-Arab sentiment and an increasingly active Palestinian community, including the Palestine Liberation Organization, sometimes make common cause with indigenous elements promoting hatred of Jews, especially in Brazil. He said that Brazil has a particularly proud record of racial harmony and non-discrimination. But the nation became politically and economically mortgaged to the Arab states during the 1970s when it bought oil from them on credit and increasingly supplied them with arms.

The arms supply relationship has continued even after the Persian Gulf War, Sobel said. Furthermore, the liberalization that has spread over the continent means that all political groups are free to speak out, including anti-Semites.

While outbreaks are sporadic in Brazil, they are frequent and endemic in Argentina, Sobel said.

"We need allies," he declared. "The far left is pro-PLO. The far right is tainted with anti-Semitism. We need allies abroad and allies within our societies. The basic policy of the Latin American Jewish Congress," he said, "is to seek common ground with other forces, sometimes other minorities within our countries."

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This week's column for New Americans advises those who are expecting family members to arrive in the near future about applying for refugee status at the American embassy in the Soviet Union and warns of the fragility of the emigration process due to the "breakdown of central Soviet authority with the result being that the local OVIR offices are interpreting existing regulations which is leading to an increase in refusals of permission to emigrate." The column also provides interview tips for family members who will be applying for emigration permission and refugee status.

ХНАС СООБЩАЕТ...

ХНАС сообщает, что за семь месяцев 1991 финансового года (до 30 апреля) в Америку приехали всего 11095 евреев. Если такое положение не изменится до октября 1991 года, то количество приезжающих окажется значительно ниже запланированного. Это, в свою очередь, может повлиять на выделение американским правительством денежных средств для помощи переселенцам на последующие годы. Во всяком случае, выезжающие, уже получившие разрешение, должны делать все от них зависящее, чтобы выехать из СССР в этом финансовом году.

Поскольку советское правительство не имеет в настоящее время реальной власти, ОВИР в разных городах устанавливает свои правила и по-разному интерпретирует существующие законы, что во многих случаях приводит к необоснованным задержкам или даже отказам. Из-за проблем с ОВИРОм тысячи советских евреев, которых ожидали в Америке в 1991 финансовом году, не смогли выехать из СССР.

Американское правительство ведет переговоры об улучшении создавшейся ситуации, но пока не было достигнуто никакого соглашения.

Тем, кто ожидает родственников из Советского Союза, возможно, будет полезно узнать следующее..

В большинстве случаев американское правительство оформляет все документы в течение четырех месяцев после интервью в посольстве США в Москве. Советские власти затрачивают в среднем шесть или семь месяцев на оформление документов. В связи с этим ваши родственники должны подать заявление в ОВИР как только они узнают, что им назначено интервью в посольстве США в Москве, а не задерживать подачу документов до дня интервью. Этим они намного ускорят процесс выезда из СССР.

Очень важно довести до сведения ваших родственников, что на интервью, для получения статуса беженца, они должны привести ясные и конкретные примеры преследования или боязни преследования, а не прибегать к фольсификациям или преувеличениям а также не приводить поправку Паутенберга как достаточное основание для получения статуса. Ответы на вопросы представителей посольства должны быть как можно более корректными и обстоятельными. Манеры и стиль поведения во время интервью так же важны, как и содержание беседы.

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Israeli Perspective

'Operation Solomon' makes Jews feel proud

By NECHEMIA MEYERS

I had to pull my car over to the side of the road when I tuned into the news broadcast about Operation Solomon, for it left me choked with emotion, on the verge of tears. Only a few moments later, when I had regained my composure, did I continue my journey.

That reaction was not unusual; indeed, it was typical of most people here. In ordinary circumstances, they are full of complaints about everything from the economic situation and government incompetence to the boorishness of their fellow citizens. But an event like Operation Solomon suddenly restores their pride in being Israelis. On such occasions it becomes crystal clear to them: only Israel really cares what happens to

Jews; only Israel will take risks to save Jews when they are in mortal danger.

In recent days I have frequently heard speculation about what might have happened to European Jewry had the Jewish state been established several decades earlier, if there had been an El Al and an Israeli Air Force to fly into Warsaw in August 1939.

What is important now, of course, is not to speculate about what might have been, but to seek a solution to the problems that remain after the flights from Addis Ababa. The experience of recent years indicates that where absorption is concerned, the older Ethiopians are a lost cause; most of them are from sleepy 12th-century villages and are unable to adjust successfully to the pace and

lifestyle of bustling 20th-century urban centers. Younger Ethiopians, however, are a different story. They almost always secure their place in society, thanks in significant measure to their positive experiences in the Israel Defense Forces, where they are already making their mark, particularly in the paratroopers.

As a matter of fact, one of the most heartwarming aspects of Operation Solomon was the way that dozens of young Ethiopian paratroopers were on hand to lovingly receive their bewildered brethren when the latter stepped off the planes that brought them to Ben-Gurion Airport.

Also welcoming the newcomers was our first Ethiopian Cinderella, a beautiful young woman who has

become a media favorite after her recent marriage to the son of former Police Minister and Knesset Speaker Shlomo Hillel.

The ugly religious controversies over the Jewishness of the Ethiopian immigrants — which seriously impeded their integration some years ago — have, fortunately, almost completely disappeared. Where the chief rabbinate is concerned, they are Jews in every respect. Only ultra-Orthodox rabbis go on terming them "Falashas," which is the Amharic word for "strangers" and is roughly equivalent to calling American Jews "Kikes."

To be sure, where genetics are concerned, there is some question about the "Jewish credentials" of the Ethiopian Jews. According to chro-

mosomal studies carried out in recent years, they have a different gene pool than Jews from other countries. This indicates that they are probably the offspring of converts to Judaism, not — as legend has it — of King Solomon and Queen of Sheba.

Be that as it may, their devotion to Judaism, despite untold centuries of isolation and oppression, is beyond question.

Now the central problem is finding jobs and homes for them and, in fact, for all immigrants. This will require patient, long-term efforts, which Israelis and their leaders find far more difficult than short, spectacular rescue operations.

(Nechemia Meyers writes regularly for *The Jewish Voice* from his home in Rehovot, Israel.)

Hussein interest in meeting Israelis more a trial balloon than bombshell

JERUSALEM (JTA) — King Hussein's public expression of readiness to meet with Israeli leaders, voiced last Friday in an interview with the French weekly *Le Point*, appears to have been more of a trial balloon than a bombshell.

In fact, the excitement dissipated rapidly over the weekend as it became apparent that the Jordanian monarch was not following the path of the late Egyptian President Anwar Sadat, whose offer to go to Jerusalem in 1977 set the stage for the first peace treaty between an Arab state and Israel.

When Israeli Foreign Minister David Levy responded to Hussein's remarks by inviting him to Jerusalem, the disclaimers from Amman were quick to follow. "I can assure you on behalf of the king that he did not intend to get up and jump immediately to Jerusalem," Taher al-Masri, Jordan's foreign minister, told reporters Sunday.

The BBC reported that the king would talk to the Israelis directly, but only in the framework of an international peace conference, based on

longstanding U.N. Security Council resolutions. That is precisely what U.S. Secretary of State James Baker tried and failed to arrange during his four trips to the Middle East since mid-March.

In Washington, the Bush administration welcomed Hussein's comments, but indicated the Jordanian monarch's proposal should be seen in the context of the regional peace conference being passed by the United States.

"We obviously welcome the possibility of talks between Israel and Jordan," said White House spokesman Marlin Fitzwater. "Getting Israel to sit down with its Arab neighbors has long been one of our goals."

State Department spokeswoman Margaret Tutwiler said Monday that "peace isn't possible without direct talks." She said Baker's "efforts have been designed to produce direct, face-to-face negotiations."

Fitzwater reported that "there may be progress" in Baker's efforts to bring about such talks. But he added cryptically, "I can't go into details." He confirmed that President Bush

Analysis

sent letters over the weekend to Hussein, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, Presidents Hosni Mubarak of Egypt and Hafez Assad of Syria, and King Fahd of Saudi Arabia.

The letters were a "follow-up on the various opportunities" that appeared during Baker's last mission to the Middle East. He said Bush reiterated that he will continue to work for peace in the Middle East and urged the region's leaders "not to pass up the opportunity" for progress created by the end of the Persian Gulf War.

Hussein's message on direct talks with Israel therefore may have been intended mainly for Washington. The king has made clear that he has no intention of being excluded from Middle East peace negotiations and would wear the hat of a moderate.

The Jordanian monarch has survived some colossal mistakes during his long rule, Israeli observers point out. Now, he is trying to make amends for his most serious error to date: backing Saddam Hussein of Iraq against the West and most of the Arab world.

The king has decided that his country's future lies with Syria, Egypt, the United States and, incidentally, Israel, all of which opposed Iraq. But the Hashemite ruler faces strong Moslem fundamentalist opposition at home. The Islamic forces ascendant in Amman are not interested in dialogue with Israel.

The low-key reaction in Jordan itself to the *Le Point* interview may very well be a sign of Moslem disapproval, Syria, too, may have expressed dissatisfaction with Hussein's overture to Israel. It got a chilly reception from some circles in Jerusalem as well.

While Foreign Minister Levy promised a "red carpet" reception for the king if he comes here, hard-line ministers Ariel Sharon and Yuval

Ne'eman said if Hussein expects territorial concessions from Israel, he might as well stay home. Similar remarks were made by Deputy Foreign Minister Binyamin Netanyahu.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, skeptical of the king's intentions, took a wait-and-see attitude.

In fact, Hussein has met with more Israeli officials since 1967 than any other Arab leader — meetings held secretly and routinely denied by both sides. They included Golda Meir, Moshe Dayan, Shimon Peres, Abba Eban and Shamir, all foreign ministers at one time or another and three of them prime ministers.

Eban told the Israeli daily *Yediot Achronot* that he had met Hussein 10 times over the years.

Despite the letdown from last Friday's news, the feeling here is that Hussein has chosen to be part of the peace process with Israel. He seems to have no other choice. Following blindly the dictates of Syria or of the Moslem fundamentalists could spell the end of his kingdom as a political entity.

Pope angers Jews by linking abortion, Holocaust

PARIS (JTA) — Pope John Paul II has been angrily censured by Jewish leaders in Europe and the United States for equating abortion with the Holocaust in remarks he made during a mass he celebrated Tuesday in his native Poland. Even a Polish newspaper was appalled by the analogy.

Jean Kahn, president of CRIF, the representative council of French Jewish organizations, said the analogy was reprehensible and beyond understanding. "Remembrance of the Holocaust has a sacred character, which even the pope, the spiritual leader of Catholicism, cannot transgress," Kahn said.

Henry Bulawko, president of an organization of former deportees and concentration camp inmates, said the pope's remarks "deeply hurt the survivors of the Nazi camps and the relatives of those who were murdered there." Bulawko expressed hope that "the highest moral authority of Christianity will be inspired by the example of the Polish president,"

Lech Walesa, who, addressing the Knesset in Jerusalem last month, "asked the Jewish people to forgive him for the crimes of anti-Semitism perpetrated on Polish soil."

The Polish-born pope, speaking to some 10,000 believers in Radom, delivered a stinging condemnation of abortion, which the Polish legislature recently refused to outlaw. The killing of the unborn ranks among the worst crimes of genocide, he declared.

He said that alongside the victims of war and mass murder in the 20th century lay "yet another vast cemetery, that of the unborn."

In Berlin, Heinz Galinski, leader of the German Jewish community, issued a statement Wednesday charging that the pope's declaration was yet another attempt to exploit the Holocaust to advance a political agenda. It came from a religious leader whose church has yet to deal truthfully with the role it played during the Nazi era, Galinski said.

There were equally strong reac-

tions Wednesday from Jewish organizational leaders in the United States.

"The comparison of the Holocaust to abortion is something we totally reject and should be avoided by representatives of the Catholic Church," Elan Steinberg, executive director of the World Jewish Congress, said in New York. He said it was part of an attempt to universalize and, to some extent, trivialize the Holocaust.

Rabbi A. James Rudin, the American Jewish Committee's director of interreligious affairs, expressed regret that the two issues were linked. The pope, he pointed out, has made "many eloquent statements about appropriately teaching and remembering the tragedy of the Holocaust. Indeed, from the intensity of his own personal experience, he has powerfully articulated the uniqueness of the evil of the Holocaust," Rudin said.

"Precisely because of the unique and unparalleled event, the American Jewish Committee strongly be-

lieves that the Holocaust and the current debate about abortion should not be linked," he said.

Abraham Foxman, national director of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, said, "The word 'Holocaust' has been used and abused in describing the situation of women and the abortion question. Such indiscriminate use of the term diminishes the original sense of the word."

Seymour Reich, chairman of the International Jewish Committee on Interreligious Consultations, the Jewish community's official link to the Vatican, observed that "abortion is the free choice of an individual or is practiced for medical reasons." But the "genocide of an entire people perpetrated by the Nazis was carried out against the Jews for no other reason than they were born Jews," Reich said.

"This represents another example of misinterpretation of Jewish views and sensitivities by the Catholic Church, and underscores the need

for greater open contacts and discussions," he said.

It was not the first time the Polish-born pontiff was taken to task for apparent insensitivity on matters of profound emotional impact on Jews. In Berlin, Galinski pointed out in his statement that the pope failed to clarify the "palpable matter" of the Carmelite convent on the grounds of the former Auschwitz death camp, where some 2 million Jews perished. "We have been waiting in vain for that to happen," he said.

Here in Paris, Kahn regretted that the pope die not use his visit to the Polish city of Kielce to denounce the pogroms perpetrated by Poles against the pitiful remnant of Jews returning there after World War II.

In Warsaw, the Polish youth daily *Sztandar Mlodych* aimed unprecedented criticism at the Pope Wednesday for comparing abortion to the Holocaust. The analogy was inadmissible and offensive, the newspaper declared.