

JEWISH NEWS BRIEFS

BONN (WNS) The West German government announced that it has extended a "first credit" of 75,000,000 Deut-schmarks (\$18,750,000) to Israel. The credit will be paid out of the current 1965 budget.

JERUSALEM (WNS) Premier Levi Eshkol who was confined to his home after coming down with influenza, still hopes to present a new coalition government to Parliament within a few days. It is still uncertain, however, if he would present a narrow coalition or a broad based one.

JERUSALEM (WNS) Israeli officials said here that they would be watching with "caution and apprehension" the activities of the Indian, Maj. General Indar Jit Rikhye, who appointed new commander of the United Nations peace-keeping force in Gaza this week.

SAN FRANCISCO (WNS) American President Lines con-firmed that the scheduled round-the-world cruise of the passenger ship President Roosevelt will not include a pre-viously planned stop in Haifa. A spokesman for the shipping company said that Egypt had informed the APL that pas-sage through the Suez Canal would be denied if the ship called at Haifa.

NEW YORK, Henry N. Rapaport of Scarsdale, N.Y., was installed as president of the United Synagogue of America, Sunday, January 9. Chancellor Louis Finkelstein of The Jewish Theological Seminary of America conducted the in-stallation ceremonies.

PHILADELPHIA: The Philadelphia Chapter of the Ameri-can Jewish Committee has urged civic and community or-ganizations to refrain from holding meetings at social clubs that exclude persons from membership on racial or re-ligious grounds.
(Ed. Note: No problem in Las Vegas, Mort, Jack Tell)

TEL AVIV (WNS) Dr. Herman Kahn, head of the Hudson Institute for Strategic Research and a noted authority on nuclear warfare, advised Israel to engage in nuclear re-search but not to manufacture nuclear weapons.

JERUSALEM (WNS) The Government of Israel's plan to name a Minister for the Diaspora whose job will be to establish closer contact between Israel and Jewish com-munities abroad.

WASHINGTON (WNS) American and Israeli desalination experts began final talks on the feasibility study which envisages the operation in Israel by 1972 of a dual purpose nuclear powered water desalting plant. Discussions center on approval of the final report of the feasibility study and recommendations for implementation. The experts' findings will be presented to the two governments concerned in about two weeks.

WASHINGTON (WNS) The Johnson administration is con-sidering favorable action on Israel's request to buy \$70, 000,000 of wheat and other foods over the next two years. In another development informed sources revealed that Israel has asked the United States for a loan of \$39,000,000 to finance development projects.

LONDON (WNS) Following the signing of a food surplus agreement with the United States, Egypt began to discuss World Bank financing of development projects, according to reports received here from Cairo.

WASHINGTON (WNS) Representative Leonard Farbstein, New York Democrat, and a member of the Near Eastern subcommittee of the House Foreign Affairs committee said that ehw ill seek "full scale hearings" on the recent A-merican arms shipments to Arab states unless the State Department provides a satisfactory explanation immedi-ately.

WASHINGTON (WNS) United States Senators asked Sec-retary of Commerce John T. Connor for an explanation of steps taken, if any, to deal with the Arab boycott in con-nection with the recent cancellation of a stop in Haifa by Ameri-can President Lines; ship "President Roosevelt."

Litvaks Mean Laughs

By Dr. Samuel Silver

Whenever I see a litvak I feel good inside.

Not that litvaks are amus-ing, even though some people think they are. Some are; some aren't. Yet, the word itself, like the word, Brook-lyn, can set up laughs and chuckles.

A litvak is a Jew, or a descendant of a Jew from Lithuania. Thousands of A-merican Jews are in that category. When I see a lit-vak I rejoice for two rea-sons: one, because they're here and not over there in Europe where they or their predecessors may have been snuffed out by pogromists.

The second reason I feel happy when I see a litvak is that he reminds me that feuds are not eternal.

It is important for us not to succumb to the noting that just because certain groups dislike themselves now that that is the way it will always be.

There was a time when litvaks were at odds with o-ther Jewish groups, such as Poles, or Rumanians, or that large group known by the generic name of galitzyaner. And there was a time when all those Eastern European Jews were on bad terms with the German Jews, known de-derivisely as yahudim.

So bitter was the hostility that separate clubs would be formed to keep the others out. So bitter was the hos-tility that marriages among them were regarded as in-termarriages.

Now the bad blood has dis-appeared. What was once a cause for hatred is now no more than a cause for humor. I love the one about the gal-itizianer who discovered that his friend was a litvak and began to poke fun at him only to evoke the retort: "There are two kinds of Jews: lit-vaks and paskudnyakes. Which are you?" (For trans-lations of these exotic terms see your nearest rabbi or grandparent.)

Nowadays Jews are all mixed up -- I mean, with re-spect to their backgrounds. The descendants of German Jews are married to off-spring of Lithuanians, Hun-garians, Russians, etc. We're one happy salad.

So when I see a litvak I feel good. For, I tell my-self, if the vendetta twist

the litvaks and other Jews could have disappeared, mayhaps others groups who now cannot abide one another will utimately learn to live together harmoniously. South Vietnamese and North Vietnamese, North Koreans and South Koreans, Ameri-can Northerners and Ameri-can Southerners, maybe even the residents of the West and East. Seems remote now, but look how nicely the litvaks have learned to live with erstwhile opponents!

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