

JEWISH NEWS BRIEFS

TEL AVIV (WNS) -- A three-year agreement, under which Rumania will buy 150,000 tons of Israeli phosphates annually, and a civil aviation transport pact, were signed here by Zeev Sharef, Israel Trade and Industry Minister, and Gheorghe Cloare, Rumanian Foreign Trade Minister.

GROSSINGERS, N.Y. (WNS) -- The rabbi on the college campus was viewed here this week as being caught in a "clash of expectation" between the institutionalized Jewish community, which expects him "to preserve the ancient faith among modern rebels," and his university surroundings "which call him to open search and inquiry."

NEW YORK (WNS) Mixed marriages between Jews and Gentiles now stand at 17 per cent for the United States as a whole. The rate of intermarriages in this country is steadily climbing and is having its most serious impact on Jews and Roman Catholics whose marriages to those outside their faiths carry a high risk of divorce and present a source of conflict in the rearing of children, according to a published report by Dr. Victor Sanua, associate professor of psychology at Yeshiva University.

NEW YORK -- Rabbi Emanuel Rackman, spiritual leader of Fifth Avenue Synagogue and assistant to the president of Yeshiva University, New York City, has been designated by the Department of Defense to conduct a religious retreat for all Jewish chaplains in Europe to be held in Berchtesgaden, Germany, from January 3 to January 7, 1968.

HANUKAH FEATURE

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Hillel, the great man among the rabbis of two thousand years ago, went so far as to suggest that they were to be outdone in the future.

And indeed the course of history seems to suggest that man is ever witnessing developments, one more miraculous than the other. We talk of laser beams of light performing surgery, of reaching the moon and what not. We are told that these are not miracles but the works of science, but is that more than a matter of terminology? Eliyahu ha-Navi, the mystic of old, said he could in several steps traverse the whole space of the earth. Now science contemplates such religious visions as possibilities. Either we must conclude that science has an element of the religious, or religion an element of science.

How shall we explain the miracle of the Maccabean victory? Was it due to science or religion? Here were a small number of Jews facing the dictator of Asia Minor, equipped with the most expert war instruments of his time.

The Jews seemed about to be wiped out, but in a little obscure town some twenty miles from Jerusalem, there was a devoted Jew, Mattathias, who raised the banner of resistance. He but lit a small candle and the enemy was done for. The weak made strong and the strong made weak.

One little candle may light another, observed the rabbis. We have witnessed in our own day a miracle equalling that of the glorious Maccabean victory. Some might even say that in accordance with the doctrine of Hillel, that

it even transcends it. A whole host of nations this time, abetted by the powerful Kremlin state, sought the destruction of Israel. But God has not ceased to work miracles.


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