

JEWISH NEWS BRIEFS

NEW YORK--Major concerns of American society and the Jewish community -- inner city problems, drug addiction, the disintegration of the Jewish family in the face of the open society, the new needs of the aging, student rebellion on the campus, and others -- will be on the agenda of the 1970 Biennial Convention of the National Jewish Welfare Board, to be held at the Washington Hilton Hotel, Washington, D.C., from March 18 to 22.

NEW YORK -- French President Pompidou was sharply criticized by the president of the American Jewish Congress for telling Jewish groups in the United States that Israel must cease being a "racial and religious state" and become "a state in the geographical sense like all other states." Rabbi Arthur J. Lelyveld charged that President Pompidou's statement "betrays a dangerous misunderstanding of the role of Israel in Jewish history and in the minds and hearts of the Jewish people."

WASHINGTON -- The President of B'nai B'rith has expressed "great anxiety" that the Soviet Union's "staged press conference" last week, in which 31 Jews denounced "Israel aggression," may be a forerunner of greater repressions and possible "show trials" of Soviet Jews who have applied for immigration to Israel or have protested anti-Jewish discrimination in their homeland.

WASHINGTON -- B'nai B'rith reported this week Israel Bond Sales of \$12,463,010 in 1969, a 14 per cent increase over 1968 totals.

PHILADELPHIA -- Professor Yigael Yadin, one of the world's leading archaeologists who headed the expedition to Masada which has become Israel's most important historical shrine, will come to Philadelphia April 14 for the first time to be the guest of honor at a dinner marking the 60th anniversary of the Dropsie University.

NEW YORK -- More than 7,000 people will attend the two performances of the 19th Annual Israel Dance Festival on Sunday, March 15, 1970 at Madison Square Garden's Felt Forum in New York.

LOS ANGELES -- The Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, Image of Israel program, has been the subject of approval and support by the Hancock Park Chapter B'nai B'rith Women.

NEW YORK -- More than 43,500 tourists visited Israel in the first two months of 1970, up 30 per cent, according to the Israel Government Tourist Office.

NEW YORK -- Dr. Joseph B. Schechman, 79, president of the United Zionists Revisionists of America and chairman of the World Council of the Zionist Revision Movement, died March 1st.

NEW YORK -- The disturbances and misunderstandings connected with President Pompidou's recent visit to the United States were dramatic, but the visit itself was of little importance. Rabbi Marc H. Tanenbaum, national director of the Interreligious Affairs Department of the American Jewish Committee stated, "We ought not to have expected from the outset that the Pompidou visit here would lead to any significant changes."

NEW YORK -- The American Jewish Committee's Middle East specialist believes that the public debate on "Who Is A Jew?" now taking place in Israel may lead to "acceptance of a more pluralistic concept of Jewish religious life in Israel, so that conversions by conservative and Reform Rabbis in the United States and other countries may now be recognized as valid." George E. Gruen, in a report entitled Again "Who Is A Jew?" states the latest proposed Knesset legislation for the first time accepts as a Jew an immigrant who has converted to Judaism, without requiring that the conversion had to be strictly according to 'halakha' (Orthodox religious law part of which stipulates that a Jew is a person born of a Jewish mother or of a non-Jewish mother who has formally accepted the Jewish faith."

NEW YORK -- The Joint Distribution Committee is accelerating its Malben program to help improve the nation's services for the aged, chronically ill and handicapped among the general population in Israel, it was announced by Louis D. Horwitz, JDC Director-General for Overseas Operations, upon completion of a 10-day review of the organization's activities in the country.

MIAMI BEACH (WNS) -- A historic initial sale of \$76,580,000 launched the State of Israel Bond drive which has a record goal this year of \$250 million, \$90 million more than was raised in 1969.

NEW YORK (WNS) -- A 17-year-old student at Hamaz High School, Robert A. Levine, a day school sponsored by Congregation Kehilat Jeshurun in New York, was one of the 10 winners in the 29th annual Westinghouse science talent search.



COFFINS OF SWISSAIR VICTIMS IN MASS GRAVE AT CEMETERY MOUNT, JERUSALUM. (ISRAEL SUN PHOTO)

SWISSAIR VICTIMS
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ience of the international community and other nations, airlines and pilot associations began to act to stop the terrorist danger.

International reaction to the Swissair sabotage has caused concern among the Arabs. Radio Jordan broadcast statements made by Yasir Arafat, leader of El Fatah, the largest terrorist organization, at a news conference in Amman in which he denied any commando involvement in the Swissair explosion and said the guerrilla movement was seriously reviewing the entire question of attacks on international airliners.

Western newsmen reported from Beirut that Arab governments were putting pressure on the terrorists to stop their anti-Israel ac-

tivities outside the Mideast and confine their operations to just Israeli territory and the occupied areas.

International efforts to halt the Arab terrorist threat has been proceeding along two paths. Airport authorities and airline officials have tightened up security measures by checking baggage, parcels and air travelers bound for Israel. These efforts include the use of scientific devices such as X-ray machines.

In addition, a number of conferences have been scheduled by airline and pilot organizations. Israel has urged that air movement to the Arab states be halted until the Arab governments take concrete steps to stop the terrorist attacks. Switzerland has curbed Arab travel to the nation and has suggested that other countries do the same. The International Federation of Airline Pilots Association has said that its members would consider a strike if there was no effective action to protect planes, passengers and flying personnel. Besides the pi-



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lots' group, the International Air Transport Association, an airline group, and the United Nations International Civil Aviation Organization have been discussing the problem. The terrorist danger has not affected air travel to Israel. Lod airport continued to be crowded with tourists and businessmen. Mail and cargo flights have resumed their normal schedule after 12 airlines which fly to Israel instituted tightened security after first halting some flights. A number of airlines, including El Al and Trans World Airlines, didn't interrupt their service at all.



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