

JEWISH NEWS BRIEFS

CLEVELAND (WNS) -- The first phase of Cleveland's participation in the first national Jewish population study ended as interviews with some 250 families were finished and a new group of volunteers prepared to begin the second phase which aims at completing interviewing 800 are families.

NEW YORK, N.Y. -- Rabbi Herschel Schacter, newly elected Chairman of the American Jewish Conference on Soviet Jewry stated: "The 39 incredibly brave Soviet Jews whose agonized plea to the Soviet authorities for permission to emigrate to Israel have given the lie most dramatically to the charade of recent Soviet press conferences in which Soviet "show Jews" have recited by rote obviously coerced attacks on Israel and renunciations of Jewish affinities.

NEW YORK -- Over 300 dancers in 16 Israel folk dance groups participated in the two performances of the 19th Annual Israel Dance Festival, which took place at Madison Square Garden's Felt Forum in New York. The overflow performances of the dance pageant "Pages of our History" were sponsored by the American Zionist Youth Foundation.

NEW YORK -- With the recent presentation of 102 torah scrolls to synagogues and institutions in the southern Negev region, about half of the 3,100 scrolls brought to Israel from Rumania by the Joint Distribution Committee have now been distributed.

NEW YORK -- The ever-increasing incidence of intermarriage between Jews and non-Jews threatens the survival of Judaism in the United States, according to Dr. Marshall Sklare, professor of sociology at Yeshive University, and currently visiting professor of American Jewish Studies at Brandeis University.

TEL AVIV (WNS) -- A second group of Black Jews from the United States who had tried to establish a settlement in Liberia, has been given temporary residence in Dimona after arriving unexpectedly in Israel. The 49 newcomers, who had been residents of Chicago, joined an earlier group that was sent to the Negev township after their arrival two months ago. Both groups contend they are Jewish and claim the Right of Return. They have been given temporary residence visas pending clarification of their status as immigrants. The Chief Rabbinate insists that they undergo conversion.

OTTAWA (WNS) -- A Canadian Parliament committee on the mass media was told by the Rev. A.C. Forrest, editor of the United Church Observer, that the Canadian press had a "pro-Zionist bias."

BONN (WNS) -- West German Foreign Minister Walter Scheel said he would visit Israel in the fall and he didn't care whether the Arabs liked it or not.

UNITED NATIONS (WNS) -- The United Nations Human Rights Commission has adopted a resolution urging member states to take measures for "the speedy and final eradication of Nazism" and to arrest and extradite persons who have committed war crimes.

JERUSALEM (WNS) -- The Israel Corp., an investment and holding company of world Jewish financiers was set up at the international economic conference for Israel held last spring, has purchased the Zim Lines, Israel's national shipping company, from the Government for \$21 million.

JERUSALEM (WNS) -- Dedication ceremonies were held in Jerusalem for three new wings to the Hadassah-Hebrew University Medical Center.

NEW YORK (WNS) -- Rabbi Ben Melchior, recently elected Chief Rabbi of Denmark, is now on a tour of the United States under the auspices of the World Council of Synagogues.

JERUSALEM (WNS) -- The Central Conference of American Rabbis (Reform) ended their first convention in Jerusalem with expressions of solidarity with Israel on both ideological and practical levels.

PHILADELPHIA - A Memorial Tribute commemorating the late S. Y. Agnon, renowned Israeli Hebrew author and Nobel Laureate in Literature who died last month, will be held on Sunday, March 29th, at 3 p.m., at The Dropsie University in conjunction with the Israeli Consulate.

PROVIDENCE, -- In a key test case in the U.S. District Court for Rhode Island, six Rhode Island taxpayers will challenge the constitutionality of a state law passed last year that permits the state to pay part of the salaries of parochial school teachers.

ISRAEL RESUMES SUEZ RAIDS

JERUSALEM (WNS) -- Israeli commandos staged raids across the Suez Canal and deep into Syria while airmen resumed their strikes against Arab air defensive installations inside Egypt after almost a week's lull due to sandstorms which blew through the area.

In the cross-canal thrust, Israel commandos reported two men were killed and four wounded during the assaults at El Cap, 19 miles south of the northern entrance to the waterway, and at El Tina, about a mile further south.

The Arab units were considered elite soldiers who had fought in the Yeman and now held an important part of the front against Egypt. Hand to hand fighting was reported by the Israelis who counted eight Egyptian dead and estimated the toll was probably much higher. The Egyptians hurled hand grenades and fired rockets at the Israelis and held their positions until a direct assault when the Arab troops

either ran or fought until they were killed, an Israeli military spokesman reported.

(Radio Cairo said it had repulsed an attempted Israeli raid across the canal with heavy enemy losses.)

The Israeli raid into Syria was the deepest mission carried out by land forces in that Arab state. The commandos, who were believed to have been transported by helicopters, hit high tension lines between Damascus and Bons and rocketed an army camp 21 miles east of the Syrian capital. Israel said all raiders returned safely.

In the resumed air raids, Israeli jets hit a radar station and other military installations at Abou Souwair and Jabel Audeb on the Suez-Cairo road. Other jets hit Egyptian positions along the canal in a number of raids, including one carried out while ground forces were engaged in their mission.

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would continue to "improve".)

(Israeli sources noted that American officials said they were doing nothing to injure Israel's security, but they emphasized that Jerusalem, rather than Washington, would be the judge of what is best for Israel.)

Washington sources asserted, in giving "background" reasons for the expected Presidential decision that the announcement should not be interpreted by Israel as being negative. They explained that in view of the complex nature of the Middle East situation, Washington could not be expected to commit itself in advance to

a specific program of action.

The officials claimed that the U.S. was committed to meeting Israel's defense needs and that as these requirements call for jets after delivery of the 50 Phantoms currently being sent, the planes would become available.

(Israeli officials have countered this line of reasoning, which had been advanced in the past, with the argument that defense needs have to be planned on a long-range basis and that Israel's request for 35 more Phantoms and over 100 Skyhawks for delivery beginning in 1971 was based on projects for the period through 1975.

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