



MORE WEST COASTERS VISIT ISRAEL

Residents of the West Coast are visiting Israel in higher numbers than Americans from other parts of the nation, government officials disclosed today in Los Angeles.

Of those visitors to the Jewish State, officials said that 45% are non-Jews and the length

of the visit is also increasing.

There's a 22% jump in the number of West Coast visitors to Israel during 1970 when compared to 1969 totals, according to Yitzhak A. Sover (SOH-VAIR),

Western States Director for the Israel Government Tourist Office in Beverly Hills.

Sover added that while tourism is escalating in Israel, the rest of the United States shows a 15% increase in

the visitor figures when comparing the two years even though the East Coast states are closer to Israel.

Total number of tourists in Israel last year were said by Sover to be 436,915 while the 1969 amount was 408,974.

"We consider tourism to be a crucial fac-

tor in Israel's growth as a democratic nation with an open society. To achieve that, we are continually seeking ways to make visitors welcome on all levels of our country with emphasis on the personal touch," Sover said and added:

"Perhaps this home folks approach is signi-

ficant as our latest reports are that visitors are staying an average of 14 days when previously the tourist averaged 11 days in Israel."

Sover noted that preliminary counting for 1971 shows that the visitor total heading for Israel is continuing to climb and that tourism is the number one "money-earner" for Israel.

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FRANK MITRANI

Jewish Law Violators

By RABBI SAMUEL SILVER

Jewish religious law is being violated in Israel by its highest-ranking Orthodox rabbis!

This is the gist of an amazing indictment leveled by a man who himself is an Orthodox rabbi, Dr. Louis Rabinowitz, now a resident of Israel but once chief rabbi of the Federation of Synagogues of South Africa.

In an article which appears in the Winter issue of the magazine, "Conservative Judaism," Dr. Rabinowitz says that Jewish law, or Halacha, requires that to safeguard human life, the Sabbath must be violated energetically by the highest religious authorities.

In Israel today, the maintenance of the economy requires the breaching of the Sabbath laws, in such matters as police, hospitals, the water supply, electricity, etc.

In a great crisis when the Temple was destroyed just 1900 years ago, the rabbinic authorities proclaimed that animal sacrifices were no longer required.

A similar crisis exists now when a Jewish nation has been established. Jewish law is flexible enough to permit new ways of accommodating Jews to the exigencies of a nation, Rabinowitz writes.

But, says he, the Orthodox authorities in Israel refuse to make use of Halacha and instead are myopically stringent in their rulings.

In the Diaspora, ultra-devout Jews would use a "Shabbos goy," to do things forbidden to them, even though that contrivance is explicitly forbidden in Jewish law.

And in Israel now, where there are not enough "Shabbos goyim," one Orthodox leader cited by Rabbi Rabinowitz said that the nation could rely on non-pious Jews to handle things on Shabbos.

Rabbi Rabinowitz's article, which is entitled "Shabbos Goy and Shabbos Jew" is a blockbuster. It contains other revelations about high Orthodox leaders which hopefully will evoke comments and responses.

NEW YORK--Over one million adults and Jewish young people will participate in Israel Independence Day parades and rallies this April, it was announced here by Dr. Arnulf Pins, chairman, of the American Zionist Youth Foundation, which is stimulating these efforts.

WASHINGTON--B'nai B'rith reported completion of a second 500,000 tree section of the B'nai B'rith Martyrs' Forest in the Judean trifts near Jerusalem.