

## JEWISH NEWS BRIEFS

(DURING THE NEXT FEW WEEKS THE ISRAELITE WILL PUBLISH EXTRA COLUMNS OF IMPORTANT NEWS BRIEFS WHICH ARE ACCUMULATING. HOPE YOU LIKE.)

**JERUSALEM (WNS)** -- Avraham Schenker, head of the Jewish Agency's organization and information department, reported that the World Zionist Organization was the world's largest Jewish voluntary body. WZO claimed a membership of 850,000 persons in 40 countries or 1 out of every 10 Jews in the free world over the age of 18. Membership in the U.S. was 650,000.

**BELGRADE (WNS)** -- A conference of Jewish communities in Yugoslavia pledged to continue to fight against any signs of anti-Semitism and praised the Yugoslav government and people for giving their fullest support to that struggle. Lavoslav Kadelburg was reelected to another 3-year term as President of the Yugoslavian Jewish communities.

**LONDON (WNS)** -- Charges that Martin Bormann was alive and living in a village on the Parana River in Paraguay, protected by local and national authorities, were made by Zwy Aldouby, an Austrian Jew who has worked as an Israeli journalist and is now a resident of New York. Aldouby, whose book, "Reichsleiter," about Bormann, will be released soon, told the newspaper the Saturday Evening News, he had filmed proof Bormann was alive and living in "A cluster by the River Parana."

**JERUSALEM (WNS)** -- Dr. David Horowitz, governor of the Israel State Bank, declared that if Israel wants to achieve economic independence by the end of the 1970's, she had to increase her exports by 19 percent a year and reduce her imports by 10 percent a year.

**JERUSALEM (WNS)** -- Jordan has granted the City of Nablus in the occupied West Bank, a development loan of 100,000 Jordanian Dinars (more than 1 million Israel pounds). Previously, the city had received a development loan of 1 million Israeli pounds from the Israeli Military Government.

**TEL AVIV (WNS)** -- Boris Gapenov, a Soviet Jewish writer who won the Israel Tchernichowsky award in 1969 for translating "The Man in the Panther's Skin," a 12th century epic poem, arrived in Israel with his mother. Gapenov, who is ill with meningitis, was taken to the hospital upon his arrival. Gapenov, a resident of the Georgian Soviet Republic, taught himself Hebrew in secret. His mother said his requests to emigrate to Israel were turned down until he became ill. She said all his manuscripts were confiscated by Soviet authorities.

**NEW YORK (WNS)** -- Shlomo Katz, editor of the monthly Jewish review "Mainstream," published by the Theodore Herzl Foundation, who had publicly criticized the racist and anti-Semitic remarks of black author James Baldwin, was dropped from the David Frost TV show when Baldwin refused to appear with him.

**JERUSALEM (WNS)** -- Thirty social work students at Hebrew University, seized a new apartment in the fashionable Talpiot section that the Housing Ministry had reserved for new immigrants and turned it over to a family of 11 who had been living in a one and one-half room apartment. In New York, Mayor Teddy Kollek of Jerusalem, who was appearing at a dinner of the Hadassah Medical Organization, expressed sympathy with the family's plight but said he hoped the police would arrest those involved in the seizure since "seizing apartments is not the answer to the problem."

**NEW YORK (WNS)** -- Jerold C. Hoffberger, prominent Baltimore communal and business leader, has been named chairman of the Smolar Award Committee for Excellence in American-Jewish Journalism.

**SACRAMENTO (WNS)** -- The current issue of the Sacramento Jewish Federation Bulletin reports that Polish Jews are being subjected to emigration restrictions and Rumanian Jews are faced with a shortage of religious leaders.

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focusing" its Christian and Muslim population, the Christian leaders' statement declared that such allegations were based on political rather than religious motives.

"The behavior of the government of Israel with respect to the holy places has been exemplary," the statement said. "It has achieved the main purpose of internationalization, which is to provide protection and free access to the holy places for all."

The Christian leaders also noted "with regret, that no Christian bodies or national governments expressed concern about the denial of access for all Jews, or for Christians and Muslims in Israel, to their holy places during the Jordanian administration of the Old City." The old sector of Jerusalem was under Jordanian control from 1949 until captured by Israel in the Six-Day War of June 1967. During that time, Jews, whether Israelis or not could not visit the historic Wailing Wall, and no Christian pilgrim could cross the frontier between Israel and Jordan if his passport bore an Israeli visa.

The statement also replied to charges concerning an Israeli plan to build housing units on the outskirts of Jerusalem. It stated: "Our inquiry into the question of public housing in the Old City and environs has convinced us that the construction of these buildings is a legitimate effort on the part of the Israeli government to effectuate a renewal of certain slum areas of the City, to rehouse in new apartments Arabs from these quarters, to provide living space for a Jewish population increased by immigration, and to re-introduce a Jewish presence into the Old City from which it had been forcibly barred after the war of 1948. The development plans are in no sense designed to oust the Arabs, nor to 'suffocate' the Christian and Muslim population. While we are concerned about the sacred character of the city, we believe that this housing is sufficiently removed from the holy places to avoid the charge of diminishing the sanctity of the city."

In addition, the Christian leaders refuted the charge that the Christian Arab population in Israel was decreasing. They pointed out that "since the end of the 1948 Arab-Israeli war, the Christian and Muslim population of Israel has more than doubled" and that "in Jerusalem, the non-Jewish total (Christian and Muslim) has increased steadily in the last three years."

Disputing the logic of internationalizing Jerusalem, particularly at this time in history, the signers of the statement pointed out that the United Nations, which would have to supervise such an action, "now includes a large proportion of officially atheistic countries, or countries with no interest in or ties to the holy places of Christianity, Judaism or Islam."

In any case, the Christian leaders declared,

"internationalization has never worked and the world has had its fill of divided cities. There are many other possible formulas which would better serve the aim of protecting the holy places. We believe that the choice of the best method should be left to negotiations carried on at the peace table between Israel and Arab countries. At that point, the Christian churches, synagogues and mosques can voice their opinions as to the particular needs of their communities and properties in the area."

The signators stated that they were "encouraged by such creative efforts as those already initiated by Israeli officials with Christian ecumenical and Arab civic leaders for special jurisdictional arrangements over the holy places and in Arab areas of Jerusalem."

"On the other hand," they added, "we regret all interventions that fail to take into account the political rights and sovereignty of the State of Israel."

Among the signators to the statement, each of whom spoke in his own name and not necessarily for his organization or affiliation, were Father John G. Donohue, Catholic-Jewish Relations Committee of the Archdiocese of New York; Dr. Charles Fritsch, Professor of Hebrew and Old Testament Literature, Princeton Theological Seminary; Dr. Andre Lacocque, Chicago Theological Seminary; Msgr. John Oesterreicher, Institute of Judeo-Christian Studies, Seton Hall University; Abbot Leo Rudloff, Benedictine Monk; Dr. Elwyn Smith, Temple University; Dr. George Williams, Harvard University.

In regard to Christians Concerned for Israel, an organization that was formed four months ago and now numbers 300 members, Dr. Littell declared that its primary purpose was to "re-think the relation of the Christian Church to the Jewish people." He stated:

"It is not possible to love a 'spiritual Israel' and hate the earthly Israel. It is not possible to honor and obey the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob and wish evil to the Jewish people. To lay it on the line, it is not possible to side with those who seek Jerusalem's destruction and be numbered a faithful Christian. It was not possible in the Germany of the Third Reich, and it is not possible today in America."

Quoting Dr. and Mrs. Roy Eckardt, authors of "Encounter With Israel" and members of Christians Concerned for Israel, he declared:

"The real threat to the Christian community's independence in the Middle East is the alliance of Islam with Arab chauvinism. By encouraging extremist forces within that alliance and by talking up Arab aspirations, the churches help sign their own death warrant. The irony of the pro-Arab, anti-Israeli effort within the churches is that religious life and freedom for Christians are flourishing within Israel and are under repression within a number of the very countries the churchmen seek to appease, such as Syria, Iraq and Egypt."



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