

JEWISH NEWS BRIEFS

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

RAMAT GAN (WNS)--Some 100 newly arrived Soviet Jews studying at Bar-Ilan University, are being helped to "catch up" with the Jewish cultural and religious heritage by a special program instituted by the school.

TEL AVIV (WNS)--Mordecai Louk, the Moroccan born Israeli "man in the trunk" who was sentenced to a 10-year prison term for spying for Egypt was released after serving six years. Louk was arrested in Rome in November, 1964 after being found drugged and tied in a "diplomatic mail" trunk enroute to Cairo.

NEW YORK (WNS)--Seventy American teenagers between the ages of 15 and 17 left for a year's high school study in Israel under a program sponsored by the America-Israel Secondary School Program of the Department of Education and Culture of the World Zionist Organization.

NEW YORK (WNS)--Johnny Carson, popular star of the NBC "Tonight Show" has been urged by two Soviet Jewry committees to "publicly reject" the invitation tendered him by Intourist-Aeroflot to televise his shows from Moscow.

LISBON (WNS)--Jewish leaders here remarked that the legislation passed unanimously by the Portuguese Parliament granting religious freedoms to non-Catholics changed little in practice since Portugal had granted such freedoms to Jews and Protestants in 1910.

JERUSALEM (WNS)--Arab mayors of the West Bank will meet in Bet Sachur, a village near Bethlehem, on August 18 to discuss measures to counter the Lebanese-proposed Arab boycott of West Bank agricultural products.

NEW YORK (WNS)--Twenty Jews in Kiev and Vilna have been jailed or fined on charges of "hooliganism" for attempting to commemorate Tisha b'Av by visiting Jewish mass graves. The 10 Kiev Jews received 15 day jail sentences. The Jews in Vilna were given a choice of similar terms or fines.

JERUSALEM (WNS)--More than 200 Black Panthers, members of the "Panthers-Blue and White" faction led by Eddy Malka, held a peaceful demonstration in this city's main square and demanded the end of discrimination against Oriental Jews, especially in housing and jobs.

NEW YORK (WNS)--Rabbi Arthur Schneier of Park East Synagogue reported that Moscow's Chief Rabbi Yehuda Leib Levin had been released from the hospital after five week's recovery from a serious operation.

JERUSALEM (WNS)--Israel's stand on admitting Red China to the UN has always been in favor of admitting Communist China to the UN but "not at the expense of Taiwan." The Peking government has been a consistent supporter of Arab anti-Israeli moves.

LAS VEGAS ISRAELITE

ISSUES AIRED AT US-ISRAEL DIALOGUE

REHOVOT (WNS)---Charges and denials that Israel was "intellectually totalitarian" and that American Jews were psychologically "overcommitted" to Israel stirred the annual four-day American-Israel dialogue. Hillel Kook, a former Knesset member and a leader of the pre-State Irgun, now a resident of New York, told the meeting that Israel had "too little dissent, too little discussion of vital issues, too little debate on fundamental questions."

Arthur A. Cohen, a New York theologian, philosopher and author of articles on Judaism and Jewish problems, asserted that the "crisis" of American Jewish life was the development of a belief that every phase of American Jewish behavior had to be measured "and validated" by its relationship to Israel. He denied that Jews can lead a full Jewish life only in Israel and said "in fact, there is greater opportunity outside Israel to maintain one's Jewish identity without public scrutiny and surveillance."

Disputing Cohen's charges, Professor David Landes of Harvard University asserted that the American attachment to Israel represented a "healthy instinct." He added that the founding of Israel had been a "watershed" in American Jewish life, bringing about a change in the character of American Jews and opening "a new dimension in diaspora life." Professor Landes also argued that there was far more dissent and criticism in Israel than in any other new country in history. He said

it was a "gross distortion" to characterize Israeli intellectual life as "totalitarian." Agreeing with Professor Landes were two Israelis, Dan Leon of the Jewish Agency, author of books on the Kibbutz system, and Dr. Nathan Lerner, executive director of the Israeli branch of the World Jewish Congress. They agreed there was "ample discussion" in Israel on many problems to Jewish life.

At other sessions, S.Z. Abramov, a member of the Gahal coalition in the Knesset, warned that if American Jews did not turn "inward" and abandon their stress on "universalistic values such as civil rights and the peace movement," Jewish life in the U.S. was more likely to vanish. Professor Irving Louis of Rutgers University drew a distinction between the political tasks of Israel as a Jewish state and the moral and cultural tasks of the Jewish people. He said Israel was a state like any other state in that it had to look for its survival above all other considerations often without regard to moral or ethical considerations. His statements

FRIDAY, AUG. 13, 1971
ican Jewish Congress, who stated that, from the earliest days of Zionism, the concept of the Jewish state included "recognition" of a "mission" beyond survival.

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