

JEWISH NEWS BRIEFS

NEW YORK (WNS)--Rabbi Marc H. Tanenbaum, national interreligious affairs director of the American Jewish Committee, charged that the Syrian Ambassador to the United States, Dr. George J. Tomeh, had "misrepresented grossly" the former's broadcast of the condition of Syrian Jews.

WASHINGTON (WNS)--Professor Richard Pipes, History Professor at Harvard University told two House subcommittees on Foreign Affairs that the U.S. and Western Europe must devote greater attention to security in the Mediterranean to prevent Russian expansion into that area.

NEW YORK (WNS)--Mayor John V. Lindsay offered an amendment to the New York City Administrative Code submitted to the City Council in which an observer would be permitted to wear the clothing required by his religion. It was the first legislative proposal of its kind anywhere in the U.S.

HARTFORD (WNS)--Senator Lowell P. Weicker, Jr. (R.) called on the U.S. to enter into a treaty with Israel stating "the mutuality of our interests, goals and beliefs." Weicker was one of 78 Senators endorsing a resolution urging the Administration to supply Israel with Phantom Jets.

JERUSALEM (WNS)--Sources here reported that Egyptian President Anwar Sadat requested missiles from the Soviet Union capable of hitting Israeli civilian centers.

JERUSALEM (WNS)--The Presidents of Nigeria, Cameroun, Congo and Senegal will visit Israel on a special diplomatic mission to determine the roots of the Middle East conflict and to try to find a solution.

TEL AVIV (WNS)--The joint Knesset Defense and Foreign Affairs and Financial Committee is considering a cut of \$33.6 million in the Israeli Defense budget.



JERUSALEM--DR. OYIN OLURIN, CHIEF OF THE EYE DEPARTMENT AT THE UNIVERSITY OF LAGOS, NIGERIA ADDRESSES INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON THE PREVENTION OF BLINDNESS AT CLOSING BANQUET IN KNESSET HALL. SHE SAID: "AND TO WHOM

SHALL WE TURN TO SOLVE OUR EYE TROUBLE BUT TO SMALL ISRAEL?" CONFERENCE WAS ORGANIZED BY DR. I. C. MICHAELSON, HEAD OF THE DEPARTMENT OF OPHTHALMOLOGY, HADASSAH-HEBREW UNIVERSITY MEDICAL CENTER.

HADASSAH BATTLES BLINDNESS
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developed countries of the world, the clinicians and public health administrators battling against blindness in the developing countries, and representatives of international organizations and philanthropic institutions participating in that battle. The participants from the developing states were able to present their problems to the experts and specialists in a search for solutions with the eventual hope of eliminating the high rate of blindness that prevails in their lands.

"Blindness is not a disease, but only a stage in a disease," explained the Convenor of the Seminar, Prof. Isaac C. Michaelson, Head of the Ophthalmology Department of the Hadassah-Hebrew University Medical Center. "To prevent blindness, we have to get at the disease causing it in the early stages. This requires a combination of several factors.

"There is first the scientific factor. The scientists, the back-room boys, are constantly finding out new things about the diseases, leading to new ways of treatment. The clinicians, working both in developed and developing countries, must have at their disposal the new techniques and drugs evolved by the scientists. Then, we need epidemiologists, who survey the incidence of disease on a world scale. They tell us where the fires are burning. Finally, we must have a group of people who facilitate the work of the clinicians or the epidemiologists - the administrators, or as I call them, the facilitators. These include supra-governmental agencies, like the World Health Organization, governmental agencies and international philanthropic bodies.

"All these form links in a chain. If one link is missing, the chain simply cannot work. The Jerusalem Seminar was conceived as an effort to join all the links. And the creation of the World Committee for the Prevention of Blindness is a proof that we have succeeded in forging our chain. This was the first conference of its kind ever held - we hoped that it would be the beginning of a new movement, and the event has justified our hopes."

Under Prof. Michaelson's system, integrated

eye services are provided to the developing countries with the motto, "We serve, we teach, and we leave." Local doctors and nurses from the African countries concerned are sent for training to the Hadassah-Hebrew University Medical Center in Jerusalem. In the meanwhile junior specialist ophthalmologists from Hadassah are obliged to spend two years in rotation running the eye clinics in the African lands until the local doctors can take over.

The Jerusalem Seminar on the Prevention of Blindness was held under the auspices of the Israel Academy of Sciences and Humanities and its co-sponsors were the Hadassah Medical Organization and the Israel Ophthalmological Society.

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