JEWISH NEWS BRIEFS

Israelite Ads Pay

WASHINGTON -- B'nai B'rith has asked the Justice Department to demonstrate American concern for the plight of Syria's Jews by granting them "parole authority" to enter the United States as refugees.

WASHINGTON, D. C. -- The National Commander of the Jewish War Veterans today called for the immediate severance of the United States of diplomatic and trade relations with Uganda.

NEW YORK -- A program of "Memorials of spirit in the creative works of arts and letters" was announced in connection with the 30th Anniversary of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising by Josef Rosensaft, President of the World Federation of Bergen-Belsen Survivors' Associations.

WASHINGTON, D. C. -- A decisive majority of the nation's candidates for Congress strongly support continued American assistance to Israel, according to a poll taken by the American Israel Public Af airs Committee.

NEW YORK -- The assumption that a belief in God is "as American as apple pie", has led to what scholars and theologians term a "civil religion" in the United States.

NEWARK -- The president of Princeton University has assured the American Jewish Congress that unlike the current admissions form, next year's application will not ask parents' countries of birth.

LOS ANGELES -- More than 5,000 persons signed a scroll protesting the issue of terrorism around the world at the Anti-Defamation League booth at last month's Los Angeles County Fair, according to Co-Chairmen Elsie Bornstein and Arthur Bernard,

WASHINGTON -- The American University will inaugucate its first year-long overseas study program next summer when The American University Year at Tel Aviv University begins.

WASHINGTON, D. C. -- A national educational program commemorating the 30th anniversary of Jewish resistance to Nazi oppression and terror has been initiated by the B'nai B'rith Hillel Foundations.

LOS ANGELES -- The new \$165,000 B'nai B'rith Hillel Foundation Center for the Jewish student community at the University of Southern California was dedicated November 16, it was announced by Rabbi Roy Furman of Westwood, Director of the Center.

PHILADELPHIA, PA. -- A \$100,000 endowment to Reconstructionist Rabbinical College of Philadelphia was New Jersey Industrialist Abraham Goodman.

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PAWLING, N. Y. -- An effort to narrow the "knowledge gap" about the role of religion in American history is being made with the distribution of Dr. Norman Vincent Peale's booklet entitled ONE NATION UNDER GOD to every public, private and parochial school in the country. For free copy write Box X-4, Pawling, N. Y. 12564.

NEW YORK -- Gilbert Farber will be honored for his leadership in the retail field and for his efforts in communal and philanthropic affairs at a testimonial dinner-dance December 13 at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel sponsored by American Jewish Committee.

NEW YORK -- Alexander Greendale, Director of the Housing Division of the American Jewish Committee, has been elected vice president of the Inter-religious New Communities Coalition, an organization concerned with "New Towns" -planned communities that are growing up around the country, it was announced by Rev. John C. DeBoer, of the United Church of Christ, the Coalition's chairman.

KIBBUTZ MAAGAN MICHAEL, ISRAEL --Theodore D. Racoosin of New York City broke ground for his fourth school for Israeli children here recently - the first Israel Education Fund facility to be located in a kibbutz.

The approximately 4,500 Jews remaining in Syria are still denied basic human rights and some continue to be beaten and imprisoned on various pretexts, a non-sectarian American group revealed today.

The Committee of Concern for Minorities in Arab countries, of which Gen. (Ret.) Lucius D. Clay is chairman, reported that;

* The identity cards of Jews still carry the notation "Misawi" (Jewish) in large red letters on both sides.

Syrian Jews are not allowed to travel freely within the country and cannot go abroad, even for medical treatment. Even Jews with foreign citizenship and passports are not allowed to

 Jews cannot work in government offices,
Tews cannot work in government conduct public companies, or banks, and cannot conduct an export or import business. Government and army personnel have been ordered not to buy in

Jewish-owned stores. * Jews cannot sell their houses or other real estate. When they die, the government seizes

their property. • The secret police maintain headquarters in the Jewish sections of Damascus, Aleppo, and Qamishli, checking the residents to make sure they observe a 10 p.m. curfew.

Information on the current situation of the Jewish minority in Syria was obtained from several Syrian Jews who recently fled the country and reached Western Europe. They stated that relatives of Jews who manage to get out of Syria were beaten in an effort to get information about the means of escape. Police at a post outside of Aleppo are notorious for beating Jews trying to enter that city from Damascus.

The Syrian military are reported to be holding Albert Elia, the 69-year-old secretary-general of the Lebanese Jewish community, who was seized in September, 1971, by the secret police as he was walking to the Beirut synagogue. It is believed that Elia was suspected of aiding Jews who had escaped to Lebanon.

Also said to be in custody are two young Jewish men from Damascus (Nissim Katri and Joseph Swed) and four young Jewish women from Aleppo (Henriette, Renee and Yvonne Gindi and their cousin, also named Renee Gindi), all on charges of either having attempted to leave Syria "illegally" or of having aided other Jews to do 80.

The escapees confirm reports of the virtually total ban on travel by Jews outside the country. They cite the case of a young Jewish boy, Simon Khabas, 16, who needs special treatment for a heart ailment that is not available in Syria.

The authorities have refused permission for the boy to leave the country, despite his parents' plea that his death was inevitable without speedy medical attention. The response of one Syrian official was, "So he'll die -- there'll be one Jew less.

Commenting on the present situation in Syria, General Clay expressed the hope "that the Syrian authorities will conclude that if the Syrian Arab Republic wishes to enjoy the respect of the civilized world, the Syrian Government must undertake policies and actions consistent with its declarations at the United Nations and elsewhere that Syrian Jews enjoy full freedom and equal rights with other citizens."



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