

Good Night, Sweet Prinz

BY RABBI SAMUEL SILVER

I hope the great Rabbi Joachim Prinz is all right.

How astounding it was to read that Dr. Prinz the onetime head of the American Jewish Congress, the firebrand that was plucked years ago from the Nazi holocaust, the eloquent rabbi of that huge congregation in New Jersey, told the National Council of Jewish Women, that Judaism was facing extinction.

What led the rabbi to make that gloomy prognosis?

Well, for one thing, he said, the Jews of America were giving so much attention to the State of Israel that they were neglecting their own spiritual living.

Rebuttal: If American Jews ignored Israel that would be a clearer sign of decline than the opposite. The strong link between American Israel and the State of Israel assures us of a healthy survival of Jewish interest.

Dr. Prinz also warned the Jewish ladies that the high rate of intermarriage spells the ultimate disappearance of Judaism in this land.

Nonsense, Dr. Prinz. The rate of intermarriage today is less than it has been in earlier epochs. Intermarriage is the price we Jews pay for the equality which we have always striven. And today's intermarriages yield more converts to Judaism that converts out of the faith. The very fact that so many Jewish young people who marry non-Jewish partners clamor for a Jewish ceremony indicates that Jewishness has a strong hold on them. And the fact that their non-Jewish partners also want the services of rabbis further proves the strength of Judaism, not its weakness.

Actually, before you bid Judaism good night, sweet Prinz, ponder how Judaism has risen in prestige and in status throughout our country in the media and in the arts. Talk with Rabbi Robert Gordis and let him remind you that Judaism is exerting more influence than ever not only on our government, but also on Christianity. Dr. Gordis has written a telling article called "The Re-Judaization of Christianity."

Even the fact that the National Council of Jewish Women had as a principal speaker at one of its great confabs a rabbi is proof that Jewishness today is not dying, but thriving.

NEW YORK,--Elmer L. Winter, President of the American Jewish Committee, hailed the passage of the Mills-Vanik Amendment to the Nixon administration's trade bill as a "positive act of statesmanship in emphasizing to the Soviet rulers our determination to obtain the right of free emigration for Jews and other Soviet citizens before granting the Soviet Union special economic benefits."

EGYPTIAN FIGHTING MAY RESUME

TEL AVIV (WNS) -- Israelis were warned by Defense Minister Moshe Dayan not to be surprised if hostilities resume on the Egyptian front because Egypt wants to dislodge the Israeli soldiers on the west bank of the Suez Canal.

Meanwhile Israeli sources reported that Egyptian armored forces held in reserve to protect Cairo are now facing Israeli forces on the west bank of the canal in an apparent maneuver to break the encirclement of the Egyptian Third Army Corps on the east bank. Exchange of small arms fire initiated by the Egyptians were reported.

Elements of the Third Army attempted to move eastward to the Jiddi Pass and westward to construct an infantry bridge across the canal but were repulsed by Israeli artillery fire.

Israeli sources indicated that Egypt may be trying to lure Israel into opening fire so that the entire front could erupt at once.

Another suggestion was that Egypt wants to get the U.S. to force Israel to accept Egyptian terms coordinated by Moscow. The Egyptians are convinced that the Soviet Union will not allow Israeli forces to approach Cairo.

Meanwhile more than 100 truck loads of supplies have been brought by the United Nations to the trapped

Third Army. In Washington, Rep. Edward I. Koch (D.N.Y.) said he has written President Nixon commending him for his "strong and immediate actions" in supporting Israel but voicing his distress "over the pressure that our nation is placing on Israel."

NEW YORK (WNS) -- The 25th anniversary of United Nations Human Rights Day was marked by women throughout the U.S. and Canada in a series of rallies, candle-light walks, vigils and soup kitchens in support of Soviet Jewry and particularly "prisoners of conscience," those Jews imprisoned in the USSR because they wanted to emigrate to Israel.

VIENNA (WNS) -- The Austrian government has officially closed the transit camp at Schoenau Castle and the first group of Soviet Jews have arrived at the new transit camp in Woellersdorf.



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