

SEDER FOR RUSSIAN JEWS IN ROME

Passover this year had special meaning as a festival of freedom and liberation for nearly six hundred Russian Jews in Rome en route to the U.S. and other Western countries. It was reported by Edward Ginsberg, Joint Distribution Committee Chairman.

Over 350 attended a Seder which the JDC arranged for them at the Rome Jewish Community Children's Home. Mr. Ginsberg said, "There are 585 Russian Jews among the 638 transmigrants in Rome

for whom JDC provides food, shelter & medical care while they wait for their travel arrangements to be completed. A few last minute arrivals from Vienna were also invited.

In addition to the families attending the Seder at the Children's Home, Mr. Ginsberg reported that 30 young Russian Jews were invited to a Seder which was held for young Italian Jews at the community's Kadimah Youth Center in Rome. This was part of a new youth activities program the

JDC is developing for the 18-25 age group among the Russian transmigrants.

The JDC Rome office also provided matzos and wine for all the transmigrants now in its care to use during Passover week, he added.

The Seder at the Children's Home was conducted in Russian by Vladimir Halperin of ORT - Geneva to enable the Soviet Jews to follow the Haggadah and take part in the ceremony, even though for many it was their first Seder. Two seats were kept empty, Mr. Ginsberg said, one for the Jews

still struggling for their freedom in the USSR and the other for the 62 Israelis still in prison in Syria.

In Vienna, Mr. Ginsberg said, JDC, also arranged for last minute arrivals from the Soviet Union to attend the community Seder at the Vienna Synagogue.

Funds for the care of transmigrants and other JDC health, welfare and educational assistance programs come mainly from the campaigns of the United Jewish Appeal.

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JERUSALEM (WNS) -- The Jewish Nat'l Fund is and has been buying land from Arab owners in the administered territories near Jerusalem even though this land may eventually be returned to Jordan or the Palestinians as part of a peace settlement, Shimon Ben Shemesh, JNF director general has disclosed. He said the JNF is also assisting individual Jews "who wish to buy land there."

JERRY P. GUMFORY, D.V.M.

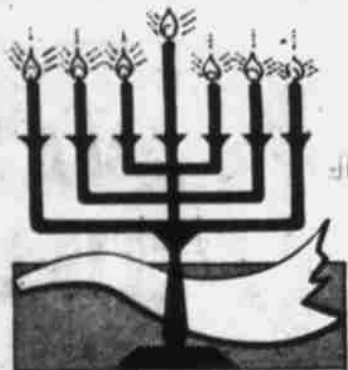
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