

JEWISH NEWS BRIEFS

JERUSALEM -- Eleven high school girls, ranging in age from 14 to 17 constituted the first "graduating class" of a novel training course for baby sitters at the Beit Pomerantz Community Center in Jerusalem.

LAWRENCE, N.Y. -- The Jewish Information Council is issuing a new publication called "The Rosh Hashanah Home Reader," for free distribution in time for the Jewish New Year observance which starts this year on Saturday, September 25th, 1976. Write Box 11, Lawrence, N.Y. 11559.

NEW YORK -- If Reform Judaism is to sustain a developing Jewish community, it must move closer to the Halachah, the rabbinic legal structure which has set standards of behavior for Conservative and Orthodox Jews in every important aspect of Jewish life for over 2,000 years, declared Rabbi Benjamin Z. Kreitman, Executive Vice President of the United Synagogue of America.

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- Hadassah, the Women's Zionist Organization of America and the largest women's organization in the U.S., raised over \$24.5 million this year -- compared with \$23 million in 1975, it was announced at National Convention.

JERUSALEM (WNS) -- A new moshav intended for some 100 families is being built on the slopes of Mount Gilboa, west of Jenin. The settlement is called "Magen Sha'ul," named for King Saul who died at the site battling the Philistines.

MONTREAL (WNS) -- The practice by the Canadian High Commissioner in London of validating certificates of Canadians seeking entry to Arab countries that the applicants were not Jewish or were Christians has been halted.

JERUSALEM (WNS) -- Hope for lasting and friendly relations between Portugal and Israel was expressed in a cable from newly-elected Portuguese Premier Mario Soares to Premier Yitzhak Rabin.

JERUSALEM (WNS) -- Israel should send people abroad to promote aliya who are more sensitive to religion, according to Rabbi Walter S. Wurzbarger, president of the Rabbinical Council of America.

JERUSALEM (WUP) -- Austrian authorities are studying the purchase of the Israeli-developed and built Kfir all-purpose combat plane. This craft is said to be 20% cheaper than all competitive models.

HATTA (WUP) -- Israel exported 49.6 million cases of fresh citrus during the recently-concluded 1975-76 season hitting an all-time peak. The exports were sent abroad on 552 ships.

LOD (WUP) -- An expansion in charter flight traffic from Sweden, Denmark and Finland with at least four weekly flights direct to Eilat and seven more to Ben Gurion Airport every week this coming winter promises a tourist boom for the year 1976.

WASHINGTON (WNS) -- Four members of the Jewish Defense League have been arrested on charges of harassing Soviet and Iraqi diplomats in New York.

TEL AVIV (WNS) -- Michael Almog, chairman of the Israel Football (soccer) Association, has expressed anger over Malaysia's refusal to grant him an entry visa to attend a meeting of the Asian Football Confederation in Kuala Lumpur.

WASHINGTON (WNS) -- The use of the death penalty against terrorists would not serve the best interest of Israel, Israeli Justice Minister Haim Zadok told newsmen here, "Not only would it not deter potential terrorists, but it would create martyrs, thus providing an example for others to follow," he explained.

TEL AVIV (WNS) -- Israel's 7000 grocers went on a three-day strike to protest the complicated bookkeeping required by the new valued added tax.

GOP PLANK

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declared that "the United States would view any attempt to reimpose an embargo as an essentially hostile act." On the Arab boycott, the platform said that the Republican Party "will oppose discriminatory practices, including boycotts of any type." The Mideast plank credits Republican administrations with having "succeeded in reestablishing communications with the Arab countries" and having made "extensive progress in our diplomatic and commercial relations with the more moderate Arab nations."

The plank made no mention of the Palestinians or refugees. Earlier in the platform committee the word "parties" in relation to a Mideast settlement was changed to "states" and "nations" after Sen. Hugh Scott, of Pennsylvania, the GOP Senate leader, said "We do not want to be interpreted as negotiating with the PLO and Yasir Arafat."

The Republican platform also called on the Soviet Union to "implement" the United Nations Declaration on Human Rights and the 1975 Helsinki Agreement that "guarantee" emigration rights and the ending of "all forms of harassment" of those wishing to emigrate. There was no mention of the Jackson-Vanik Amendment to the U.S. Trade Reform Act of 1974 which links U. S. trade benefits for the Soviet Union with an easing of its emigration policy.

In a plank on the UN, the platform vigorously condemns the "politicization of the UN in which Israel has been a chief victim. "The very principles of the organization are threatened" by the UN becoming "arrayed against vital interests of any of its member states on ideology or other narrow grounds," the platform said. It provided as an example "actions such as the malicious attempt to depict Zionism as a form of racism" which it said was "inconsistent with the objectives of the United Nations" and "repugnant to the United States."

On other issues, the platform called for "vigorous enforcement of law to assure equal treatment" in job recruitment, hiring, promotion, mortgage access and housing. But it

opposed doing this "by resurrecting the discredited quota system."

The only addition to the platform drafted by the platform committee, was the adoption by the convention of a Reagan-sponsored "morality in foreign policy" amendment which was an indirect attack on Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger. The amendment which did not mention Kissinger scored "detente" with the Soviet Union, the Helsinki accord, and a "foreign policy in which secret agreements (are) hidden from our people." The Ford forces went along with the amendment because they did not want to face another floor fight after defeating an effort by Reagan's supporters to have Ford name his running mate before the Presidential balloting.

Influential Jewish Republicans were enthusiastic about the platform. Detroit industrialist Max Fisher, who holds a top position in the Ford campaign and is a close advisor of the President, said he was "delighted" with the platform and its "very, very strong statements of American support for Israel." David Lissy, a lawyer from Philadelphia, now on the White House staff, indicated that he found high enthusiasm for the platform in his talks with up to 75 of the Jewish delegates at the convention. Sen. Jacob K. Javits, a member of the New York delegation, said the platform was as strong or stronger on Israel's behalf than any ever adopted by either major party.

Meanwhile, Ford selected as his running-mate, Sen. Robert J. Dole of Kansas, who has a record of staunch support for Israel and Soviet Jewry in his 15 years in the House and Senate. In 1971, the year President Nixon named the conservative Senator as the Republican Party's national chairman, Dole was among the first members of Congress to urge the White House to supply Israel with Phantom jets, then a controversial subject in Washington. In 1975, during the Ford Administration's "reassessment" of its Mideast policy, Dole joined 70 other Senators in urging the President to provide adequate U.S. military and economic aid to Israel. Dole, a Methodist, was honored at a Kansas City Jewish community dinner in 1971 after he received the Israel Prime Minister's Award for his assistance to the Israel Bond Organization.

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