

**OVERFLOW CROWD**

**JERUSALEM (WNS)** -- The first World Conference in Israel for Yiddish and Jewish Culture opened with an overflow crowd of 2000 persons jamming the Jerusalem Theatre here.

President Ephraim Katzir, in a message from Hadaasah Hospital where he is recovering from surgery, declared that the conference is living evidence of the mutual respect that now exists between Hebrew and Yiddish.

Education and Culture Minister Aharon Yadlin said the government of Israel must preserve Yiddish along with other cultures and languages brought to Israel by the various Jewish communities. He said that Yiddish is now recognized as a language in the secondary schools and that he has asked Habimah, Israel's national theatre, to include Yiddish plays in their performances in Israel and abroad.

Yosef Almog, chairman of the Jewish Agency and World Zionist Organization Executives, said that Yiddish was a component in the creation of the Zionist movement and must be used along with Hebrew in

**CULTURE CONFAB**

fighting the increasing waves of assimilation.

Rabbi Arthur Hertzberg, president of the American Jewish Congress, said that there is an essential need for Jewish content in Jewish life. He said the Jewish people cannot give up any of its creations whether in Yiddish or any other language.

Yiddish writers, journalists and actors spoke of the years of discrimination against Yiddish while a young group of writers attacked what they called the Yiddish establishment.

**ISRAEL'S ECONOMIC GROWTH STYMIED**

**TEL AVIV (WNS)** -- The stagnation in Israel's economic growth that has existed since 1974 will continue through 1976, Finance Minister Yehoshua Rabinowitz told 100 Americans and Canadian Jewish leaders participating in the 1976 Jerusalem Leadership Conference of the Israel Bond Organization.

He said the gross national product will increase by only one to two percent while inflation will continue with a 30 percent in-

crease in prices. But Rabinowitz said the government's new economic policy is working and achieved results that surpassed the targets for the first half of 1976.

He said the government should be able to reach its goal of doubling Israel's production by 1980 through the investment of \$2.8 billion, the major share coming from Israel Bonds, and by shifting some 6000 workers from service jobs to industry.

The Bond leaders also met with President Ephraim Katzir Defense Minister Shimon Peres and Jerusalem Mayor Teddy Kollek. They laid wreaths on the graves of former Chief of Staff Gen. David Elazar and Lt. Col Jonathan Nathanyahu who was killed while leading the Israeli rescue mission in Uganda.

**CANADA VIEWS ARAB BOYCOTT OF ISRAEL**

**TORONTO (WNS)** -- Canadian Minister of External Affairs Allan MacEachen has announced that the Cabinet will make a decision by early fall regarding government policy on the Arab boycott against Israel.

His announcement

came after a Toronto newspaper revealed that a secret Cabinet memorandum affirms that a working team from MacEachen's ministry has informed the government that the "pro-Israel lobby (in Canada) has been exaggerating the affects on Canadian companies of the Arab boycott against Israel." The memorandum also states that "the boycott is an emotional issue and the inclusion of non-commercial contracts is repugnant to many Canadians."

This is believed to be a reference to advertisements appearing in Canadian newspapers placed by Arab companies offering contracts for projects in those countries but specifying that Moslems should apply for the jobs. The memorandum said that any stand the Canadian government takes on the boycott "must be consistent with our policy of balance and objectivity towards the Arab-Israeli dispute."

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**HUNTINGTON WOODS, MICH.** -- Harold Dubin, former assistant director of the Jewish Community Council of Metropolitan Detroit; David Darsky, owner of an advertising - public relations firm for many years; and Charlotte Dubin, former city editor of The (Detroit) Jewish News, have formed a new public relations firm designed to meet the special needs of Jewish communal agencies and organizations.

**NEW YORK** -- Mrs. Charles (Bertie) Schwartz, New York communal leader and first woman president of the Jewish Book Council of the National Jewish Welfare Board died September 22.

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