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PHONE 876-1255

Publisher Bea Tell, 876-1255
Editor Jack Tell, 876-1255
Business Manager Bea Tell, 876-1255
Only in Vegas Geri Blutter, 878-8038

MARK TAN, DICK McMINNES, TRUDE FELDMAN,
DAVID HOROWITZ, RABBI SAMUEL SILVER,
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Holocaust on German TV

What are we to make of the reaction of Germans to the American-made "Holocaust" series which was recently shown on four successive nights in West Germany? Even though the program was shunted to the regional channel, Germany's third and least watched television channel, it received a relatively high audience. In fact, the number of people watching the program surprised many in and out of Germany.

This came despite the claim of many Germans that they were tired with being reminded of the atrocities of the Nazis, crimes in which many of them participated or at the least condoned. It also came despite the threats of neo-Nazis, including the bombing of the transmission lines leading to the antenna of one of the stations several days before the program was aired.

Preliminary reports have shown that the program was viewed favorably by most of those who saw it. Will this have any lasting effect on Germans, either those who lived through the Nazi era or the large percentage of the population who were born after World War II.

The effect can best be demonstrated positively if the Germans now support the demands that West Germany extend the law which permits the prosecution of Nazi war criminals which is due to expire Dec. 31. Chancellor Helmut Schmidt made this very point in commending the program in a speech to Parliament. He said it was a "must" because "of the decision each of us must make for himself in the course of the year on the statute of limitations."

Red Magen David

The recent Eleventh Conference of European Rabbis passed a strongly-worded resolution urging the International Red Cross organization in Geneva to grant immediate recognition to the Red Magen David Society of Israel.

The Rabbis of 14 countries were represented at the Paris Conference. They called attention to the many efforts that have been made during the 31 years of Israel's statehood for the Magen David Adom to gain admission to the world body. The resolution draws attention to the fact that of the 10 criteria for admission Israel fulfills 9 of them more than adequately. The Rabbis insist that Israel should not be forced to use as its symbol the Christian Red Cross, the Arab Red Crescent or the Red Lion and Sun of Iran. The resolution praised the efforts of Operation Recognition which is spearheading the worldwide movement to gain acceptance for the Israeli group as a full-fledged member of the world Red Cross.

Rabbi Rubin R. Dobin, International Chairman of Operation Recognition hailed the support of the Conference of European Rabbis. He explained that a nine-nation working group has been appointed to look into the entire problem of the emblem and seek a fair solution. The action of the Rabbis will serve notice on the working group that their deliberations are being closely watched.

Rabbi Dobin announced a new Operation Recognition Action Kit is available for free



AMERICAN MEMBERS OF THE STUDENT STRUGGLE FOR SOVIET JEWRY VISIT THREE GENERATIONS OF ILYINKA JEWS IN JERUSALEM, SOME OF THE LUCKY FEW WHO MANAGED TO WIN EMIGRATION FROM THE JEWISH "SHTETL", NOW A COLLECTIVE FARM, DEEP IN RURAL RUSSIA. TODAY, THE ILYINKAITES, DESCENDENTS OF PEASANTS WHO CONVERTED EN MASSE TO JUDAISM, REMAIN TENACIOUSLY OBSERVANT AND ARE PERSECUTED AND BARRED FROM EXIT. A DETAILED BOOKLET, THE JEWS OF ILYINKA -- II, IS AVAILABLE FREE IN SINGLE COPIES FROM THE SSSJ AT 200 WEST 72ND STREET, SUITES 30 - 31, NEW YORK, N. Y. 10023.

distribution. Those interested should send a stamped, self-addressed envelope to Rabbi Dobin, POB 11, Lawrence, N.Y. 11559.

New Israeli Leadership

UNITED NATIONS (WUP) -- "Restoration of confidence in the Israeli Government, inside the country as well as abroad, requires a change of regime."

Thus declared Dr. Paul S. Riebenfeld in an exclusive interview with the writer here at the UN.

The noted Zionist leader, who was Zeev Zabotinsky's representative at the League of Nations from 1937 to 1939 and who is currently a professor of Political Science, was emphatic in stating that "what is vital for the peace-making process is for the Arabs to understand the Zionist resolve and the dynamic morale of the people of Israel and this," he added, "would best be served by a very strong showing and possibly by an election victory of the Likud."

In reviewing the present situation in Israel, he said that "it is a tragedy for every Zionist that the weakening of Labor should have been mainly caused by corruption and internal demoralization. The opportunism shown in the internal maneuvering was equally distasteful."

Asked about the current moves for an overall Middle East settlement, Dr. Riebenfeld replied that "the only solution to the Palestinian problem is for Jordan to rename itself the 'Palestinian Kingdom of Hashamite Jordan' and to reshape its institutions accordingly.

"It has to be made clear to the Arab people," he stressed, "that Israel covers about 20% of historic and mandated Palestine and Jordan 80%. The Palestinian character of Jordan does not derive merely from the composition of its population, but from the fact that the country itself east of Jordan is geographically and historically a part of Palestine. The acquiescence of the Zionist organization in 1922 in the exclusion of the Jewish National Home provisions from Transjordan and, on the other hand, the recognition of the Palestine Mandate, including the Balfour Declaration, by the Emir Abdullah, constituted a historic compromise between the Jews and Arabs of Palestine. King Hussein, as the heir of his grandfather, so far has not honored the obligations interred into his family during and after the First World War."

The former President of the New Zionist Organization of Great Britain, who is renowned for his expositions on Middle East issues, questioned the motives of Egypt and Saudi Arabia in their present quest for a settlement with Israel. "Assuming that they are sincere in their professions of peace," he said, "they will have to find a way to deal with the 'Palestinian issue' to which they have given such unwarranted prominence. This," he insisted, "cannot be done by a second Arab State in Palestine, especially if it means the injection of Soviet

influence between Jordan and Israel and north of Saudi Arabia." But, he added, "this is exactly what the Rabat decision, hoisting the PLO into a key position, does imply.

"Many have forgotten that the Rabat action was due to Russian sponsorship of the PLO within the Third World and in the Arab League," Dr. Riebenfeld told your correspondent. "In order to satisfy the cry for a national identity for the Palestinian people, the true character of Jordan as a Palestinian State and of King Hussein as a Palestinian ruler has to be brought into focus."

Returning to the political internal situation within Israel at this time, the professor of Political Science, who had recently testified at hearings before the Special Congressional Subcommittee on Investigations relating to the Palestinian issue, stated that "the Labor Party, which presents itself as the peace party to the Israeli public, has presided over four wars. There are certain objective conditions, however, which any Israeli Government has to cope with. For instance, the appointment of Prof. Shlomo Avineri, the original proponent of a Palestinian West Bank State, to the position of Director-General of the Israeli Foreign Office, did not change any aspect of the Palestinian problem. On the other hand," he observed, "if concessions are the price for a real and lasting peace, such concessions can easier be made by the so-called hawks than by the known appeasers. Anyway, the Arabs are not short of real estate."

Touching upon the problems of Israel here at the UN, Dr. Riebenfeld said that "it is not generally understood that the Balfour Declaration and the Palestine Mandate of the League of Nations were attempts by the international community to change the territorial status quo of the world peacefully. An effort was made to allocate legally and peacefully a piece of territory to the homeless Jewish people and, naturally, this piece was its ancient homeland. As a matter of fact, the boundaries of Palestine on both sides of the Jordan were drawn based on the Biblical atlas of Sir Adam Smith."

Thus, professor Paul S. Riebenfeld concluded, "the hostility of the UN majority toward Israel hits a vital component of the international system -- the possibility of changing and developing the status quo peacefully."

NEW YORK -- The spiraling rate of intermarriage between Jews and non-Jews in the United States could seriously diminish the American Jewish community, according to the American Jewish Committee. The report urged Jewish families and communal groups to combat this trend by developing a variety of new and meaningful outreach programs to intermarried couples.

NEW YORK -- The theme of the Thirty-Fifth Jewish Music Festival, sponsored annually since 1945 by the JWB Jewish Music Council has set March 13 to April 11 (Purim to Erev Pesach) as the 1979 dates of Jewish Music Festival.

CINCINNATI (WNS) -- American Jews would support "flexibility" in United States trade relations with the Soviet Union if the USSR would "standardize and humanize" its treatment of Soviet Jews, Jerry Goodman, the executive director of the National Conference of Soviet Jewry suggested.

HENNY YOUNGMAN



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