

TURKEY'S LINK

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furnace of war - torn Europe. And in this the Founder of the New Turkey followed a tradition begun by a number of benevolent Sultans.

Leon Picon, a retired diplomat who had served as a Cultural Consul in U.S. Embassies in both Japan and Turkey, notes in a recent article that Sultan Mehmet II, who had taken Constantinople from the Byzantines in 1453, "had opened a haven, a place of refuge for those who would within a generation suffer the tortures of the most diabolical purge of Jews prior to Hitler, the Spanish Inquisition."

"Have we forgotten the second great Exodus?" Picon asks. "Have we forgotten the trek across northern Italy and the continued oppression, unmatched even by the Russian pogroms? We seem to have forgotten the welcoming hand extended by the Turkish Sultans, particularly by Beyazid II, who not only granted asylum to the refugees, but by decree in the first decade of the 16th century guaranteed them protection and civil rights second only to those of Moslems. Such enlightened tolerance was not to recur for the Jews until four centuries later, in America..."

Diplomat Picon, who had received his PhD from Dropsie College for Hebrew and Cognate Learning in 1952 goes on and on recounting the great benefits enjoyed by Jews throughout the history of Turkey. He speaks of thousands of Portuguese refugees, Marranos, Jews forced into Christianity during the Inquisition to migrate to the Levant, to rejoin Judaism, to re-unite with and assimilate with their former coreligionists. Outstanding among these, he discloses, was the Marrano Joao Miguez who, on his arrival in Constantinople in 1554, returned to Judaism and assumed the name of Joseph Nasi. Befriended by the Sultan Selim, Nasi eventually rose to a position of de facto Foreign Minister, gave the Turks a new foreign policy, acted as intermediary between the Sultan's court and the European powers, halted the encroachment of the Venetians, and gained for the Jews the opportunity of establishing settlements in the Holy Land. Nasi also won over Cyprus which remained Turkish for 300 years before the British occupied the Island in 1978.

Salonika had become the hub for the settlement of Jewish refugees and, significantly, it was from there, from Salonika, that "the revolt of the Young Turks in 1908 against the authoritarian regime of Sultan Abdul Hamid began among the intellectuals, and it was from there that the demand for a constitutional regime

originated.

Doenmeh is the term given by Turks for Marranos. And there is even some talk that Ataturk himself was a doemeh. This has never been proved definitely. Yet, in his book entitled "The Secret Jews," published in 1973, Rabbi Joachim Prinz writes, among other things, that "among the leaders of the revolution which resulted in the modern government in Turkey were David Bey and Mustafa Kemal. Both were Doenmehs. David Bey became Minister of Finance; Mustafa Kemal became the leader of the new regime and he adopted the name Ataturk. His opponents tried to use his Doenmeh background to unseat him, but without success. Too many of the Young Turks prayed to Allah, but had as their real prophet Shabtai Zvi, the Messiah of Smyrna."

This writer has visited Turkey on several occasions gaining a most favorable impression. The people there are very much like the Israelis -- industrious and seemingly happy - go - lucky in attitude. The Jewish people, the majority Sephardim, have become so greatly integrated into the lifestream of the nation that one finds it difficult to distinguish them from the other citizens.

On May 19 the Mayor of New York issued a Proclamation declaring that date "The Ataturk Day" in recognition of the 100th anniversary of the birth of the outstanding statesman.

And here at the United Nations plans are being made to hold a special commemorative Ataturk Centennial ceremony in the Fall of this year. At this ceremony, the Foreign Minister of Turkey, Ilter Turkmen, will present "The Ataturk Award to the UN" to the Secretary-General. Also in preparation is a Turkish Exhibition and a Concert.

SUMMER AT THE SAHARA

Only the Sahara Hotel offers the greatest entertainment in Las Vegas at the best prices throughout the summer in both the famed Congo Showroom and the swinging Casbar Theatre Lounge.

"Madame Goes to Harlem," a "wild musical revue" starring Wayland Flowers and featuring jazz greats Buddy De Franco and

Terry Gibbs, Herb Jeffries, and the fabulous Sahara Girls and Boys plays twice nightly -- 8 p.m. dinner shows and 12 mid-night cocktail shows -- Monday through Saturday. Sunday nights, the award-winning Johnny Haig Orchestra plays your favorite Big Band Music of the Forties for dancing.

The Casbar Theatre is the talk of the town with the return to Las Vegas of the legendary George Shearing with brilliant bassist Brian Torff alternating nightly with Las Vegas lounge favorite and the Sahara's own jazzy comic, Pete Barbutti.

"Madame Goes to Harlem" minimums are only \$14.50 for the Monday through Friday dinner show and \$10 for the Monday through Friday cocktail show. Saturday prices are \$17.50 and \$14.50 respectively. All prices are

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Thursday. What had happened since?

Begin walked into the room. Without ado he told them the Israeli planes were on their way to Iraq.

"Two of the planes made a pass over the plant to check defenses, then the other two followed dropping four bombs," said Jacques Rimbaud, a French reactor technician who watched from the terrace of a nearby cafe. Interviewed in Paris, he said "all four planes then made another pass, probably to take photographs before flying off."

Israel said casualties were no more than three dead, apparently because Israeli intelligence had recommended attacking on a Sunday when most technicians are away from the reactor.

The planes struck at 6:35 p.m. Iraq time and within three minutes were on their way home.

In Begin's study the phone rang. Eytan was on the line. "Mission accomplished," said the ex - paratrooper. "Thank God," replied the 67 - year - old premier. And he went into the living room to tell the ministers.

plus tax and gratuity. The Casbar has no cover and a low one - drink minimum nightly. Tuesday through Sunday. Monday night is Talent Showcase night in the Casbar.

With so much great entertainment, the Sahara is definitely the place to be every night.

The second engagement of "Madame Goes to Harlem" has topped even the rave reviews from the critics received by the World Premiere engagement in March. Wayland Flowers, with his lovable puppet characters Madame, Miss Jiffy and Crazy Mary, is the biggest new comedy star in a Las Vegas main showroom in years with the critics most - often using the word "magic" to describe his superb comedy talents.

Terry Gibbs and Buddy De Franco present a tribute to jazz greats Benny Good-

man and Lionel Hampton that really has audiences jumping and swaying to their favorite jazz tunes. Add the magnificent singing talents of Herb Jeffries and the comedy hit of the year, "Madame Goes to Harlem," becomes the musical hit as well.

It seems that only the Sahara has remembered among "star" hotel in Las Vegas that a Las Vegas show is not complete without a dazzling chorus line and the fabulous Sahara Girls and Boys are the most dazzling of them all. The most spectacular costumes and brightest and bounciest dancing numbers add the real magic touch of Las Vegas to "Madame Goes to Harlem."

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