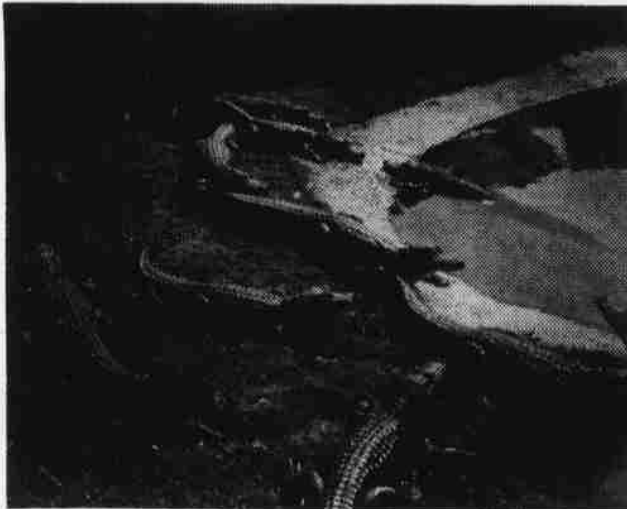


ROMAN BATHS, ALLIGATORS, HOT SPRINGS

(Continued from page 7)

site in 570: "Next to the hot pool is a large bath that, after being filled, all of the doors are closed and the lepers are brought in through the entrance with candles and incense, and in this bath they sit all night. When they fall asleep the ones to be healed see visions....". This small pool is the only one with doors on all four sides and among the assortment of archaeological remains found here were ceramic holders. The existence of a Lepers' Pool implies that there must have been separate accommodation for these unfortunates.

THE NEW OVAL POOL and the larger CALDARIUM OVAL POOL were intended for hot water bathing. Both have been particularly well preserved. This structure originally had a 30 foot ceiling, and was undoubtedly one of the most luxurious and grandiose buildings of its time.



HAMMAT GADER: - ISRAELI ALIGATORS! AT HAMMAT GADER IN NORTHERN ISRAEL, THE EXCAVATIONS OF ROMAN BATHS NOW VIE FOR ATTENTION WITH ALLIGATORS, BROUGHT TO ISRAEL IN 1980 FROM FLORIDA SWAMPS. THE ALLIGATORS THRIVE IN THE LUSH CLIMATE OF THIS OASIS.

Addressing a capacity audience at the main commemorative meeting in the Grand Theatre of Warsaw, World Jewish Congress Vice President Kalman Sultanik declared that the Polish government could only come to an understanding with the Jewish communities throughout the world when "Poland's relations with Israel are

normalized."

Sultanik, who headed the WJC delegation to the observances here on the 40th anniversary of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising, delivered his remarks in the formal address to the main commemorative session in Warsaw's Grand Theatre attended by dignitaries and delegates from around the world.

Plans are underway to pump water through plastic pipes (instead of the original lead pipes to avoid poisoning) into the Oval Pool, to enable the modern bather to enjoy the identical pleasures experienced by Roman bathers.

ALLIGATORS

But Hammat Gader is much more than archaeology. It is a tourist park with acres of lush gardens, picnic grounds, natural swimming pools fed by warm mineral water, waterfalls and a restaurant serving delicious meals at low prices. More than one thousand visitors a day visit the site, and, of course, they also come to see the alligators.

A sideline at Hammat Gader is its Alligator Park. A few years ago, more than 100 alligators were flown from Florida to Israel and they are here in enclosures, pools and lakes where they are separated by age group, and their progress and growth examined by scientists. Guy Ben Moshe, a former New Yorker, is in charge of Hammat Gader's alligators. He shows us a baby, just thirteen weeks old that resides at present in a turquoise plastic bucket. We stroke it, it wriggles, we place it back in water. His name? What else but Rishon Lezion (The First in Zion), a fitting name for the first alligator born in Israel.

In his remarks, Sultranik acknowledged a number of positive steps taken by Poland in connection with the Jewish legacy of Poland; the dedication of the Auschwitz Pavilion as well as providing background material for Yad Vashem, the Holocaust Museum in Jerusalem. But, he added, "we must also say in all sincerity that the Polish government acted too little and too late, and did not go far enough."

Sultanik's prescription for reconciliation, carried by the media, centered on the "unique role" the State of Israel plays for the generation of Jews who witnessed the Holocaust: "If the Polish Government wishes to come to an understanding with the Jewish communities of the United States, Great Britain, France and elsewhere, there is only one answer: all the roads lead to Israel. Once Poland's relations with Israel are normalized, everything else will fall into place."

Sultanik said he was posing "a direct question from a Jew who grew up in this part

of the world, and whose family was exterminated by the Nazis. How was it possible that so few righteous Gentiles were willing to come to the rescue in Poland and the rest of Europe?" There is still no answer to the world's indifference, he noted, but urged universal ratification of the International Convention Against Genocide as a concrete positive measure.

He concluded with a warning: "It is incumbent upon us to alert the younger generation that anti-Semitism is not a passing phenomenon which will recede into the background. The Nazi atrocities of Auschwitz were an extreme manifestation of anti-Semitism, but any recurrence of anti-Semitism, even in its mildest form, must be connected with Auschwitz, and this is why it is imperative that the world not be indifferent. Auschwitz must be a reminder to the younger generation and generations to come that there is no worse attitude than one of indifference."

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