

CONFIRMATION AT CONGREGATION NER TAMID

Congregation Ner Tamid recently held its Confirmation exercises in which four confirmants graduated from religious school and ten pre - confirmants conducted the Sabbath service in its entirety. Confirmation seeks to clarify the "why" of Jewish survival, the values and goals of Judaism. The year was spent studying such topics as euthanasia, abortion, aging, holocaust and Israel. During the last two months of the course, the four confirmants met separately with Rabbi Mel Hecht. As a result of their dialogue, these young people addressed the congregation on the following topics:

Richard Glasser spoke on "Did G-d create us out of His need for us; or did we create G-d out of our need for Him?" Robbie Fischl confronted the dilemma of "Why do bad things happen to good people?" - while Susan Schiffman delved into the implications of the Holocaust for her generation. Michael Weinberger wound things up by speaking about youth's alienation from religion and the challenge confronting youth in today's world.

For information concerning enrollment in Congregation Ner Tamid's religious education programs, please call 733-6292.

HEBREW UNIVERSITY OF JERUSALEM ELECTS NEW OFFICERS



NEWLY - ELECTED HEBREW UNIVERSITY CHANCELLOR AVRAHAM HARMAN (L.) JOINS IN THE APPLAUSE FOR HIS SUCCESSOR AS HEBREW UNIVERSITY PRESIDENT, PROF. DON PATINKIN (R.). LOOKING ON IS FORMER SUPREME COURT JUSTICE HAIM COHN, WHO HEADED THE SEARCH COMMITTEE WHICH RECOMMENDED PROF. PATINKIN AS PRESIDENT.

AUSTRIA HELPS SOVIET JEWISH EMIGRATION

VIENNA (WNS) -- Austria's new Chancellor, Fred Sinowatz, has pledged that his country will continue to extend its facilities to Jews emigrating from the Soviet Union enroute to other countries. He offered that guarantee in the course of a 90 - minute meeting with Rabbi Arthur Schneier, chairman of the World Jewish Congress - American Section, the first American Jewish leader since he succeeded former Chancellor Bruno Kreisky.

"I am committed to an open door policy for Soviet Jews. We are prepared to facilitate their transit and look forward to

receiving an increased number of Jews who seek to emigrate from the Soviet Union," he told Schneier who is senior rabbi of the Park East Synagogue in New York City. The two men also discussed the Israel - Lebanon agreement, the situation in the Middle East and various international issues. Schneier was accompanied by Dr. Leon Zelman, chairman of the Jewish Welfare Service.

The WJC leader also met with Foreign Minister Erwin Lanc and President Rudolph Kirchschlager of Austria who stressed that his country's political leaders must learn from the past.

Schneier, who was born in Vienna, also met with 22 former residents who were forced to leave Austria after the 1938 Anschluss. He delivered a Sabbath sermon at Vienna's main synagogue. Addressing Holocaust survivors, he said: "You have rebuilt your lives in the shadow of Mauthausen. In rebuilding Jewish life in Austria you must always remember the Holocaust and the rebirth of the State of Israel." There are presently more than 10,000 Jews in Austria.



DOCTORS STRIKE SUFFERS SETBACK

TEL AVIV (WNS) -- Efforts to settle Israel's three-month old doctors strike suffered a setback when representatives of the 8,500 publicly employed physicians broke off negotiations with government representatives after 30 hours of talks.

A spokesman for the Israel Medical Association said the employers made no new offers and the doctors were not prepared to continue "useless talks." The employers are the government, represented by the Treasury, Kupat Cholim, the Histadrut sick fund and representatives of Hadassah Hospital in Jerusalem. They had hoped that the three days of intensive negotiations would bring a settlement.

The doctors have threatened to reinforce their work slowdown and hinted at other measures. These could include a mass walk - out such as took place earlier which reduced hospital medicals staffs to 10 percent of their normal levels. The hospitals now have about 30 percent of

normal staff on duty. A mass hunger strike outside the Prime Minister's office is also said to be under consideration.

Meanwhile, Kupat Cholim doctors who set up "alternative clinics" where patients are treated for a fee of 600 Shekels (about \$13) raised their fees to 900 Shekels (over \$20). This resulted in at least one violent act. A patient at a Haifa clinic struck a woman doctor in the face when she tried to collect the fee. No arrests were made.

ANTI-WAR DEMONSTRATION OUTSIDE BEGIN'S HOME

JERUSALEM (WNS) -- As the Knesset debated the government statement approving the agreement between Israel and Lebanon, which was signed by both countries, a round the clock vigil by anti-war demonstrators outside Premier Menachem Begin's home continued.

The vigil has been going on 24 hours a day for more than two weeks. The demonstrators who are demanding an immediate withdrawal of all Israeli troops from Lebanon have set up a stand surrounded by signs such as "Do not forget the soldiers who have been killed in Lebanon." Yesterday they displayed the number 484, the present official count of Israeli soldiers

killed in Lebanon since the war began almost one year ago.

The stand bears "flame of hope" lights and a book where passers-by are asked to add their names to the protest. It is staffed by two people at a time in four hour shifts, day and night. They estimate that about 100 people pass by during each shift.

Others in cars or on motorcycles pause to read signs saying "if we are not assembled today we will cry tomorrow;" "Enough! Get out of Lebanon Now;" "Prevent certain war with Syria - don't crush it;" and "Protect the Galilee." The demonstrators say they will continue their vigil until "our soldiers are out of Lebanon."

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