

B'nai B'rith Urges Sweden To Change Policy Barring Kosher Slaughter

WASHINGTON — B'nai B'rith International called on the government of Sweden to revoke a policy that constrains Kosher dietary practices and effectively discriminates against Jews.

In a letter to Prime Minister Olaf Palme, Gerald Kraft, president of B'nai B'rith, declared that the policy is "double-edged."

"On one hand it prohibits the kosher slaughter of animals, while on the other hand, it applies an onerous and illogical import tax on kosher meat purchased from outside Sweden," said Kraft.

The B'nai B'rith leader noted that since 1980, Swedish authorities have outlawed kosher slaughter as violating that nation's cruelty-to-animals law, even though the procedure meets the requirements of the European Convention protecting slaughter-animals.

"Since Sweden has also insisted on making imported kosher meat subject to import duties — which raise the price by 75 percent — Swedish Jews are effectively prevented from maintaining the religious practice of keeping kosher," Kraft said.

He pointed out that although Norway and Switzerland also ban kosher slaughter — the only other Western countries that do so — "they have at least lifted all taxes on imported kosher meat." He added that while the Swedish tax is designed to protect its domestic industries, "there is no kosher meat production in Sweden to protect."

"Between the ban on kosher slaughter and the import tax, Swedish Jews are caught in an untenable situation," Kraft declared. "Even the Soviet Union, with its severely repressive policies toward Jews, makes kosher meat available at regular prices."

Charging that the Swedish government's policy makes it impossible for observant Jews to practice their religion in Sweden, Kraft urged Prime Minister Palme to change that policy.

Senior Citizens Travel Club Of Las Vegas

The next meeting of the Senior Citizens Travel Club of Las Vegas will be Tues. June 5 at the First Presbyterian Church, 1515 West Charleston at one P.M. Anyone over 50 years of age is invited. There will be no meetings in July and August. We greet you all but the annual \$5.00 dues must be paid to participate in the tours.

GRAND LAND OF ENCHANTMENT will be visited July 11-16, 1984. Cost is \$390.00 per member double occupancy. \$98.00 extra for a single. Final payment June 15. An overnight at the Grand Canyon, then on to Albuquerque, part of the original settlement is still preserved which exhibits arts and crafts from all of New Mexico's 19 pueblos. You will find exquisite mother of pearl, turquoise and coral jewelry pieces made by the Zunis, their specialty. Also is a visit to the National Atomic Museum located at Kirkland AFB, and the worlds most compact weapons collection. Other tours include pueblos of the Acoma and Zuni Indians, El Morro National Monument (Inscription Rock) where preserved in stone are the carved records of early pioneers dating back to 1605. This July tour will be as new as tomorrow's technology and as old as geology. Enjoy warm days (89°) beautiful sunsets and cool evenings. Few seats left, please call 456-1969 or 734-6518 for more information.

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Jewish Lawyers and Jurists Seek Exoneration Of Leo Frank

WASH. (WNS) — The American Section of the International Association of Jewish Lawyers and Jurists is calling on the Georgia State Legislature to adopt a law exonerating Leo Frank, a young Jew who was lynched by a mob in Milledgeville, Ga. in 1915, two years after his unjust conviction for the murder of a young woman, Mary Phagan.

The resolution, addressed to the Georgia lawmakers, called on

them to override the decision of the Georgia State Board of Pardons and Paroles on December 22, 1983 to refuse to grant Frank a posthumous pardon on grounds that his innocence could now be proven.

By doing so, "the state compounded its early transgressions," the resolution stated, pointing out that in the American system of justice, a defendant is presumed innocent until proven guilty in a "fair

trial." Inasmuch as the "atmosphere" at Frank's 1913 trial was "charged with prejudice and hysteria" it "could not have been a fair trial," the resolution said.

The resolution noted further that the Board of Pardons took its decision despite the fact that "the trial judge himself, Leonard S. Roan, is on record as having stated his belief in the innocence of Leo Frank..."

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