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Officials See Positive Developments In Israel-Egypt Relations

Peres: 'I Found A Great Deal Of Good Will In France'

TEL AVIV (WNS) — Premier Shimon Peres returned from Paris saying his three-day visit to France helped strengthen Israel's international standing as well as aiding relations between France and Israel. "I found a great deal of good will in France to help overcome the difficulties we have encountered in Lebanon and I must say, from every possible point of view, their attitude was extremely positive and very encouraging," Peres told reporters at a midnight news conference at Ben Gurion airport.

In his talks with French President Francois Mitterrand, Peres

said he was assured that the Socialist administration there would do whatever it could to further an agreement for the withdrawal of Israeli troops from Lebanon and ensure security for Israel's northern border. Peres also raised the issue of Syrian Jewry with Mitterrand who recently visited Damascus to meet with President Hafez Assad. Peres said there was a possibility that Syria might allow for a limited number of exit visas for Syrian Jews.

There was much speculation in the media that Israel was interested in purchasing a nuclear power

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At The Threshold Of A Dramatic Improvement

JERUSALEM (WNS) — High level policy-makers here, encouraged by recent discreet contacts with Cairo, believe Egypt and Israel are at the threshold of a dramatic improvement in their relations which have been in a deep freeze since the war in Lebanon two years ago.

An exchange of emissaries between Premier Shimon Peres and President Hosni Mubarak is expected before the Egyptian leader's visit to the United States early next year. This may be followed by a Peres-Mubarak summit meeting. Peres attaches great significance to a meeting with Mubarak and some of the behind-the-scenes contacts between the two countries seem intended to prepare for a summit.

Egypt has said publicly that a condition for

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TELL TALES

"One Man Plus The Truth Constitutes A Majority"

To Our Christian Friends

(In this Era of Ecumenism we bring you the following column prepared in 1961 and reprinted annually in the Chanukah Edition.)

Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa.

And there are Christmas trees, too!

No one asked but an innocuous wire service story datelined Vatican City and printed in the local press may have caused some concern among our neighbors.

The story quotes a Vatican weekly newspaper saying Santa Claus represents a "monstrous substitution" for the Christ child and "offends the faith."

The editorial in L'Osservatore delle Domenica also assailed the Christmas tree as "an attempt to substitute for the crib...and a certain sense of naturalism and paganism."

The objection apparently stems from the general public's acceptance of St. Nick and the tree as indicative of the holiday to the gradual exclusion of the true religious conception, the Nativity.

A strict religious interpretation of the Holy Day should unquestionably be total reverence and complete compliance with the Holy Writ. Those devout souls among us always have and will continue to adhere to the rigid theological celebration of the occasion and no amount of persuasion (if attempted) could dissuade them.

But Christmas Day with no distraction from all the solemnity it stands for, has, through the centuries grown, expanded, magnified into a spirit of Christmas. What started as a one-day observance is now a weeks-long holiday. What began with personal greetings of cheer from one to another is now the exchange of hundreds of millions of cards expressing joy. What commenced as an occasion for the discreet dispensation of charity for the less fortunate has developed into the indiscriminate giving and receiving of gifts. The once simple recreation of one's version of the Crib had developed into addenda like trees, holly

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Mitzvah Bike For The Winner



Rabbi Yitzchok Young, Director of Student Activities at Yeshiva University of Los Angeles Boys' High School, quizzes students (from left) Jay Bailey, Chaim Hirsch, Amir Nadler and Benjamin Super on mitzvot (commandments) for upcoming contest. The winner will receive this 10-speed racing bicycle. Open to all YULA Boys' High School students, the contest requires knowledge of Sefer HaMitzvot Hakotzer (The Book of Mitzvot), written by the legendary Lithuanian master Chofetz Chaim, which describes in detail every mitzvah operative in contemporary Judaism. The students pictured above are among those who have been mastering the text. Benjamin Super is the son of Jack and Marlene Super of Las Vegas. Mr. Super is the president of Congregation Shaarei Tefilla.



Yahrzeits Tonight At Beth Sholom

(Friday, December 21, 1984)

Mildred Berner
Rita Pearlmutter
Naomi Yoffe
Yicusiel Davidovitz
Jennie Mack
Ida Kamm
Goldie Merkin
Robert Lewis
Lillian Brewster
Ben Wallach
William Isquith

Beatrice Krivel
Jean Sherwin
Morry Deitch
Sara Brookman
Joseph Weiner
Harry Rosenberg
Usher Diener
Albert Goot
Simon Axler
Max Elster
Benjamin Katz

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