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Home, At Last

For weeks rumors have circulated in the Jewish community both here and overseas of an impending rescue mission involving an ancient Jewish tribe, as Leon Dulzin, chairman of the Jewish Agency and the World Zionist Organization executives, recently described the Jews of Ethiopia. Finally, it appears these rumors have been substantiated as Israeli government officials have confirmed that the vast majority of Jews from that devastated, drought stricken country have arrived in Israel. Long awaited, the news is, needless to say, most welcome.

For years, activists on behalf of Ethiopian Jewry have traded charges with Israeli and Jewish community officials, contending that the Jewish State has dragged its feet in the rescue of Ethiopian Jews. There were charges of racism, of the failure to deal directly with the problem, questions of the Jewishness of this tiny community of perhaps 25,000 persons. They have practiced and upheld the Jewish faith, some claim for 2,000 years, amid persecution and conditions of harassment, living in rebel war zones, and for the past ten years under the dictatorship of a Marxist government strongly aligned with the Soviet Union that failed to provide adequate protection to the Jewish community.

But in the early 1970's, the chief rabbi of Israel acknowledged that the Ethiopian Jews were without question Jews, breaking down the last formal barrier to the next step - the rescue mission. Former Premier Menachem Begin began during his administration to work for the safe rescue of the Jews from Ethiopia through means that have yet to be adequately made public. Nonetheless, the rescue was slow, bringing about strong criticism that Israel was standing by while Jews were being persecuted.

Now, just days into the new year, Israel officials lifted the censorship on the operation, saying that thousands of Ethiopians have been airlifted into Israel. It indicates that Begin was not standing idly by while Jews were persecuted in Ethiopia. Initial reports lacked the details on the airlift, but suffice it to say that Israel's efforts deserve the highest commendation and support from the World Jewish community. For the Ethiopian Jews many of whom are in ill health as they fled their famine ravaged homeland, they face a formidable task adapting to their new environment, learning the Hebrew language and using appliances and other conveniences of Israeli society they have never seen before. The airlift brings renewed hope to all Jews persecuted around the world. The Ethiopian Jewish rescue will truly stand out as a major event in the history of the Jewish State.

LOS ANGELES, California — Vidal Sassoon and William Weinberg will be saluted at a reception hosted by the Harvey Silberts and the Joe Sinays, Tuesday, January 15 at the Beverly Hilton Hotel's Crystal Room. Sassoon is out-going president of the Western States/American Friends of the Hebrew University in Jerusalem; Weinberg is incoming President.

Behind The Scenes

At The United Nations

By David Horowitz

A World—Union Press Feature

A Period Never To Be Forgotten

Survivor Recounts His "Black Days, White Nights" In World War II Russia

UNITED NATIONS (WUP) — Among the number of historic books reaching this writer here at the UN having a bearing on the negative attitudes shown by some delegates, "Black Days, White Nights" - the dramatic account of survival of a Jewish refugee and his family in the Soviet Union during World War II - stands out as most significant in that it bares the unbelievable plight of refugees who happened to be stranded within the confines of the former domain of the Czars.

The other volumes warranting full reviews include "Wanted" by Yaacob Elias; "Peace Now: Blueprint for National Suicide" by Dan Nimrod; "Israel In the Mind of America" by Peter Grose; "Quiet Neighbors - Prosecuting Nazi War Criminals in America" by Allan A. Ryan, Jr.; "Israel For Christmas" by A. James Rudin; "Challenge and Mission" by Louis Bernstein.

"Black Days, White Nights" deeply impressed this writer because the author, Dr. Herman Carmel and his wife and son managed almost miraculously to survive the inferno in which they were trapped.

The writer agrees with Dr. John F. Bileskian, an MD affiliated with the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Columbia University, a non-Jewish reader of the book, who made the following comment in a letter to the author:

"...Having just completed reading the book - I couldn't put it down - I must say that it is one of the most remarkable personal narratives that I have ever read about that terrible period in Jewish history. It was particularly moving for me to imagine how you and your wife survived with your wits, your intelligence, and your remarkable way of dealing with people..."

Dr. Carmel's chronicle makes truth indeed appear stranger than fiction. In completing a reading of the soul-stirring 325-page volume, your correspondent found the words of Elie Wiesel as contained in the Foreword and jacket of the Carmel document coinciding almost word for word with what was in the heart of this writer. Wiesel, a former UN colleague representing the Israeli Yediot Achronot and undoubtedly the word's foremost witness to the horror of the Holocaust, had this to say:

"Black Days, White Nights" is a true story, graphically portraying the pain, heartache, deprivation and fear of those unfortunate refugees who, in flight from Hitler, lived in the

Soviet Union during World War II. Told by the author as he lived it, we relive the dramatic experiences of a Jewish refugee family during the war.

"In 1941 when the German-Russian war broke out, Dr. Carmel was hurled, together with his wife and 9-month old son to the shores of the Belaya River in the Ural-Siberian region where they experienced untold hunger, cold and illnesses. But there, and wherever fate took him, he was afforded the rare opportunity to study the Soviet system and society from the inside. Among his many friends were those who confided in him the tragedies they had suffered at the hands of the Soviet regime.

Elie Wiesel continues: "One must read this book, and read it well, to understand the tenacity of the Jewish people and their dedication to the fight for their collective memory. Some pages overwhelm us with truth, others with humanity. Those pages which describe his son's ailments, for example, are so solemn and admirable, the suffering discreet, so discreet.

"Herman Carmel hardly asks for the reader's pity. His only aim is to inform, and maybe to move. He fulfills his role of witness honestly and well. How can we not be thankful to him?"

Despite his ordeals sustained during the war, Herman Carmel - born and educated in Czechoslovakia and having received his Ph.D. in 1939 from Masaryk University, he and his family found their way to the United States after the war - the noted survivor ever remained the benevolent humanitarian tzadik. All the profits to his book he is assigning to the American Committee for the National Sick Fund of Israel, 104 West 42nd Street, New York City 10165, where "Black Days, White Nights" is available at \$17.95. Publisher of the volume is Hippocrene Books, New York.

TELL TALES

"One Man Plus The Truth
 Constitutes A Majority"

(Continued from page 1)

After completing her graduate work, Professor Lipstadt served as Assistant Chairman of the Jewish Studies Program in the History Department at the University of Washington in Seattle. Now, as Assistant Professor of Jewish Studies at the University of California, Los Angeles, her specialization is in modern Jewish history with particular emphasis on American Jewish history.

Professor Lipstadt has done research and written on anti-Semitism in America and is currently writing a book on the American public reaction to the persecution in Nazi Germany. She is a student on Zionism, has lectured at universities in the United States, England, Germany, Canada and Israel and to refuseniks in the Soviet Union, and her essays and articles have appeared in Moment, Judaism, Midstream, Jewish Social Studies and the Los Angeles Times.

Professor Lipstadt is a researcher, author, writer and lecturer on the changing nature of the contemporary American Jewish community, the attitude of the younger leaders of the American Jewish community and on the role of women in the American Jewish community.

She is an Associate of the Center for Jewish Communal Studies in Jerusalem, a fellow of the National Jewish Resource Center and a member of the Academic Advisory Council of the American Jewish Historical Society.

In addition to her academic accomplishments, Professor Lipstadt is active as a volunteer in young Jewish leadership development, the Jewish Federation of Los Angeles and UJA Faculty Cabinet.

In her lecture, Dr. Lipstadt examines the Jewish condition in the United States at the midpoint of the 1980s. From her vantage point as an academic and with voluntary organizations, she has an opportunity to observe and react to the challenges, opportunities and pitfalls that face the Jewish community nationally and locally in this decade.

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