

Amsterdam Jewish Community Receives Historic Documents From Hebrew Union College

Papers Looted By The Nazis And Rescued By A Rabbinic Alumnus Of Hebrew Union College Returned To The Jewish Community Of Amsterdam After 35 Years

Some years after the close of World War II, a young rabbi sent to Germany by the World Union for Progressive Judaism, discovered, amidst the ruins of East Berlin, a cache of documents from the destroyed Jewish community of Amsterdam. Rabbi Nathan Peter Levinson, who was ordained at Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion in 1948, rescued the collection and offered the 44,640 documents to his alma mater where they have remained, in Cincinnati, for 35 years. The papers, which had been looted by the Nazis from Amsterdam's major Ashkenazic synagogue, encompass engagement and marriage contracts, civil marriage certificates, the transfer or sale of synagogue seats, partnership agreements, cemetery records and birth and death certificates, and date from 1753 through 1939.



At the request of the present Jewish community of Amsterdam, the documents were recently returned by the college in a formal ceremony attended by leading members of Dutch Jewry. Dr. Alfred Gottschalk (left), President of Hebrew Union College, traveled to Holland to return the papers to Leo Katz (right), President of the Amsterdam Jewish Community.

Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion, founded in 1875, is America's oldest institution of higher Jewish studies. It trains rabbis, cantors, social workers, religious school educators and communal workers and offers doctoral and post doctoral programs for scholars at campuses in Cincinnati, New York, Los Angeles and Jerusalem.

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Israel, Egypt Sign Agreement To Further Tourism

TEL AVIV (WNS) — Israel and Egypt initialled an agreement to increase tourist traffic between the two countries. It was initialed at Ben Gurion Airport by Egyptian Tourist Minister Wajih Mohammed Shindi, as he returned home to Cairo from a three-day visit to Israel, and his host here, Israeli Tourist Minister Avraham Sharir. Sharir is to pay an official return visit to Cairo before the end of the year.

The agreement calls

for joint teams which are to examine existing procedures and formulate recommendations to improve traffic in both directions and work out a detailed plan to be signed when the two ministers meet

at an international trade fair in Berlin next March. Shindi said before leaving that there could be no retreat from peace, and the only way

is to go forward. He said his visit to Israel had been fruitful and of benefit to both countries.

Israel Is Prepared To Repulse Syrian Attack On Golan Heights

JERUSALEM (WNS) — Chief of Staff Gen. Moshe Levy said here that Israel is prepared to repulse a surprise attack by Syria across the Golan Heights, though he didn't expect any. He also said preventive measures against terrorism would be taken in a two-to-four kilometer wide zone along the border.

According to Levy, the continuing reinforcements of Syrian positions on their side of the Golan Heights probably is no more than a technical deployment resulting from the large scale withdrawal of Syrian forces from Lebanon following Israel's withdrawal last June.

But Levy said Israel has to be sure and is taking steps of its own including the fortification of defensive positions on the heights. He said anti-terrorist measures are under consideration following the recent disclosure that a subversive ring of Golan Heights Druze was operating with Israel Defense Force weapons and ammunition against civilian and military installations there.

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