

Jewish Communities At Passover: JDC Provides Food, Wine, Financial Assistance For Needy Jews World-Wide

NEW YORK (JTA) — "May all Jews who are hungry come and eat," declares the Haggadah. The American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee (JDC) takes that precept seriously, providing kosher food, wine or financial assistance to many of the 34 national Jewish communities it regularly helps.

About 5,000 Rumanian Jews, many of them elderly and infirm Holocaust survivors, will attend community seders funded with the help of JDC. Others will receive Passover parcels of food and wine.

In Tunisia, about 350 Jews in six communities will receive JDC assistance to buy matzo, matzo meal, wine, meat and oil for the holiday.

In Hungary, JDC will help distribute matzo to clients of the Jewish communal social assistance agency. In Czechoslovakia, where there is no domestic kosher food or Passover wine, JDC will help purchase the supplies and import them.

Egypt's 180 Jews will receive kosher meat and wine, matzo and matzo meal. Food baskets will be provided to needy Algerian Jews, too.

In Israel, JDC will provide seder assistance to community centers that serve the physically and socially handicapped, the aged and the very young.

Surprise Expressed Over New Development In Pollard Spy Case

TEL AVIV (JTA) — Israeli circles expressed surprise over the weekend that the U.S. suddenly has made an issue of questioning Harold Katz, a 65-year-old American-born lawyer who immigrated to Israel in 1972, on alleged connections with convicted spy Jonathan Pollard.

Katz, who holds dual U.S.-Israeli citizenship, denied that he ever knew Pollard or the Israeli officials most closely linked to his spying activities. Israeli officials said Katz was questioned by U.S. officials over six months ago. The media quoted Israel Embassy sources in Washington as saying "They've sat on the Katz business for six months. Why now all of a sudden?"

The answer, according to those sources, is "yet more coordinated pressure on Israel." The Israel government has refused to allow Katz to go to Washington for questioning by a federal grand jury about the alleged use of an apartment he keeps there for pay-offs to Pollard and to receive intelligence data from him.

But the government, and Katz, say he is prepared to answer questions by an American investigator, possibly at the U.S. Embassy in Tel Aviv.

Katz, who worked in the Defense Ministry's legal department here from 1972-82, admitted that he gave a key to his Washington apartment to Irit Erb, at the time a secretary at the office of the Scientific Attache at the Israel Embassy in Washington, who has been implicated in the Pollard case.

Erb was one of three employees at the Embassy and the Israel Consulate General in New York who left the U.S. when Pollard was arrested in 1985 for spying for Israel. Katz said he knew Erb as a friend who offered to help furnish the apart-

Simon Wiesenthal Center Officials Discuss Nazi War Criminals Living In Great Britain



Officials of the Simon Wiesenthal Center met in London with British Home Secretary Douglas Hurd (right) to discuss the list of 17 alleged Nazi war criminals believed to be living in Great Britain, which the Center had transmitted to the British government late last year. Present at the Home Office meeting were Efraim Zuroff (left) Director of the Center's office in Jerusalem and former chief researcher for the U.S. Justice Department's Office of Special Investigations, Rabbi Marvin Hier, (Center) Dean of the Los Angeles-based Center, (not pictured) Associate Dean Rabbi Abraham Cooper, and Center trustee David Shapell. Hurd confirmed that his government had located six of the 17 suspects currently residing in Great Britain, and he urged the Center to provide additional information on the six. Hurd affirmed that Great Britain "had not ruled out establishment of a special investigative unit to deal with the problems of Nazi war criminals living here," but also stated that at the current time, no police investigation would take place. After the meeting, Wiesenthal Center officials continued on to Bonn to meet with West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl.

ment so that he could sub-lease it to Israelis looking for living quarters in Washington.

Katz said he had told the U.S. prosecutor who questioned him here a year ago, "under the pains and penalties of perjury," that the first time he heard of Erb's alleged use of his apartment for contacts

with Pollard was when the prosecutor questioned him about it.

He insisted he never knew Pollard or Israel Air Force Col. Aviem Sella, Pollard's alleged "handler," nor had he ever passed any money or documents in the case.

Israeli and American officials reportedly

The Meaning Of Israel's 39th Independence Day Monday, May 4, 1987

No people has placed a higher priority or greater value on independence than the Jewish people. No state is more deeply dedicated to it than Israel.

For 39 years, since the historic War of Independence in 1948, Israel has had to exercise the utmost vigilance to retain its independence, sovereignty and freedom. Today, Israel is still surrounded by enemies to whom the concept of democracy and human freedom is totally alien and unacceptable.

On this anniversary the perspective of history requires us to put aside the troubles of the moment to dwell on what Israel has achieved in these difficult and challenging 39 years, despite war, boycott and terrorism. The problems of the hour shrink as we see how Jews of Israel have demonstrated their capacity to defend themselves as well as to build a thriving, dynamic society during these nearly four crisis-filled decades.

During the past 39 years Israel has built a modern economic infrastructure, industrial complexes, agricultural settlements and high technology industries which have enabled it to absorb more than a million immigrants and sustain a population of over 4 million.

We celebrate this anniversary as men and women who have shared and become partners in helping to develop the State of Israel. But this is also a time for grave concern about the future and the obstacles that lie ahead for Israel on the road to peace.

The costs of peace are staggering and recent events have dramatized the extent of the economic sacrifices Israel has made to break the back of inflation.

Because so much of the burden must be borne by its economy, the Israel Bonds program has taken on even greater importance. The revenue from Israel Bonds is vital to provide the economic strength to enable Israel to move forward in its struggle for peace. Our loan is important in helping Israel grow.

Our interest in the future of Israel on this anniversary should be coupled with a recognition of our responsibility to stand solidly behind its people at this important turning point in Israel's history.

Yom Ha'Atzmaut starts sundown, Sunday, May 3, 1987.

have been discussing Katz should have ground rules for emerged now unless it questioning Katz for was part of an attempt the past six months. by some American circles The Israelis say they cles to implicate Israel can think of no reason yet further in the why publicity about Pollard affair.

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