Friday, October 6, 1989

Pictures From Hungary

Happy New Year Page Forty-Five From Generation To Generation



The famed synagogue in Szeged. Built at the turn of the century and believed to be one of the most magnificent in the world, the Szeged Synagogue has recently undergone a ten-year restoration project with the assistance of the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee and funds from an anonymous donor. JDC provides assistance to the 300 person Szeged Jewish community.

The Hungarian government has entered into an agreement with the JDC and the for the synagogue to be used as a house of prayer and a symphony hall. The synagogue will be maintained in perpetuity by the city.

A dedication ceremony in honor of the reopening of the synagogue was held on September 10, 1989. In attendance were JDC president Sylvia Hassenfeld, the Hungarian Deputy Minister of Religious Affairs, Sarkadi-Nagy, and officials from both JDC and the Central Board of Hungarian Jews.



JDC President, Sylvia Hassenfeld, cuts the ribbon at the dedication of the newly re-opened JDC office in Hungary. JDC has not maintained a permanent office in Hungary since 1939.

Left to right: Alfred Schoner, Chief Rabbi of Hungary, Ilona Seifert, General Secretary of the Central Board of Hungarian Jews, Shlomo Maron, Israeli Interest Section Director, Sylvia Hassenfeld, JDC President, Sakardi-Nagy, Hungarian Deputy Minister of Religious Affairs, Alan Batkin, Chairman, JDC Eastern Europe Area Committee. Not pictured: United States Ambassador Mark Palmer, who was also present at the ceremonies.

JERUSALEM (JTA) — Israel will mobilize every form of shelter, including sanatoriums and army camps, to provide temporary housing for the influx of immigrants, including Soviet Jews, expected in the coming year, Absorption Minister Yitzhak Peretz told a news conference here recently.

He expects immigration to total 20,000 by the end of this year. Last month's arrivals numbered 1,900.



Cantor David Bagley of Toronto rejoices with a wide-eyed young Russian girl at the conclusion of a concert of hazzanut by five of the world's foremost cantors in Moscow's Choral Synagogue. At left is Cantor Moshe Stern of Jerusalem, proudly wearing the gold medallion presented to all the cantors by the American Society for the Advancement of Cantorial Arts for their stirring performances. Enthusiastically applauding from the front of the ark is Haim Wiener, president of the Society and of the Gila and Haim Weiner Foundation, sponsors of the cantorial mission to the U.S.S.R., Hungary and Israel. The hazzanim thrilled capacity audiences in Moscow, Leningrad, Odessa, Budapest and Pecs, concluding with a final program in Tel Aviv.

CHICAGO (JTA) — Legislation requiring public schools in Illinois to include Holocaust education in their curriculum was signed into law recently by Gov. James Thompson.

The law, known as House Bill Three, was drafted with the help of the Holocaust Memorial Foundation of Illinois.

