

WORLD BEAT

edited by Marta Garelik

U.S. Denounces Arabs For Charging Israel With Violating Human Rights

GENEVA (JTA) — An impassioned denunciation of Arab charges that Israel violates human rights in the occupied territories was delivered here by Michael Novak, the new head of the U.S. delegation to the United Nations Human Rights Commission. "I was shocked at hearing so much hatred, so many lies, such squalid racism, such despicable anti-Semitism, all in the sacred name of human rights," Novak declared.

Novak, a theologian and journalist, was a founding member of the Coalition for a Democratic Majority and supported Reagan's election. He is of Czech origin and non-Jewish. He opened his speech by remarking: "I have heard here attacks upon Zionism in accents of a murderous hatred not heard since the days of the Nazis. It is through this chamber has retrogressed by 40 years, as though this is not 1981 but 1941 and not Geneva but along the Hitler-Stalin axis."

Historic Precedent For A Converted Jew Becoming A Cardinal

PARIS (JTA) — Catholic sources have recalled that there is only one other known instance, besides that of Msgr. Jean-Marie Lustiger, of a converted Jew becoming Archbishop with the rank of Cardinal. Lustiger was appointed Archbishop of Paris and will be officially elevated to the rank of Cardinal at the next Consistory by Pope John Paul II.

The Catholic Church has had several Cardinals of Jewish origin but only one other, Cardinal Pietro Pierleoni, who was born a Jew and later became a Catholic convert. Pierleoni was baptized when he was 14, just like Lustiger, and appointed

Cardinal by Pope Honorius II in 1106.

Thousands Visited Dachau Museum

BONN (JTA) — More than 800,000 people visited the Memorial Museum at Dachau last year. This was the largest number of visitors annually to the museum which is situated in the former concentration camp site near Munich, reflecting a continuous trend since 1975 when 452,000 visitors were recorded.

Barbara Distel, the museum's director, said that although the German public's interest in the museum has been constantly growing, the majority of visitors are from abroad. For many years there were few visitors to Dachau, and Germans were a small minority of the visitors. But since the screening of the American NBC-TV series, "Holocaust," in West Germany in 1979 there has been a remarkable increase in the number of visitors, especially school children.

The museum was established by former prisoners, members of the International Dachau Committee. It is now maintained by Bavaria's Castles, Museums, Gardens and Lakes Administration.

Fashion Week in Israel

TEL AVIV (JTA) — Some 300 foreign buyers from over a dozen countries were here in February inspecting the fashion goods displayed by 82 local manufacturers at this year's Israel fall/winter fashion week at the Hilton Hotel. The organizers said they were not worried by the decline in the number of buyers, from 500 last year. Israeli fashions were in brisk demand despite the worldwide economic slowdown which had kept some buyers at home.

Fashion center and export institute sources said exports were down to the U.S. this year due to high customs barriers, but fashion exports to Britain had increased by over 80 percent between 1978 and 1980. West Germany remains Israel's main customer for fashion goods. It purchased \$127 million worth last year. Exports to Britain, Holland and France have also risen, industry sources said.

Israel and Science

HAIFA (JTA) — Waste products of coal-fueled power plants could be recycled to provide raw material for cement, concrete and road-building industries, according to research at Technion.

TEL AVIV (JTA) — Dr. Christian Barnard, the pioneer heart transplant surgeon, said that he "would not be surprised if Israel is the country to make a breakthrough in the problem of immunology, enabling the safer transplantation of human organs with lesser risk of rejection." Barnard, who was in Israel attending a South Africa-Israel seminar on immunology at the Weizmann Institute of Science in Rehovot, said the Institute was the world's leading research institute in the study of immunology.

TEL AVIV (JTA) — Israel will produce between a quarter and a half of its electric power requirements from nuclear energy by the year 2000, according to Uzi Eilam, chairman of the Israel Atomic Energy Commission. At the present rate of planning and preparation, three or four nuclear power stations, each of 1,000 megawatt capacity, will be constructed within the next 11 years, he said.

Experts are investigating a number of possible sites for construction of the first nuclear power plants. Most of the equipment will be built within Israel but agreement will have to be reached with another country for the supply of the nuclear core. Eilam said that Negev phosphates could be utilized for the supply of part of the uranium required to fuel the reactors.

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The Over-70 Generation: Jewish Geriatrics & The Bible

by Raphael Panitz

When a Jewish person receives a compliment, it often sounds like this: "May you live to be 120 years old," "May you be as wise as Solomon," or "May you have the strength of Samson." These compliments often refer to Jewish biblical heroes who demonstrated honored virtues and traits. The Bible tells us a great deal about many of its heroes — when they were born, where they lived, what they accomplished. I would like to share some thoughts with you about old age and the Bible — what it was like to be over seventy when Moses, Aaron, David and other biblical heroes walked the face of the earth.

We may begin with Adam. We are told in the Bible that he lived to be 930. Rabbinic tradition holds that he was originally destined to live to be a 1000, but out of his generosity, he took off seventy years and gave them to King David, who did live to be seventy years old. We also know that Adam sired a son at the age of 130. Some people take these figures and believe them; others feel that they are exaggerated. It is true that many of the biblical heroes were given long lives to show that good deeds would result in long life.

From Adam, we next move to Abraham. Of his youth, the Bible says very little. We know that he received his call from God when he was seventy-five years old, that is, to leave his homeland and to travel to Eretz Yisrael. At 86, he sired Ishmael; at 90 he was circumcised and at the age of 100 he sired Isaac. Throughout his life, Abraham is depicted as a strong warrior, one who defends his family and fights with God in order to save the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah from destruction. Most of his activity occurs when he is already past 70 and he must have possessed remarkable strength for a man at that age. He died at the age of 173.

We know very little about Isaac's old age, except that he became blind. You may be familiar with the story of how Jacob stole his brother Esau's blessing. Isaac's blindness was necessary for this event to occur, because only that way could Jacob have passed himself off as Esau. It is curious that Isaac's life reached its high-light when he was a young boy, when Abraham nearly sacrificed him to God. He then reappears when he is blind and ready to die. He died at the age of 180 years.

Of Jacob's old age, we know that he lived to see his grandchildren. He lived to the age of 147. What he did in his last years is not recorded in the Bible.

You may be wondering what the Bible tells us about Moses. The truth is, very little. We know that he led the Jews for forty years in the desert and that he was 120 when he died. It sounds mighty impressive that an eighty year old man led his nation in the desert for forty years. Perhaps Moses took some kind of medicine that made him act younger than his years.

Apart from looking at certain biblical heroes, we also might consider what the Bible says about old age in general. How long should a person live? The Bible gives two answers: according to one verse, 120 years; according to another verse, 70 years. The Bible regards long life as a blessing, to be obtained by obeying the words of the Torah. But the Bible is also very realistic and provides some honest looks at old age.

Biblical characters are described in terms that we would call senility, loss of appetite, deafness, blindness and frailty. Aging in the Bible is also described as the loss of natural body heat. Perhaps the best description of old age in the Bible is found in the book of Ecclesiastes, written by King Solomon when he was old and wise.

Finally, it must be said that in the eyes of the biblical writers, old age brings wisdom; that the old must be respected and honored, and that they must always be asked their advice and counsel when planning and building for the future. Thus, while Scripture portrays old age in some bleak terms, there is also a positive side to it, a side that I have tried to point out to you.

Freilicoff Dead at 94

Many of our community will probably remember the visits that Morris Freilicoff made to Charlotte. I remember that when my oldest son, Darren, became Bar Mitzvah in February 1975, Mr. Freilicoff was given an Aliyah at the service at Temple Israel because it was the anniversary of his own Bar Mitzvah. Several people had the pleasure of meeting him also at the home of Rose and Abe Luski.

Morris Freilicoff, who worked for the *Day-Morning Journal*, a New York-based Yiddish newspaper, from 1925 to 1963, died late in January at George Washington University Hospital in Washington, D.C., at the age of 94. In addition to his work on the now-defunct Yiddish paper, Freilicoff was a student of Yiddish literature and lectured widely on the subject. He was one of the founders of Labor Zionism in this country.

Born in Russia, he grew up in London and moved to the U.S. when he was about 17 years old and settled in Washington. He earned two degrees at the National Law School. At the time of his death he resided in Bethesda, Md.

— Rita Mond

B'nai B'rith HQ

By Judy Siegel
Jerusalem Post Reporter

B'nai B'rith recently moved its international headquarters from Washington, D.C. to Jerusalem, as a symbol of support for Israel's capital.

Jack Spitzer, president of the "largest Jewish organization in the world," presided over the ceremony at the B'nai B'rith lodge in Rehov Keren Hayesod. Though the basement quarters are inadequate, they will serve as the world headquarters until a new building is completed in about three years in Rehov B'nai B'rith a few kilometres away, he said.

The organization, representing 500,000 members in 42 countries, decided at its last international meeting in Washington last September that the headquarters should be moved to Jerusalem as a response to the embassies moving out of Jerusalem.

Both men and steel lose their mettle when they lose their temper. —Harry C. Mabry

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