

WORLD BEAT

edited by Marta Garelik

Teacher Blames World's Evils On Jews

TORONTO (JTA) — A federal judge is considering an appeal against the dismissal of a teacher in Eckville, Alberta who taught his public school classes that Jews are responsible for virtually all the evils in the world.

The appeal was filed by Jim Keegstra, 48, who doubles as Mayor of Eckville, a village of 900 in the heart of Alberta's "Bible Belt." Several parents had complained when their children came home with remarks such as "all Jews are bad" and Jews are "an evil group spreading an evil religion."

The local school board warned Keegstra to stick to the curriculum. He was fired when he continued to preach anti-Semitism. The five day appeal hearing in Edmonton, was attended by Hillel Boroditsky, executive director of Edmonton's Jewish Community Council, and Sheldon Chumir, a civil rights lawyer who flew in from Calgary. The judge reserved decision.

Witnesses at the hearing said Keegstra's classroom "gems" were: There is an international conspiracy to rule the world by Freemasons, international bankers, Khazars, the Fabian Society, Bolsheviks, Communists, but above all the Jews; Jews enter a country with the sole purpose of gaining mastery over its economy to seize political power; six million Jews were not killed in World War II; Jesus Christ was not a Jew; Zionism is a plot to brainwash Christians; inflation, wars and revolutions are caused by Jewish controlled banks, lawyers and universities.

After his dismissal, a group of pupils circulated a petition for his reinstatement

because he "taught the Bible." His principal wants him restored because he was a "stimulating teacher" who "provoked discussion." The Alberta Teachers Federation defended Keegstra's right to keep his job. No Jews live in Eckville which is 60 miles from Edmonton, the nearest Jewish community.

Jerusalem Court Sentences American-Born Immigrant

JERUSALEM (JTA) — Alan Goodman, a 39-year-old American-born immigrant, was sentenced to life imprisonment by a Jerusalem district court for murder and attempted murder on April 11, 1982, when he fired an automatic weapon at Moslem worshippers on the Temple Mount and later resisted arrest.

Goodman, who is from Baltimore and was serving in the Israel army at the time of the shooting, had pleaded not guilty on grounds of insanity.

Albany Synagogue Provides Aid to Inner City Church

ALBANY, NY (JTA) — A member of the parish council of St. Patrick's Church, who is also the building manager for Conservative Congregation Ohav Shalom, has a prompt explanation for the presence in the synagogue of a large wooden box with a sign "Donations to St. Patrick's Food Pantry." He mentioned the needs of his parish to friends at the synagogue. On Jewish holidays, the congregation began collecting canned goods for the parishioners.

The rabbi called to tell him the church would get a check for \$1,000 from a synagogue member who, according to another anonymous congregation member, wanted to make the gift as an example of the Jewish tradition of tzedekah.



Youth Aliyah is a major factor in easing absorption of Ethiopian youngsters in Israel.

Israel Places Second In European Song Contest

JERUSALEM (JTA) — Israel's entry in the annual Eurovision song contest won second place, behind Luxembourg. The audience in Munich, where the contest was held was visibly moved and applauded boisterously as Ofra Haza sang "Chai" (Life).

An estimated 500 million viewers here and in 25 other countries watched the proceedings that were televised via satellite. Israelis were particularly proud that their country's song won such a high honor and that Haza, the youngest of nine Yemenite children from the poor Hatikva quarter of Tel Aviv, received a rousing ovation. Nineteen other countries were also represented at the contest.

This was the second year that both Turkey and Cyprus cast zero votes for Israel's entries. Most other countries judging the contest awarded "Chai" 6-12 points.

Peruvian Lawyer Demands Expulsion of PLO Agent

NEW YORK (JTA) — A member of the Peruvian Congress had demanded the expulsion of Raji Burhum, a Palestinian propagandist, who has engaged in anti-Semitic activities. The legislator also asked the government to explain why the Palestine Liberation Organization office is operating in Lima.

Burhum, host and producer of the radio program

"Palestinoamericana," has been described by Peruvian newspapers as "an agent of the PLO" and as "a PLO militant," who uses his program on Radio Santa Rosa to offer free copies of anti-Semitic books like "The Protocols of the Elders of Zion" and "The Worst Enemies of Our People." He showed journalists a leaflet signed by Burhum, which urged military and police officers to "be careful of Masonry, a Jewish device to enslave you" and which claimed that the "Jew will take over your land and the land of your countrymen."

U.S. Delegations in Israel Study Lessons of Lebanon War

TEL AVIV (JTA) — Two American armed forces delegations are in Israel, studying the lessons to be learned from the fighting in Lebanon. One delegation represents the U.S. Air Force, the other is made up of ground forces experts; other delegations and experts are scheduled in the coming months.

An earlier refusal to allow such study missions, imposed by former Defense Minister Ariel Sharon as a sign of displeasure with the Administration's attitude towards Israel, has been overturned by his successor, Moshe Arens.

Prejudice in Brazil

RIO DE JANEIRO (JTA) — Jews rank second only to

homosexuals on a scale of prejudices held by Brazilians according to a recent poll conducted in 40 cities. Prejudice against women was third.

International Book Fair Held

JERUSALEM (JTA) — The 11th International Book Fair which drew about 60,000 people who browsed among the 100,000 books exhibited by 1,000 publishers from 36 countries.

The most expensive book was a photocopy of a rare Passover Haggadah which survived in Germany after World War II. Ten copies were sold at \$1,500 each.

Tid-Bits

GENEVA (JTA) — Tourism from Switzerland to Israel has increased by one-third since January of last year. Israel now ranks third, after the U.S. and Japan, as the favorite destination of Swiss tourists outside Europe.

BONN (JTA) — The West German government has assured Israel that it will be invited to participate in negotiations between the European Economic Community and Mediterranean countries over trade problems arising from the enlargement of the Common Market, especially the impending entry of Spain into the ECC.

RIO DE JANEIRO (JTA) — More than 600 persons attended a Holocaust memorial gathering where Leonel Brizola, Governor of Rio de Janeiro State, declared: "We are reaffirming our decision to defend the values the Jews in the ghettos and Nazi death camps had died for." The memorial was held in the Bialik Library, headquarters of the Labor Zionist movement in Brazil. Other dignitaries attending included Jamil Haddad, Mayor of Rio de Janeiro and Yocov Gotal, the Israeli Consul General.

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