

WORLD BEAT

edited by Marta Garelik

Brighton Beach Russian Children Aided By New Jewish Program

NEW YORK (JTA) — When the news became known in the Brighton Beach section, described as the Odessa of Brooklyn for its huge influx of Russian Jews, that more than 50 Russian Jewish children had been induced to attend summer camps last year operated by Christian missionaries, a number of concerned local Jewish leaders organized an ad hoc committee to cope with the problem. Out of it grew the Brighton Beach Coordinating Committee for Outreach to Russian Jews, formed to provide an extensive network of services to Russian Jewish youngsters, many of them easy targets for Christian missionaries.

UNA Board Adopts Resolution Objecting to Anti-Semitism At UN

UNITED NATIONS (JTA) — The Board of Governors of the United Nations Association (UNA) has unanimously adopted a resolution which objects to anti-Semitism at the UN, the International Council of B'nai B'rith reported.

In a letter to Dr. Harris Schoenberg, director of UN Affairs for the International Council, Robert Ratner, president of the UN Association, stated that at its last meeting, the UNA-U.S. Board acknowledged that "certain attacks against Israel" at the last General Assembly "degenerated again into blatant anti-Semitism."

The Association's Board added that it is "disturbed

that surprisingly few delegations bothered to object." (Only Israel and the U.S. did in fact denounce the anti-Semitic rhetoric.) "But the Secretary General (Javier Perez de Cuellar) did issue a timely statement which took issue with the use in the General Assembly of epithets and slurs of a racial, religious or personal nature, even in the heat of the debate."

The UNA Board resolution concluded with a strong endorsement of the Secretary General's appeal "to all members to refrain from language unbecoming to serious international debate."

The Board instructed the UNA-USA staff to distribute the resolution widely, including UN Missions and national organizations affiliated with the Association.

A Future of Ups and Downs?

TEL AVIV (JTA) — An upper Galilee ambulance driver drew a sigh of relief when he rushed a pregnant woman to the maternity hospital and got her there just on time. But his relief was short-lived.

He escorted the 22-year-old woman and her husband in the elevator to the fourth floor delivery room. On its way up, the elevator got stuck. While a hospital midwife shouted instructions down the elevator shaft, the driver delivered the baby before the elevator could be started again.

Babies born on buses and aircraft are frequently given free lifetime travel passes. Hospital staffers were wondering what sort of pass they could give to the elevator baby.

Israeli Group Seeks Curb Of Politicians' Abusive Language

JERUSALEM (JTA) — Upset by the escalation of abusive language by Israeli politicians, especially in the Knesset, a group calling itself the "Movement for a Good Israel" is monitoring the invectives in the hope that political rivals will exercise restraint, if only to preserve the dignity of the democratic process.

According to the Movement's record, "hypocrisy" is indeed a mild pejorative compared to others hurled by politicians at each other. Among them are "clown", "comedian", "degenerate", "racist", "fascist" and "fool"; also "You are the biggest liar of all"; "you are the theater of the absurd"; "traitor" and "disseminator of treacherous lies."

Fascism in France Becoming Real and Present Danger

PARIS (JTA) — The resurgence of fascism in France has become a real and present danger, for many of the same reasons that fascism enjoyed a considerable following here in the 1930's depression era before World War II — social discontent, large-scale unemployment and racial prejudice.

The fascist National Front Party won hundreds of new members following the appearance of its leader, Jean-Marie Le Pen on a television panel show, watched by at least 10 million people.

Asked why they were joining the extreme rightwing group, most of those in line said they were impressed by Le Pen's frankness, especially his remark that Jews in France were over-protected compared to other citizens.

Baylor College Guilty of Discrimination Against Jews

HOUSTON (JTA) — Two Jewish cardiovascular anesthesiologists have been vindicated in their suit that accused Baylor College of Medicine here of unlawfully discriminating against them by not allowing them to par-

ticipate in the Baylor rotation to the King Faisal Hospital in Saudi Arabia.

U.S. District Court Judge James DeAnda found intentional discrimination on the basis of religion. The two doctors were identified as Lawrence Abrams and Stuart Linde.

In his findings, the judge ordered a permanent injunction prohibiting Baylor from discrimination on the basis of religion. "We must thereby permanently enjoin the defendant from excluding qualified Jews from the King Faisal rotation program," DeAnda ruled.

He also awarded back pay to both doctors to compensate for the difference in wages received as members of the Baylor staff as opposed to what they would have been permitted to participate in the King Faisal program. The total amount of awards to Abrams was \$156,840.30. The awards to Linde totalled \$248,982.08.

Swedish Diplomat Warns of Rising Anti-Semitism in Europe

NEW YORK (JTA) — Per Ahlmark of Sweden warned of a rising wave of anti-Semitism sweeping through Western Europe that is shrouded in a veil of anti-Zionism.

According to Ahlmark, since the Israeli invasion of Lebanon in June, 1982, there has been a marked increase in attacks against Israel and Jews. He noted an increase in overt attacks against Jewish institutions, cemeteries and synagogues in Western Europe, adding that three of the largest Jewish cemeteries in Sweden have recently been desecrated by anti-Semitic vandals.

Purim In Israel

JERUSALEM (JTA) — Purim got off to a cheerful start when Galei Zahal, the army radio network, announced a "major new Israeli breakthrough: cloud-seeding that will extend the winter until July."

The report claimed that the precious week's wet weather — the first heavy rain for nearly two months — was the

result of the new cloud-seeding technique and now the Cabinet would decide if the winter would continue until July — or, as the farmers were demanding, until September.

Two Orthodox Jews Remanded On Grave Robbing

TEL AVIV (JTA) — Two Orthodox Jews from Rishon LeZion have been remanded in custody for 15 days on suspicion of having illegally removed the skeleton of Teresa Engelovitz from her grave in the Rishon LeZion Jewish cemetery and transporting it to Ramle. The skeleton of a woman, positively identified by police forensic experts, was found discarded in a Moslem cemetery in Ramle. The remains were reburied in the original grave by order of the Supreme Court.

The case has stirred a conflict between civil and religious authorities. The local rabbinate ordered Engelovitz's body exhumed several months after the deceased was buried a year ago on grounds that she had not been converted to Judaism in her native Rumania according to strict Orthodox practice. A court injunction prevented the rabbinate's order from being carried out.

After the skeleton was identified, Israel's Chief Rabbis and the local rabbinate deplored the apparent grave robbery but insisted that the remains could not be reburied in the Jewish cemetery. The Supreme Court overruled their objections.

Gap Should Be Narrowed Between Sephardim and Ashkenazim

NEW YORK (JTA) — Israeli MK Meir Shitrit (Likud) warned that unless the educational and social gap between Sephardim and Ashkenazim in Israel is narrowed, and more money and resources are channeled to improve the education of deprived youngsters, Israel's future is at stake.

"The real threat to Israel is not from the Arabs, but from the erosion of the human advantage in Israel as a result of lack of proper education to the disadvantaged in Israel, most of them of Sephardic origin," Shitrit, a member of the Finance and Education Committees, said.

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