

WORLD BEAT

edited by Marta Garelik

Archbishop of Paris Recited Mass And Prayer For Holocaust Victims

PARIS (JTA) — The 40th anniversary of the liberation of the Auschwitz death camp was marked by the French Jewish community and by Cardinal Jean-Marie Lustiger, the Archbishop of Paris, who recited mass and a prayer for the Holocaust victims in his private chapel and later visited the Memorial to the Unknown Jewish Martyr.

The Cardinal, whose parents were Polish Jews, converted to Catholicism in his youth, told officials at the Memorial that he wanted to pay his personal respects to the Auschwitz victims. Shortly after his elevation to head the Catholic hierarchy in France, he noted in a newspaper interview that he had lost many family members in the Holocaust.

U.S. Dept. of Education Mailing Deplores Erosion of 'Christian Values' In Public Schools

NEW YORK (JTA) — The Department of Education's regional office director for western states, Thomas Tancredo, circulated in a mailing to Christian schools, and apparently, inadvertently, to some Jewish schools, a speech which deplored the erosion of "Christian values" in America's public schools.

While lamenting the necessity for the establishment of

Christian schools, the speech questioned how this could have happened in "this land of freedom, this Christian nation."

"What has happened to our Christian system of values?" the speech asks. It asserts that the Christian schools are being established because of the lack of Christian teaching in the public schools. The speech further stated that "it is important for Christian educators not to forget why our schools are here — to educate our children in Christian principles and to shield them from the pernicious religion of secular humanism."

The mailing of the speech on DOE stationary sparked an investigation by Rep. Patricia Schroeder (D. Col.), who will seek to determine whether the distribution of the letter at federal expense violated federal law.

DOE officials in Denver and Washington brushed aside Schroeder's criticism, blaming the controversy, partly, on the "hyper-sensitivity of certain elements in the Jewish community."

Norway Rejects PLO Bid

OSLO (Jerusalem Post & Opinion) — The Norwegian government rejected an application by the PLO to open an information office in Norway, the Justice Ministry said.

The ministry said in a statement that the security risks of a PLO office in Oslo were too

great and could provoke clashes between the organization's supporters and opponents.

ADL Reports Extremist Groups Use Computers To Spread Bigotry

Two such computer systems are currently operating in the U.S. with access obtained through home computers and a modem, or phone link up.

The danger from computerized dissemination of hate material "lies not only in facilitating the spread of bigotry and anti-democratic propaganda, but in its potential impact on impressionable young people many of whom today are computer users." The hate messages on both networks include anti-Israel and anti-Zionist propaganda.

In addition to hate propaganda, the network supplies, under the heading of "enemies," a listing of the addresses and phone numbers of the ADL's national and regional offices. In the same category are listed as "informers" for the "Zionist Occupational Government," its name for the U.S. government. Another group of "enemies" is labeled "race traitors" and is accessible, the network claims, only to callers with special clearance.

Israel Plans For Fighting Famine Around The World

TEL AVIV (JTA) — Israeli economists and agricultural researchers hope that a thaw in the cool relations between Israel and Egypt may revive plans for a joint venture which could help relieve famine in various parts of the world such as the one causing hundreds of thousands of deaths in Ethiopia.

The joint venture was based on the use of an Israeli invention developed four years ago and already in use in the Negev for the long-term storage of grains.

This invention is a huge plastic tent-like structure supported on a thick wire mesh. The plastic is the same used to

protect Israel's combat tanks from the broiling sun.

The plastic silos began as an experiment utilizing dry desert conditions to preserve grain stocks without pesticides. Wheat stored in the plastic silos has deteriorated by only one-tenth of one percent over two years.

Food shortages can be predicted six months in advance; the famine in Ethiopia was foreseen three years before it materialized. The United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FOA) had issued warnings well in advance and has since warned of other food shortages likely to occur elsewhere in the world.

Israel is ready with its plastic silos to store the surpluses of fat years to feed the hungry in the lean years.

A New Era For Spain's Jews

PARIS (JTA) — The Spanish government and the Spanish Parliament are about to vote a special law recognizing the Jewish community's rights and granting it the same privileges enjoyed by the Catholic church and the various Protestant congregations.

The law would take the form of a "Concordat," the special sort of agreement binding the Vatican to various stages, and would grant the Jewish community the legal rights enjoyed by the Catholic Church.

The Jewish community would have jurisdiction over matters of personal status concerning its members. Jews, just like Catholics, would be able to undergo only a religious wedding which would automatically be registered with the state registrar's office.

Rabbis will enjoy the same privileges as Catholic priests, such as being exempt from military service.

Some 12,000 Jews live in Spain, mainly in Madrid, Barcelona, Seville, Malaga and the Costa Brava. Some 70 percent arrived from Morocco in the 1950s while most of the others stem from Germany, Central Europe, Latin

America and the Middle East. There are two rabbis and five synagogues.

Tid-Bits

TEL AVIV (JTA) — Nature will have to take its course before 30 small diamonds valued at \$2,000 can be recovered. They repose for the time being in the stomach of a 62-year-old diamond polisher who swallowed them during an argument with his employer. The polisher agreed to an X-ray but escaped from his employer's car enroute to a hospital. He was promptly captured by police who along with the employer are waiting for the diamonds to emerge.

JERUSALEM (JTA) — Excavations being carried out by the Institute of Archaeology of the Hebrew University in cooperation with the Israel Exploration Society have revealed impressive fortifications and a water supply system at Tel Yoqne'am in the Jezreel Valley that apparently date from the days of King Solomon (10th Century B.C.E.).

TEL AVIV (JTA) — Israelis, who often describe themselves as the most heavily taxed people in the world are also the most "pampered," according to Finance Minister Yitzhak Modai. They must be prepared to accept a drastic reduction in their standard of living. Modai said the government aims to reduce living standards to the level of 1980 which would be "decent" but not "comfortable" in order to implement the massive budget cuts necessary for economic recovery.

Israelis visit doctors five times more frequently than Western Europeans and use four times as much medication per capita.

(JTA) — In 1984, there were 405,000 American visitors in Israel which represents a staggering 15 percent increase over 1983 when 354,000 Americans travelled there. A peak figure of 1.3 million visitors worldwide was also a record achievement.

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