

WORLD BEAT

edited by Marta Garelik

Israel Beats Out Argentina For Chinese Tank Contract

QUITO (JTA) — Military sources revealed that an Israeli armaments firm has been awarded a multi-million dollar contract to modernize the People's Republic of China's 9,000 aging Soviet-designed tanks.

The military experts maintained that Israeli expertise in rebuilding and adapting various features of Soviet battle tanks, in particular, guidance systems, was the deciding factor in awarding the contract.

This puts an end to Argentina's hopes for a breakthrough contract with China for its TAM tank, produced under a licensing agreement with the German arms manufacturer Thyssen-Henschel.

Israel Selling "Know-How" To People's Republic of China

TEL AVIV (JTA) — Israel is selling "know-how" to the People's Republic of China, employing the promotional services of a local public relations firm and a PR firm in Hong Kong which specializes in translation.

The kind of "know-how" Israel was exporting to China seems to be military, according to reports. Western military attaches in Peking reported several months ago that British-made tanks at a ceremonial parade were fitted with Israel-made cannons.

Foreign Media Abounds In Israel

TEL AVIV (JTA) — Some 150 newspapers, journals and radio and television networks from 25 countries are represented in Israel by 217 journalists.

The largest group of media outlets represents West Germany, with 45 papers and broadcasting networks, followed by the U.S. with 43, France with 25, Holland with 23 and Great Britain with 17.

Brazil, Japan and Papua-New Guinea are represented by one newspaper each, as are

East Germany, Poland and Czechoslovakia.

Measures Considered To Keep (Young) Israelis From Emigrating

JERUSALEM (JTA) — The Ministerial Immigration Committee, facing the prospect of rising unemployment, convened here to consider measures to keep young people from leaving the country, especially discharged army veterans.

There is widespread fear that emigration will increase this year because of Israel's economic crisis.

Yordim Returning Home

NEW YORK (JTA) — More than 2,350 former Israelis returned to live in Israel in 1984, after residing for many years in the United States and Canada.

There are at least some 250,000 to 300,000 former Israelis — or Yordim — living in the United States. This number was carefully arrived at from figures supplied by American immigration authorities and the Israeli Consulate in New York.

Program Geared To Improve Civil Liberties In Israel

NEW YORK (JTA) — A new program designed to improve civil liberties in Israel and increase the number of Israeli lawyers devoted to civil liberties laws, has been underway in Washington since last August. The program, "The Israel-U.S. Civil Liberties Law Program," is sponsored by the New Israel Fund and the Washington College of Law at the American University.

Israel's main civil liberties problems include a whole range of issues from freedom of speech and freedom of the press, to women's rights and minority rights. The issue of civil liberties has an added dimension when examined against the issue of national security.

Israel To Build VOA Radio Transmitter

TEL AVIV (JTA) — Israel has agreed to the Reagan Administration's proposal to build a powerful Voice of America (VOA) radio transmitter in Israel to relay broadcasts to the Soviet Union and other Eastern bloc countries.

Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin made a verbal commitment to President Reagan at their White House meeting.

Many Israelis feared that would involve Israel directly in the cold war between the superpowers and would have a detrimental effect on the situation of Soviet Jews which has seriously deteriorated during the past year.

But President Reagan exerted pressure, and Israel was forced finally to agree. The only condition was that no public disclosure be made of the agreement.

U.S. Gained \$50 Billion In Technological Data

NEW YORK (JTA) — Israel has provided the U.S. with \$50 billion worth of technological data from captured Soviet military equipment, it was disclosed by Meir Rosenne, Israel's Ambassador to the U.S.

Addressing a meeting of the American Friends of Tel Aviv University, the Israeli envoy said that Israel had saved America "many years of research and billions of dollars" by sharing with the U.S. the planes, tanks, missiles and other Soviet military equipment captured from Arab armies. He said the \$50 billion price-tag was an estimate based on a study by two American generals in the Pentagon.

Herzog Receives Standing Ovation At Parliament Of Europe Assembly

STRASBOURG (JTA) — President Chaim Herzog of Israel received a standing ovation when he addressed the 10 member-state Parliament of

Europe here. The Assembly, convened in special session for the occasion, was packed with deputies and guests.

The President of the Parliament, Pierre Pflimlin, told Herzog that, "Through your person we want to pay tribute to the State of Israel to which we are bound, since 1975, by judicial and economic links which we consider vital to both Europe and Israel."

Hungary To Issue First Stamps On Jewish Theme

BUDAPEST (JTA) — Hungary is to issue postage stamps featuring objects contained in the Hungarian Jewish Museum, marking the first appearance of stamps on a Jewish subject in the country's history, the World Jewish Congress reported.

Seven stamps comprise the series to be issued by the post office under the title of "Jewish Art in Hungary." The announcement by Hungarian authorities said the stamps would "depict the most beautiful items of the Hungarian Jewish Museum."

The announcement coincided with a wreath-laying ceremony at the memorial wall in the cemetery next to the Dohany Street synagogue commemorating the 40th anniversary of the liberation of the Budapest Ghetto.

The Holocaust As Christian Tragedy

NEW YORK (JTA) — Prof. David Wyman, author of "The Abandonment of the Jews" (which documents the "criminal negligence" of the U.S. toward the rescue of European Jews during the Holocaust), said that the Holo-

caust "is still not perceived by non-Jews as their issue or their loss."

Wyman, who was raised as a Methodist and has two grandmothers who are Protestant ministers, said that while many Jews continue to feel that they did not do enough to help fellow Jews, "most Christians are oblivious. They don't even know they failed. Here was a massive failure of Christian civilization — a religious failure — a loss of the soul."

Tid-Bits

TEL AVIV (JTA) — Israel Radio reported that a Hadera man involved in a family quarrel tried to take his own life in various ways — but failed in each. The man reportedly took an overdose of sleeping pills. When he woke up and found himself still alive, he opened the gas taps. When this did not work he jumped from the roof of his four-story building. Police, summoned by neighbors, saw a man get up from the ground and run away — apparently because he feared he would be charged with attempted suicide.

MONTEVIDEO (JTA) — The new Liberal government which took over in Uruguay on March 1, following elections there four months ago, includes three Jews in prominent posts, the World Jewish Congress reported.

WASHINGTON (JTA) — The United States wants Israel to participate in programs providing aid to Third World countries, especially in Africa.



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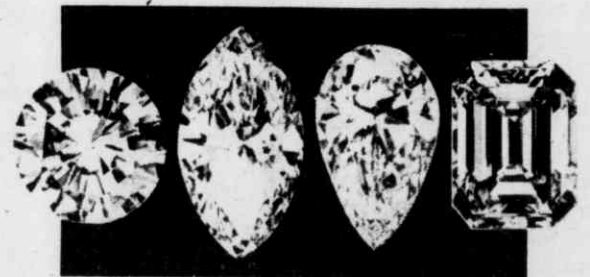
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