

WORLD BEAT

edited by Marta Garelik

Schultz Sends Encouraging Letter

JERUSALEM (JTA) — Prime Minister Shimon Peres recently received a letter of encouragement from U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz for the government's efforts to boost foreign investment in private Israeli industry.

Shultz wrote that he has been briefed on the recent session in Jerusalem of the special task force of international and Israeli businessmen, Operation Independence. "You know how interested I am in the long-term development of the Israeli economy and its great potential," Shultz wrote.

"I am pleased and encouraged that you and your government are working with (Detroit industrialist, philanthropist and Republican Party supporter) Max Fisher and the Project Independence group as one way to promote long-range growth, while you

work simultaneously to implement and broaden your stabilization plan. This is exactly as it should be."

Schifter Replaces Abrams

WASHINGTON (JTA) — Richard Schifter, U.S. representative to the United Nations Commission for Human Rights since 1981, has been nominated by President Reagan to be Assistant Secretary of State for Human Rights and Humanitarian Affairs. He succeeds Elliott Abrams, who has been named Assistant Secretary of State for Inter-American Affairs.

The 62-year-old Schifter was also Deputy U.S. Representative to the United Nations Security Council in 1984-85. A Washington lawyer, he has been a member of the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Council since 1980. Born in Vienna, Austria, he is a graduate of the College of the City of New York and Yale Law School.

Anti-Semitism Is Concern In Uruguay

NEW YORK (JTA) — The emergence of anti-Semitism in a strike at a Jewish-owned leather factory in Paysandu, Uruguay, has aroused the country's Jewish community, the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith reported.

According to ADL, posters mounted on the entrance gates and on the walls of the factory carried such anti-Semitic slogans as "Hilter was right: Too bad he is not here." The Central Jewish Committee of Uruguay called upon the nation's unions and union leaders to denounce this injection of anti-Semitic and pro-Nazi propaganda into a dispute between labor and management.

A Shameful Episode Disclosed

TORONTO (JTA) — The British government and its commonwealth allies — including Canada — agreed in 1948 to end the prosecution of Nazi war criminals, according to a newly declassified top secret British document obtained from the Defense Ministry in London.

The document showed that in 1948, only three years after the end of World War II, a top-level British government committee including then Prime Minister Clement Atlee, leader

of the Labor Party, concluded that no new trials of alleged Nazi war criminals should be initiated after August 31 of that year. Britain asked the Commonwealth governments to adopt the same policy and all acquiesced.

A 1947 Canadian document released to the Deschenes Commission showed that less than a year before the policy decision in London, the Canadian government was on the look-out for 154 suspected Nazi criminals.

Israel Linked To A Global Laser Tracking Station

TEL AVIV (JTA) — Israel is a link in a global laser tracking station that gathers scientific data about the earth.

The station, part of a network of 30 tracking stations around the world, is the first of its kind in the Middle East.

The global network is run by NASA. Each station fires laser beams at an orbiting satellite. The beams bounce back to earth and from them it is possible, among other things, to gain data on the speed of the earth's axial rotation, changes in its gravitational and electro-magnetic fields and the movement of the earth's crust-plate tectonics. Repeated measurements of returning beams could indicate tectonic activity and thereby help predict earthquakes.

Tid-Bits

JERUSALEM (JTA) — Cabinet Ministers have succeeded in ignoring and nullifying their own decision not to go on overseas trips until the economic situation in the country has improved. According to a report in Maariv, the government has approved a number of trips for government officials.

TEL AVIV (JTA) — West German President Richard von Weizaecker was granted an honorary degree of doctor of philosophy by the Weizmann Institute at a brief ceremony at the Institute in Rehovot recently, some hours before he left for home after a four-day official visit to Israel — the first ever by a German President.

BUENOS AIRES (JTA) — In an unprecedented gesture in the political history of Argentina, President Raul Alfonsin attended the major annual Jewish communal dinner here where he praised the Jewish contribution to the Argentine nation. The presence of Alfonsin and his address is seen as a gesture towards the Jewish community and an unequivocal condemnation of anti-Semitism.

TORONTO (JTA) — The Canadian Jewish Congress (CJC) has urged local retailers to stop selling T-shirts emblazoned with the words "Adolf Hitler European Tour 1939-45," a list of countries and dates they were invaded by Nazi Germany in World War II, and a picture of Hitler sporting a swastika and doing the Nazi salute over a European map.

TEL AVIV (JTA) — The Israel-Asia Chamber of Commerce has published a catalog in the Chinese language describing Israel's products and services which are available to Chinese importers and government bodies. The catalog will be distributed in China by a Hong Kong firm with experience of the Chinese market which helped draw it up. The Chamber of Commerce issued the catalog following several years of quiet contacts between Israeli business executives and manufacturers and visits by them and Israeli scientists to China.

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