

WORLD BEAT

— edited by Marta Garelik

Antidote To Neo-Nazi Propaganda

BONN (JTA) — A visit to the site of a former concentration camp has been declared mandatory for all pupils in State-run schools in Bavaria, partly as an antidote against neo-Nazi propaganda.

The precedent-setting decision was taken by the ruling conservative Christian Social Union (CSU) in cooperation with the opposition Social Democratic Party (SPD). The idea originated with an SPD member of the Bavarian legislature, Peter Kurz, a trade union activist.

It is part of the preparations for and studies about the Nazi era and may include students meeting with survivors of Nazi persecution. Kurz said the timing of his initiative coincided with the increased efforts by neo-Nazi groups to attract members among German youth.

Medical Care Agreement Reached

TEL AVIV (JTA) — Blue Cross-Blue Shield, the American health insurance corporation, has signed an agreement with the Herzliya Medical Center to cover the costs of hospitalization and treatment of American and American tourists who need medical attention while in Israel.

The agreement is reportedly the first of its kind with a foreign hospital since Blue Cross-Blue Shield signed an agreement with the American Hospital in Paris during World War II.

The agreement presently covers only subscribers from the New York, New Jersey and Connecticut areas but other regions are expected to be included later. The Herzliya Medical Center, founded three years ago, is staffed by 150 physicians who conduct their private practice at the center.

Proposal For British Actors To Boycott Israel Is Defeated

LONDON (JTA) — A call by actress Vanessa Redgrave and a group of 38 supporters for a cultural boycott of Israel was defeated at the annual meeting of the British actors union, Equity, which broke up in chaos in a London theater.

The motion was read to the some 300 union members by Redgrave's brother, Colin. The proposal demanded a ban on performing in Israel and an end to sales there of television and film material involving Equity members. It referred to Israel as "occupied Palestine" and to its law as "fundamentally racist."

Colin Redgrave's reading of the proposal was greeted with a barrage of shouts of "anti-Semite" and "Hitler" from angry op-

ponents. The motion was subsequently overwhelmingly defeated by a show of hands of those in attendance.

Pamela Manson, a Jewish actress, described the motion as "Marxist and racist" and said that the union would be "disgraced forever" if it supported it. "This creed of anti-Zionism not being anti-Semitism is a ploy," she said.

Israeli Expert Helps Chile

TEL AVIV (JTA) — A Weizmann Institute of Science expert, who developed techniques to discover water resources in the Arava desert area in Israel, is presently in Chile applying his methods to tap ground water in that country's arid northern regions.

Prof. Mordechai Magaritz was sent to Chile by the Vienna-based International Atomic Energy Agency. He is working with a Chilean team to demonstrate the feasibility of drilling for water as an alternative to piping it from the high Andes, which would pose difficult technological problems and great expense.

Several years ago, another team of Weizmann Institute experts, headed by Prof. Joel Gat, advised the Brazilian government how to solve the water problems in arid north-eastern Brazil.

Israeli Energy Minister In U.S. To Discuss Oil Prospecting In Israel

JERUSALEM (JTA) — Energy Minister Moshe Shal dedicated the second solar

energy plant built in southern California by an Israeli firm for a local electric utility. He also discussed American oil prospecting in Israel with U.S. Energy Secretary John Herrington and with Armand Hammer, head of Continental Petroleum.

The solar station Shahal visited was built by Luz, an Israeli firm. It cost \$90 million and 50 percent of the material that went into its construction was imported from Israel. Shahal will take part in negotiations to export an even larger Israel-made solar energy plant, to cost about \$120 million, to a South American country.

Tid-Bits

CLEVELAND (JTA) — Anti-Israel films produced by the PLO — some of them using themes and footage from Nazi anti-Semitic films — are flooding college campuses, private clubs and church groups across the U.S.

The PLO films, which run from five to 45 minutes, include some that incorporate Nazi-produced footage, one, for example, makes use of clips from "The Eternal Jew," an infamous anti-Semitic film made during the Hitler era.

ATHENS (JTA) — Greece and Israel signed a new scientific and cultural cooperation agreement. The three-year program provides for exchanges in the fields of education, science, culture, the media, youth activities and sports. It was signed by Ambassador Spyros Chrysospathis, the

Foreign Ministry's Cultural Affairs Director, and Ambassador Yehezkel Barnea, Israel's diplomatic representative in Athens.

NEW YORK (JTA) — Attorneys in 10 states and the District of Columbia have volunteered to assist Na'amat, the largest women's organization in Israel, in obtaining child support payments for Israeli women from Israeli fathers now living in the U.S.

JERUSALEM (JTA) — Egypt, which supplies Israel with one quarter of its oil, has reduced prices by approximately 25 percent, thus saving the Treasury over \$50 million a year.

NEW YORK (JTA) — A Jewish engineer who charged the Ralph Parsons Company, a California-based international contracting firm, with religious discrimination for turning him down for a job in Saudi Arabia, has received a \$72,500 settlement from the company.

NEW YORK (JTA) — A grove of trees honoring the Russian composer Dmitri Shostakovich has been established in Jerusalem's Neve Ya'akov neighborhood by the Jewish National Fund. The grove was sponsored by musicians of the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra and the Israel Information Center for Soviet Jewry, in recognition of Shostakovich's life-long compassion for the plight of Soviet Jewry.

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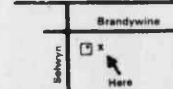
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