

WORLD BEAT

— edited by Marta Garelik

Princeton Plans Center For Jewish Life

PRINCETON, N.J. (JTA) — Princeton University plans to establish a Center for Jewish Life at a cost of \$1.3 million. The Center will include a university-run kosher kitchen and dining hall, chapel, Judaica library, sound-proof music room for choir rehearsals and Israeli dancing, and office space for the Princeton Hillel Foundation, which it will also house.

A committee of students, headed by Janine Schloss (Class of '88) and Mara Fox (Class of '87), has been working since the fall to develop a plan for the new Jewish Center. Hillel president Cliff Stein (Class of '87) said the facility will "act as a symbol of Jewish presence on campus and a symbol of the University's support for a thriving Jewish community," which the Center will unite. The Ivan and Seema Boesky Family Fund has contributed \$750,000 toward the establishment of the Center. The couple has a son in the school's sophomore class.

Israel Assures Soviets On 'Star Wars' Participation

JERUSALEM (JTA) — Israel has assured the Soviet Union that its participation in President Reagan's Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI) was not directed against the Soviet Union or any other country.

The Israeli message was in response to a warning from Moscow in May that Israel's involvement in SDI could endanger peace in the Middle East.

It was conveyed through the Dutch Embassy which represents Israeli interests in the Soviet Union.

The reply stressed that Israel is not a partner in the military aspects of SDI, popularly known as "Star Wars" but only a participant in its technological development.

Neo-Nazis Terrorize Jews In Chile and Paraguay

KIAMESHA LAKE, N.Y. (JTA) — Neo-Nazis in Chile and Paraguay are waging a war of vandalism and terrorism against the Jewish communities in those countries. There are 30,000 Jews in Chile and 1,000 in Paraguay. Both countries are ruled by rightwing military dictatorships, and neo-Nazi groups apparently operate with impunity.

The recent emergence of neo-Nazi groups in Chile was hard to explain but part of the reason was that the government, preoccupied with its campaign against Communists and leftists, gave these groups a great deal of freedom for their activities.

Probe Ordered On Students Doctoral Degree

PARIS (JTA) — The government has ordered a full-scale investigation into the granting of a doctoral degree by Nantes University to a candidate whose thesis claimed that the gas chambers were a figment of "Jewish imagination" and the Holocaust in fact did not occur.

Alain Devaquet, Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research, demanded an administrative and university investigation of the procedures which allowed the thesis to be accepted and gave it top grades. The author is Henri Roques, a retired 65-year-old agricultural engineer and amateur historian. He submitted his thesis to the Paris Sorbonne and several other major universities, all of which rejected it.

But Nantes University appointed an academic jury which examined the 371-page work, pronounced it excellent and granted Roques an academic degree. Devaquet told a Parliamentary commission

that the government was "deeply disturbed by the allegations tending to deny the existence of gas chambers and of the Nazi Holocaust policies." The episode was brought to the Ministry's attention by 60 Nantes University faculty members who protested acceptance of the thesis.

Weizmann Scientist Thanked By Thatcher

JERUSALEM (JTA) — Dr. Yair Reisner, the Weizmann Institute biophysicist who flew to Moscow to help Soviet doctors treat victims of the Chernobyl nuclear accident, received personal and apparently impromptu thanks from visiting British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher for alerting the West to the kinds of medical preparations needed to cope with similar disasters in the future.

Reisner, an expert on tissue-typing and bone-marrow transplants, said on his return from the USSR that not only the Soviets but the Western nations lacked the necessary facilities and techniques.

Reisner, in his report to the Israeli authorities, stressed that people who work in nuclear power stations or at other facilities with a high risk of radiation exposure, should have their tissue group recorded and filed in case of accident. He said potential donors of bone marrow of that same tissue group should be located and listed, so that if an accident occurs, transplant operations can be performed without delay. He believed these precautions were not anymore adequately taken in the U.S. and other countries than in the Soviet Union.

Hadassah Hospital To Perform Heart Transplants

JERUSALEM (JTA) — The Health Ministry announced that the government has given

permission to the Hadassah Medical Center here to perform heart transplant surgery.

It has been banned until now because of the Rabbinate's objections. The halachic definition of death differs from the medical definition. The medical definition is cessation of cerebral activity. Many rabbis refuse to acknowledge death until the heart has ceased beating. Medical science requires the donor heart to still be beating when it is removed for transplant.

The ban has forced patients requiring heart transplants to seek them abroad. Newspapers carry advertisements from ad hoc aid committees set up to raise funds for Israelis to have the operation abroad where the costs can exceed \$200,000.

Trees To Be Rooted In Air

JERUSALEM (JTA) — Trees growing out of thin air instead of the ground enable botanists at the newly opened Sarah Racine Laboratory in Tel Aviv University's Botanical Garden to observe the structure and development of roots.

According to Yoav Waisel, director of the Garden, this is important because root physiology is a neglected field. It is hard to study roots without up-ending the tree.

The two-story lab, which resembles an ordinary greenhouse, has a variety of trees — olive, avocado, palms, cottonwood — and some vegetable plants growing out of holes in the floor. Their roots hang freely inside an aeroponic chamber. They are sprayed for 10 seconds each minute with water and nutrients.

The chamber is dark but has two observation windows for public viewing.

Virginia Promotes Economic And Cultural Opportunities With Israel

RICHMOND, Va. (JTA) — Governor Gerald Baliles announced the creation of a special commission to promote and expand the economic development, educational and cultural opportunities between Virginia and Israel, in commemoration of the upcoming 40th anniversary of the founding of the State of Israel in 1948.

Students, public officials, and individuals of demonstrated achievement in the fields of medicine, law, education, science, agriculture, business, the arts, religion, communications, and the

media would participate.

Baliles said the work of the commission would precede his own visit to Israel, in April of 1988.

A Hot Export Item

TEL AVIV (JTA) — The hottest item on Israel's export list to Europe is a personal radiation detector the size of a package of cigarettes.

The gamma radiation detection device developed by Amcor can be worn on the belt line like a beeper. It emits a beeping sound and flashing light when radiation five times the normal dosage is present. The price is \$140.

Since the disaster at Chernobyl, the Amcor factory has gone from one shift to three shifts a day to handle orders for 10,000 more of the device. He said a batch of 1,500 was air-freighted to Holland, Austria, West Germany and France in one week.

According to Meirovitch, the Europeans favor the Israeli detector because it is the smallest and cheapest on the market.

Tid-Bits

UNITED NATIONS (JTA) — Israel offered to share its expertise in agriculture and arid zone research with the nations of Africa and to cooperate with them in innovative research and development.


Israel presently holds diplomatic ties only with six African nations: Zaire, Swaziland, Malawi, Liberia, Lesotho and the Ivory Coast. Most of the African states cut diplomatic ties with the Jewish State after the 1973 Yom Kippur War.

JERUSALEM (JTA) — Spain and Israel have concluded an agreement which will further trade contacts between the two countries.

Israel imported \$80 million worth of goods from Spain last year. The imports included cars, food products and textiles. This is far greater than Israeli exports to Spain which consist mainly of diamonds and some agricultural products.

JERUSALEM (JTA) — Israel's trade with Japan is growing — though not as vigorously as many Israeli officials and businessmen would like. According to official figures issued recently, a \$25 million dollar increase in Israeli exports to Japan was


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