

WORLD BEAT

edited by Marta Garelik

Portuguese Government to Award Medal to Diplomat Who Saved Jews

WASHINGTON (JTA) — The Portuguese government has agreed to award a special posthumous Medal of Honor to a diplomat who saved some 30,000 Jews and others during World War II.

Rep. Tony Coelho (D. Cal.) reported that he brought up the issue of the diplomat, Aristides de Sousa Mendes do Amaral e Abranches, during a meeting with Portuguese Prime Minister Antonio Cavaco Silva and Foreign Minister Pedro Pires de Miranda.

Coelho and Rep. Henry Waxman (D. Cal.) led a Congressional effort to have Portugal recognize the diplomat's efforts when he headed the Portuguese Consulate in Bordeaux in the south of France in 1940. Defying orders from the military government of Antonio de Oliveira Salazar, de Sousa Mendes gave visas to Jews and others fleeing from the Nazi invasion of France, allowing them to escape to Portugal.

When Lisbon learned what he was doing, the diplomat was recalled and ousted from the diplomatic corps. He was forbidden to practice his profession of law or hold any other job and died in poverty in 1954.

The Congressmen acted after they learned that his children, who live in the U. S., were trying to get their father proper recognition from the Portuguese government.

Polish Clerics to Cosponsor Anti-Semitism Conferences

NEW YORK (JTA) — Jozef Cardinal Glemp of Warsaw and Franciszek Cardinal Macharski of Cracow have agreed to cosponsor with the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith the first Catholic-Jewish conferences in Poland to examine anti-Semitism, the meaning of the Holocaust, Judaism and current Jewish concerns.

The conferences, one in Warsaw and one Cracow, will bring together Catholic leaders and representatives of the small Jewish communities left in the two cities as well as ADL representatives and Jewish scholars from abroad.

The Cardinal, who succeeded Pope John Paul II as head of the Catholic Church in Cracow, said it is "urgent for Jews and Catholics to meet, not just for events such as Holocaust commemorations." He added that "not enough is being done" in Poland to educate about the meaning of the Holocaust and noted that the Catholic Church is "prepared to do more to address anti-Semitism, both within the church and the outside world."

Zakim said that both Macharski and Glemp had agreed to the Catholic-Jewish relations conference "with enthusiasm."

Austrian Government and AJC Will Work to Stem Anti-Semitism

NEW YORK (JTA) — The Austrian government and the American Jewish Committee (AJC) have agreed to establish

a joint working group to implement a program to stem anti-Semitism in that country.

"This is the first time in 40 years that the Austrian government has agreed to the establishment of such joint working group with any Jewish organization." Currently there is no fear or panic of anti-Semitism among the some 9,000 Jews in Austria. "They are concerned that the use of political anti-Semitism will be used in the future, unless it is stopped now." The Austrian officials and leaders did not contradict the assertion that there was a wide use of political anti-Semitism in the Presidential campaign.

Israel to Revive Project Exodus

JERUSALEM (JTA) — The recent thaw in relations between Israel and the Black African nations that broke diplomatic ties with it after the 1973 Yom Kippur War will revive a project undertaken by Israeli ophthalmologists 27 years ago to eradicate eye diseases common to tropical Africa.

Four Israeli ophthalmologists will establish eye clinics in Africa shortly. Their work is a continuation of Project Exodus, established in 1959 by the late Prof. Isaac Michaelson of Hadassah Hospital in Jerusalem to fight such eye diseases as trachoma and river blindness.

Michaelson had succeeded in eradicating them in Israel and his procedures were introduced in many African countries by Israeli doctors in the 1960s. An international symposium dedicated to Mi-

chaelson's memory recently closed in Jerusalem.

It was organized by Hadassah Hospital and attended by ophthalmologists from 26 countries including Poland, Hungary, Lesotho, Liberia and Haiti. The symposium dealt with another area of Michaelson's expertise — ocular circulation and neovascularization.

Australian Press Council Censures Arabic-Language Paper

SYDNEY (JTA) — The Australian Press Council has censured an Arabic-language newspaper, *An Nahda*, for publishing "violent attacks on Jews as a group" including the infamous blood libel.

The Council acted on a complaint by the New South Wales Jewish Board of Deputies against three articles published in September, 1985 by the newspaper which is the organ of the Syrian National Socialist Party here. It deemed them to be "anti-Semitic, disparaging and belittling of Jews and calculated to incite racial hatred."

Israeli Delegation Bound For China

TEL AVIV (JTA) — An Israeli delegation headed by a senior government official will go to China shortly to sign an agreement for cooperation in agriculture and energy between Israel and the People's Republic of China.

It would be the first official accord between the two countries.

Chinese scholars and scientists are interested in developing technical and scientific cooperation with Israel. But while China wants to develop ties with Israel in various technical fields, the Beijing government is not prepared to establish formal diplomatic relations with Israel at this time. Beijing is moving cautiously even with respect to non-official contacts.

The deans of universities, scholars and engineers plan to attend the next convention of the International Council of Aeronautical Science (ICAS) to be held in Israel in August 1988.

Tid-Bits

TEL AVIV (JTA) — Young Mapam members demonstrated outside the U. S. Embassy here recently. Their protest was not directed against the U. S. but at the long line of Israelis waiting to apply for visas to go there. "Stay here and help us build a better future," they cried. The line moved but the visa applicants were unmoved by the Mapam appeal. None of them left the queue.

JERUSALEM (JTA) — Israel is entering negotiations with Poland for a deal by which it would barter agricultural produce and electronic equipment for Polish coal. The head of Israel's National Coal Supply Corp. has been to Warsaw to meet with Polish officials.

TEL AVIV (JTA) — More than 4,000 foreign visitors attended Agritech-86, the week-long exhibition of Israeli agricultural technology at the Tel Aviv Fairgrounds.

The attendance was double that expected, and many orders were placed for Israeli agricultural equipment by representatives of Asian, African and Eastern European countries with which Israel has no diplomatic ties. About 20 percent of the overseas buyers were from Spain, which established diplomatic relations with Israel early this year.

TEL AVIV (JTA) — The Israel police will establish a special unit to try to fight the national rash of vehicle thefts. Some 8,000 cars have been reported stolen inside Israel.

See WORLD BEAT Page 7

*Afterwards,
they'll all
tell you it
was perfect.*

You know how you want your guests to feel when they enter the room.

And you know what you want them to say afterwards. That everything was "perfect."

Making that happen is our business. Whether it's an exquisite wedding, a memorable bar or bat mitzvah. A charity ball or a lavish birthday party. The atmosphere you wish to create will be perfectly expressed to every last detail.

Call the Charlotte Marriott, and talk to our Catering Manager about your next event. We're close to perfection. And everything else in Charlotte.

Marriott People know how.

CHARLOTTE **Marriott**
CITY CENTER

100 W. Trade St., Charlotte, NC 28202 (704) 333-9000

Crown
Oldsmobile

4700 E. Independence Blvd.
535-7980

I Want To Serve You.
See Me for Your
Best Deal!



SIMON ESTROFF

