

WORLD BEAT

edited by Marta Garelik

Combatting Anti-Semitism In Agrarian Areas

NEW YORK (JTA) — Representatives of farmers' and Jewish organizations have joined forces to combat the plight of American farmers and the spread of anti-Semitism in agrarian areas of the country.

The representatives announced the beginning of a national petition drive to obtain one million signatures calling on Congress to declare an immediate moratorium on farm foreclosures, fair prices for farm products and an emergency aid program for farm families forced into bankruptcy, foreclosure, and the most extreme consequences of poverty.

Women's American ORT first became involved in the farm crisis through investigations into the rabidly racist, anti-Semitic broadcasts of radio station KTTL-FM in Dodge City, Kansas, whose religious sermons advocated violence against Jews, Blacks and law enforcement officials.

Landmark Ruling Made By Israel's High Court

JERUSALEM (JTA) — A Supreme Court panel ruled unanimously that the Interior Ministry may not inscribe the word "converted" on the identification card of a person converted to Judaism.

The decision, hailed in liberal and secular circles and angrily condemned by the Orthodox establishment, is seen likely to revive the bitter debate over the "Who is a Jew" issue because it involved a conversion performed by a Reform rabbi in the U.S. The court ruling is considered a landmark because it makes clear the supremacy of civil law in Israel.

Catholicism Being Taught In Italian Public Schools

ROME (JTA) — The Quadrennial Congress of the

Union of Italian Jewish Communities (UIJC) is focusing on what is perhaps the most disturbing issue for Italian Jewry since the last Congress four years ago — the teaching of the Catholic religion in the Italian school system.

Classes on Catholicism at all grade levels were introduced as a result of the 1985 accord between the Education Ministry and the Catholic Episcopal Conference. While they are voluntary, there is no feasible alternative for the very small minority of Jewish and other children who do not want to participate.

Hospital Fellowship Given In Gratitude for Anti-Nazi Heroism

CHICAGO (JTA) — Dr. Peter Bo Hansen, 31, a Danish physician researching anesthesia at Michael Reese Hospital here, is the recipient of the Bispebjerg Fellowship, created in honor of the doctors and nurses of Bispebjerg Hospital in Copenhagen who risked their lives to save 140 Jewish neighbors.

The endangered Jews comprised a mock funeral procession that stopped at the chapel of the hospital one day in October 1943. Inside, they shed their funeral clothes and received food and comfort from the hospital staff. Later, they were smuggled aboard a fishing boat to Sweden.

Reese physicians created the fellowship in 1963, allowing nine Bispebjerg physicians to have studied a variety of medical subjects for a year.

Clash Over Toure's Appearance

(JTA) — At the University of Maryland, outside Washington, Jewish and Black students clashed over the appearance by Kwame Toure, formerly Stokely Carmichael.

The Jewish students objected to the Black Student Union inviting Toure since in

a talk at the university last spring, he said the "only good Zionist is a dead Zionist." During his speech, Toure was heckled by Jewish students, and he called them "Zionist pigs" and said "Zionism is Satan in disguise."

Tid-Bits

JERUSALEM (JTA) — The Supreme Court ruled that medical standards alone determine the precise time of death which is the time when the brain ceases to function.

The rabbinate has strongly opposed heart and other organ transplants on grounds that a donor could not be declared dead as long as the heart continued to beat. Doctors point out that hearts can be kept beating by artificial means long after brain death.

NEW YORK (JTA) — Despite Argentina's shift to a democratic regime, anti-Semitic propaganda is still prevalent and used by right-wing elements as a tool to undermine the new government, according to a report released by the American Jewish Committee. A two-year-old anti-discrimination bill is still pending in the Argentine Senate.

WASHINGTON (JTA) — Bishop James Malone, president of the U.S. Catholic Conference, has urged the United Nations General Assembly to reverse its "deplorable" resolution equating Zionism with racism.

This was the first time a U.S. Catholic Conference president had commented on the resolution since it was labeled as "unjust" by Joseph Cardinal Bernardin shortly after the General Assembly adopted the resolution on November 10, 1975.

SAN FRANCISCO (JTA) — A Jewish studies program was founded this autumn at Stanford University, Palo Alto, Calif., according to the Nor-

thern California Jewish Bulletin. A centerpiece of the program is the 20,000-volume Judaica library purchased from Prof. Salo Baron of Columbia University.

ATHENS (JTA) — Greece and Israel have put the finishing touches to a joint advertising and promotional campaign aimed at attracting North American tourists to both countries.

JERUSALEM (JTA) — Israeli travel agents are offering a civil marriage package trip to Cyprus in cooperation with the Cypriot authorities for couples who cannot marry in Israel because of religious restrictions. The package includes travel expenses, mar-

riage fees, and a week's room and board for \$887. The travel agent deals with the paper work. According to Cypriot authorities, about 300 civil marriages are performed in the town of Pafos alone each year.

TEL AVIV (JTA) — The world Jewish population is declining rapidly and may be reduced to a total of six million within one generation, according to a report of a demographic study presented to the World Zionist Organization.

The study projects a Jewish population of nine million by 1990, eight million in the year 2000 and six million by 2025, less than the population of large cities today.

Russian-Israeli Art Displayed

"From Moscow to Jerusalem," an exhibition of prints and drawings by Russian Jewish artists who have emigrated to Israel, will be on display in the East and West Galleries at Shalom Park through January 19. The exhibition consists of 40 hand-colored etchings, lithographs and drawings which are available for sale. Subject matter includes personal experiences in Russia, life in Israel, and Biblical images.

For information call: Ethel Gordon, 366-0527 or Louise Bernstein, 366-3894.



"Old Village". Lithograph/M. Kogan now on display in East and West Galleries/Shalom Park.

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