

# WORLD BEAT

— edited by Marta Garelik

## Theater Cancels Anti-Semitic Play

LONDON (JTA) — The Royal Court Theatre cancelled the presentation of a play which depicts Zionists as collaborators with the Nazis in the mass destruction of Hungarian Jewry during World War II.

The play, titled "Perdition," was due to open for a five-week run at the prestigious West End Theater. It was withdrawn following angry protests by the Jewish community and by scholars and historians who branded it a vicious travesty, after reading the script.

The playwright, Jim Allen, is a Trotskyist who makes no secret of his antipathy for Zionists though he claims to be pro-Jewish. "Perdition" is based loosely on the desperate attempts of Jewish leaders in Budapest to save Jewish lives by offering the Nazis trucks and money during the last year of the war.

Dr. David Cesarani, a London University historian, called the play "one of the most serious examples of anti-Semitic thinking seen in this country for many years. It revives the anti-Semitism that goes back to 'The Merchant of Venice'."

Allen called the cancellation "an absolutely disgraceful form of censorship" and accused the Royal Court of succumbing to pressure. The cast also deplored the cancellation. Allen is reportedly looking for another theater to stage his play.

## Ontario Court Reverses Conviction of Anti-Semitic Propagandist

TORONTO (JTA) — The Ontario Court of Appeals, in a move that stunned Jews and civil libertarians in Canada, has unanimously reversed the conviction of German-born anti-Semitic propagandist Ernst Zundel, who was sentenced in 1985 to 15 months' imprisonment for distributing a booklet entitled "Did Six Million Really Die?" a denial that the Holocaust occurred.

The court overturned the conviction on technical grounds but upheld Section 177 of the Canadian Criminal Code under which he was convicted — "spreading false news" — and allowed that a new trial may be ordered. A new trial would give Zundel another public forum from which to promulgate his racist views and denial of the Holocaust and, as he made clear in an interview with the *Toronto Globe & Mail*, that is

exactly what he had hoped for.

## Radio Transmitters In The Negev

TEL AVIV (JTA) — Israeli and American delegations have successfully completed a week of private discussions here for construction of Voice of America (VOA) radio transmitters in the Negev, with Israel apparently winning its point that major contracts go to Israeli firms.

Yoram Alster, Director General of the Communications Ministry, expressed satisfaction with the agreement. Walter Roberts, who headed the American delegation, said more than \$300 million would be invested in the project, at least half to be spent in Israel.

## UIA Gets \$25 Million Refugee Settlement Grant

NEW YORK (JTA) — The United Israel Appeal has received a U.S. government refugee resettlement grant of \$25 million for 1987. This grant, the latest to UIA since 1973, was again initiated by Congress and is twice the amount provided in 1986. Ethiopian Olim was allocated \$125,000.

Henry Taub, UIA's chairman, stated that thus far UIA has received 12 refugee resettlement grants totaling \$310,077 million to assist in the absorption of refugees in Israel.

The grants, which are supported in both Houses of Congress and in the State Department and the White House, reflect the U.S. government's desire to link its support of refugee resettlement in Israel directly to the philanthropic support of Israel by the American Jewish community, Taub said.

## Iran Arms Deal Could Lead to Wave of Anti-Semitism

NEW YORK (JTA) — The chairman of Governor Mario Cuomo's Task Force on Bias-Related Violence warned that "moves within the Reagan Administration to make Israel the scapegoat in the Iran arms scandal could result in a wave of anti-Semitism in the United States." Commissioner Douglas White, head of the New York State Division of Human Rights, said that "by focusing attention on the alleged role played by Israel and Israelis and making Israel the scapegoat, the Reagan Administration has created an environment which divides rather than unites us."

The Commissioner, who is Black, also warned that

"racism and anti-Semitism is deeply rooted in the psyche of this nation, and we are having trouble finding the tools to destroy the disease."

## Israel Concerned that Iraqi Air Force Poses Serious Threat to Israel

JERUSALEM (JTA) — Israel is increasingly concerned that the battle-hardened Iraqi air force will pose a serious threat once Iraq's war with Iran is ended.

Israeli and outside observers have discerned a significant improvement in the quality of Iraqi air power.

Their planes attack at much lower levels than before and their bombing and ground support is more accurate. Though some outside observers maintain that foreign, mainly Pakistani, pilots are flying for Iraq, there is no confirmation of such reports.

Lapidot said the improved capabilities of the Iraqi air force would enable it to fly sorties against Israel in a future war from Iraqi territory without the need for bases in Jordan or Syria.

## Immigration To Israel Drops

JERUSALEM (JTA) — Immigration to Israel totaled 9,500 in 1986, an 11 percent drop from the previous year according to figures released by the Central Bureau of Statistics. The decline was mainly in olim from the Soviet Union and Africa.

Of the 914 Jews reported to have left the USSR last year, only 202 came to Israel. Although 565 Jews arrived from South Africa, more than double the number in 1985, immigration from Africa as a whole fell by 58 percent.

About 2,000 American Jews immigrated to Israel in 1986, only 100 more than in the previous year. About 1,000 immigrants arrived from France, 800 from Argentina, 600 from the United Kingdom and the rest from other European and Latin American countries.

## Tid-Bits

JERUSALEM (JTA) — Eliezer Sheffer, head of the World Zionist Organization's young leadership department, says he has the solution to the problem of intermarriage — a worldwide computerized Jewish dating service. According to Sheffer, one of the causes of

intermarriage is that many young diaspora Jews have little chance to meet socially with other Jews, especially in small communities.

MELBOURNE (JTA) — The leader of Israel's Sephardi Council of Sages has determined that fighting bulls and even watching a bullfight violate Jewish law, the *Australian Jewish News* reports.

Rabbi Ovadia Yossef, former Sephardic Chief Rabbi of Israel, so ruled in response to an inquiry by a group of Israelis planning a tour of Spain. The rabbi said Jewish law insists on protecting animals from wanton destruction.

He did suggest an alternative: Visit a zoo.

JERUSALEM (JTA) — How does a high-tech plant on the outskirts of Jerusalem help the California Edison Co. supply electric power at maximum efficiency to some 50,000 homes in the Golden State 9,000 miles away?

The answer is remote control. Luz Industries, manufacturers of electronic equipment in Jerusalem, recently built huge reflectors in California's Mojave Desert to capture solar energy for conversion to electric power. They also installed computers to monitor sunshine and other climatic conditions, minute-by-minute.

ROME (JTA) — Italy and Israel signed an agreement for the joint promotion of tourism between the two countries and to each of them from North America and other areas of the world. Both countries have suffered a slump in tourism over the past year.

GENEVA (JTA) — The Swiss Air Force plans to buy 48 Scout teleguided military aircraft from Israel at a cost of 50 million Swiss Francs, the *Lausanne daily Le Matin*

reported.

Air Force chief Gen. Walter Duerig said Scouts purchased in 1985 were tested and found acceptable under local conditions.

JERUSALEM (JTA) — Israel and Hungary will soon exchange resident trade representatives, though it was "not timely" to speak of full diplomatic relations. Many Israelis of Hungarian origin have visited their former homeland as individuals or in organized groups.

There are an estimated 80,000-90,000 Jews in Hungary today, the largest Soviet bloc Jewish community outside the USSR. Although they enjoy relative religious freedom and have a lively cultural life, the Hungarian Jewish community is eroding due to a high level of intermarriage and assimilation.

NEW YORK (JTA) — Gov. Mario Cuomo declared February 1-7 Hadassah Week in the State of New York, in honor of the women's Zionist organization's 75th anniversary.

(JTA) — 12,000 Jews lived in Cuba prior to the revolution led by Castro in 1959. Today only about 1,000 Jews remain in Havana and 300-400 elsewhere in Cuba.

JERUSALEM (JTA) — Legal abortions increased by 15 percent in Israel since a law limiting the right to abortion was passed by the Knesset nine years ago. The Health Ministry approved 9,300 abortions in the first six months of 1986. Health authorities estimate that 10,000 abortions are performed illegally every year by private physicians.

The main grounds for approved abortions are pregnancies which endanger the lives

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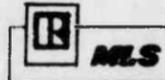
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