

World Beat

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ing: "This incident not only represents a violent assault on public property, but it defiles and trivializes the suffering of the victims of one of the most monstrous evils committed during this century. It is especially painful for the many Holocaust survivors who live in the Skokie area, for it is a tragic reminder that hate and bigotry continue to poison our community."

Georgia Synagogue Grateful for Town's Support

ATLANTA (JTA) — Members of Temple Beth David in nearby Snellville, Ga., whose sign announcing the site of their planned synagogue building was defaced, reported receiving numerous expressions of support from the local community.

The vandalism, which constituted a red swastika, a yellow negation sign painted over a Star of David as well as blue lightning bolts, took place about the time the Jewish community was commemorating the Jewish victims of the Holocaust.

Following the incident, the synagogue received telephone calls of outrage, apology and support from both Jews and non-Jews. "All people are not like that," said one. All the messages were positive.

Japanese Store Withdraws from Confab Featuring Anti-Semitic Author

NEW YORK (JTA) — A leading Japanese department store cancelled its sponsorship of a Tokyo forum held June 2-3 following a protest by ADL because the scheduled lecturer was Masumi Uno, the author of two anti-Semitic books. The subject of the forum was "Signs of a Great Depression and Japan's Future." The circular contained the following question: "Are Jews the key to solving world problems?"

Uno charged in his current Japanese best-seller, "If You Can Understand Judea, You Can Understand the World," that American Jewish businessmen "orchestrated" a plot to increase the value of the yen in order to harm Japanese industry. He claimed that the scope of the Nazi Holocaust against the Jews has been greatly exaggerated.

Kansas Creates Holocaust Council

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (JTA) — Gov. Mike Hayden has established a State Holocaust Commission comprising six Jews and five non-Jews. The commission will educate the public about the Holocaust, as

well as look into "matters pertaining to religious and ethnic freedom in general through the State of Kansas." Outside of Kansas City, Topeka and Wichita, "there is a tremendous lack of information about the Holocaust." Discussion of construction of a Holocaust memorial in Kansas will be high on the agenda.

War Crimes Files Show Hitler Ordered Mass Murders

UNITED NATIONS (JTA) — Preliminary study of the 500 files Israel obtained from the UN War Crimes Commission archive confirms that the Nazis embarked on the extermination of Jews in the early stages of World War II, with the active participation of Adolf Hitler, the Israel Mission to the UN disclosed.

The documents revealed for the first time that Hitler personally ordered the mass murder of 10,000 Jewish women and children in the Latvian village of Skirotawa, near Riga, in 1941, while Jewish men were sent to slave-labor camps.

This is the first documentary evidence of Hitler's direct involvement in the destruction of European Jews. Historians until now have been unable to find written orders from Hitler setting the "Final Solution" into motion.

Study of the archives also revealed that of the 142,000 Czech Jews killed as of July 1943, 51,000 were women and 49,000 were under age 21.

The documents under study include the files on Hitler, his deputy Martin Bormann, Reichsmarshal Hermann Goering, Propaganda Minister Josef Goebbels, Reichsfuhrer Heinrich Himmler, Reinhard Heydrich, Auschwitz death camp doctor Josef Mengele and Klaus Barbie, the former Gestapo chief in Lyon, who recently was convicted there for crimes against humanity.

There is additional information on medical experiments performed on inmates of various death camps and a comprehensive list of the Nazi officers who operated the Maidanek, Stothoff and Treblinka death camps.

LYON (JTA) — A plaque in the village of Izieu, in memory of 44 Jewish children arrested there and deported to their deaths in Auschwitz in April 1944 on the orders of then Gestapo chief Klaus Barbie, was defaced by swastikas.

Young Dwarf to Receive Treatment in Israel

TEL AVIV (JTA) — A bone-

stretching procedure offered only in Israel and two other countries will be performed at the Sheba Hospital in Tel Hashomer in an attempt to add to the height of eight-year-old Jon Gisselson, a child from Iceland who suffers from achondroplastic dwarfism, a genetic disease.

Young Jon, a non-Jew, is on the government hospital's pediatric ward with three Israeli children with the same ailment. Doctors hope to add about two feet to his height.

The disease is not responsive to drugs. The long bones of the body fuse too early in life, stunting growth. Victims usually have normal intelligence but a sunken nose, small face and stubby, short limbs.

The procedure has been performed in Italy and Austria. Metal screws are inserted into the leg bones and turned slightly each day for about a month before they are withdrawn. Sheba Hospital has performed it successfully in other cases. While the patients do not attain normal height, they are much taller than untreated dwarfs.

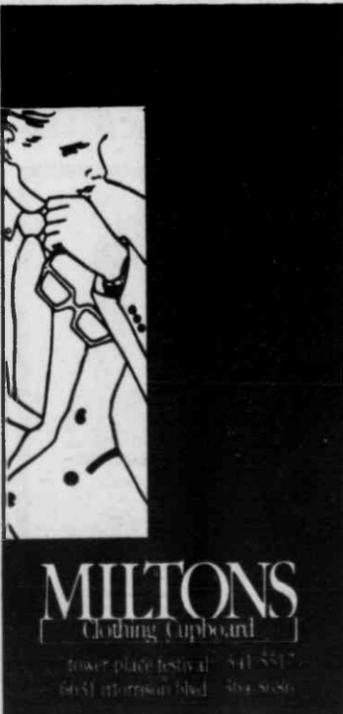
Jon's parents heard about the treatment when he was an infant. They have come to Israel where his father, an engineer, found work in Ashdod.

Tid-Bits

NEW YORK (JTA) — A detailed study of non-Jewish-born spouses in mixed marriages has confirmed that Jewish men are much more likely to marry non-Jewish women than the reverse and that women are more likely to convert than men.

The study also found that most non-Jewish-born partners found it easy to integrate into the Jewish community, though few had been exposed to community "outreach" efforts. But they felt that born Jews lacked understanding for the converts' particular situation.

LOGANVILLE, Ga. (JTA) — The first woman mayor of this city of 3,000 near Atlanta is also Jewish. Renee Unterman overcame a KKK rally and spoke out against anti-Semitism during her election. She, her husband Marc and son Zachariah are the only Jews in the area.



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NEW YORK (JTA) — Most of the boys from the Satmar Hasidic community of Kiryas Joel in upstate New York have walked to school every day this year in all kinds of weather. For religious reasons, they will not ride school buses driven by women. A federal court ruling said that the community could not demand that the five bus routes for United Talmud Academy be driven only by men.

Their mothers do not drive and can not arrange carpools, so the boys walk.

TEL AVIV (JTA) — A serious problem of conversion among Soviet Jewish immigrants who have settled in the U.S. was reported by Maariv. According to the newspaper, which cited a survey by "American-Jewish elements," hundreds of Jewish children are studying at church schools and thousands of former Soviet citizens apply for aid to missionary and church welfare organizations.

PARIS (JTA) — Premier Yitzhak Shamir promised that Israel would lend its expertise to help Cameroon improve its agriculture, especially in its arid northern regions, and to develop its fishing industry.

TEL AVIV (JTA) — The brain drain from Israel is reaching serious proportions. According to a survey by the Association for the Study of Emigration, 224 of the country's senior scientists, all of them holding doctorates and specializing in the hard sciences, left Israel during the past year.

Most of them went to the U.S. and the remainder to Western Europe. According to data provided by the Ministry of Immigration and Absorption, 32,000 university graduates from Israel are presently working in the U.S. They include 8,000 engineers.

BONN (JTA) — More than 50,000 West Germans visited Israel from January through the end of April 1987, a 30 percent increase over the same period last year.

West Germany has been for several years the main European source of tourism to

Israel. The great majority of visitors are non-Jewish. There are only 30,000 Jews in the Federal Republic compared to more than a half million each in France and Britain. The Germans benefit from their strong currency, which makes a visit to Israel inexpensive for them. The Tourist Office cited that improved economic, cultural and political ties with Israel are other reasons for the boom.

NEW YORK (JTA) — Rosa Parks, whose refusal to sit in the back of a Montgomery, Ala., public bus was one of the founding acts of the U.S. civil rights movement, received the 1987 Roger E. Joseph Prize from the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion. She received the prizes's \$10,000 cash award at the college's ordination and investiture ceremonies.

WASHINGTON (JTA) — The Jewish National Fund recently named music virtuoso Mstislav Rostropovich of the National Symphony Orchestra Man of the Year.

Rostropovich, a cellist and conductor who left the Soviet Union 20 years ago, will have a JNF forest named for him outside Jerusalem.

WALTHAM, Mass. (JTA) — The Brandeis University board of trustees voted to divest of all stock in companies doing business in South Africa, except those providing medical goods and humanitarian services or reporting the news.

TEL AVIV (JTA) — Giora Illani, chief zoologist of the Israel Nature Reserves Authority, has warned that erection of Voice of American radio transmitters in the Negev may have grave ecological implications for the region.

Illani said the Americans have failed to supply precise data on the amount of electromagnetic radiation the transmitters will emit. He is concerned that the radiation will harm the hundreds of thousands of migratory birds that fly over the Negev each year.



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