

WORLD BEAT

— edited by Marta Garelik

Israeli Ambassador to Head UNESCO's European Group of Nations

PARIS (JTA) — Israel has been chosen to head the United Nations Economic, Social and Cultural Organization's 24-member European Group of Nations at UNESCO's 24th biennial session.

Yossef Amihud, Israel's ambassador to UNESCO, was elected by acclamation to serve as chairman of the group for one year, starting Jan. 1. It was the latest and most impressive gain by Israel in the traditionally anti-Israel world body.

UNESCO is divided into five groups of member states. The European Group consists of the 12 members of the European Economic Community, the four Scandinavian countries, plus Switzerland, Turkey, Malta, Cyprus and Israel. The U.S. and Canada have observer status.

The other groups are Asia-Pacific, Latin America, Eastern Europe, and Africa and the Arab states.

The group chairmen serve as liaisons between the director general, the highest executive of UNESCO, and the 158 member states comprising the organization.

This is the first time Israel was elected to head a UNESCO group.

Budapest Mayor Vows Never to Forget Hungarian Holocaust Victims

NEW YORK (JTA) — Budapest Mayor Pal Ivany vowed "never to forget" the 600,000 Hungarian Jews who were killed in the Holocaust.

Addressing more than 750 guests at a fundraising dinner sponsored by the Emanuel Foundation for Hungarian

Culture at the Grand Hyatt Hotel, the mayor said that the Hungarian government is planning to erect "a special monument" in Budapest in memory of the Hungarian Jews who perished at the hands of the Nazis.

The Emanuel Foundation was established here last year to assist Hungarian Jewry, and was named in honor of the Hungarian-born father of actor Tony Curtis, who served as chairman of the dinner. The Foundation plans to restore synagogues and other religious buildings that were part of the vibrant Jewish life in Hungary prior to World War II. Presently there are 100,000 Jews in Hungary, the largest Jewish community in Eastern Europe outside the Soviet Union.

War Crimes Files Opened to Public

NEW YORK (JTA) — The United Nations war crimes archives, containing files on more than 40,000 suspected Nazi war criminals and their collaborators, was opened recently to governments and individual researchers and historians.

The opening of the archives is expected to help locate and bring to justice many war criminals who have found shelter in various countries around the world.

The archives, located at 345 Park Avenue South, 12th floor, N.Y.C., contain hundreds of cartons of files.

UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar said that governments and researchers will be granted access only to microfilm versions of the files and not the original documents. Individuals who want to enter the archives have to submit an application

through their government to the UN. Israeli citizens who want to examine the files can receive an application at the Israeli Mission.

Nakash Deported to France

TEL AVIV (JTA) — William Nakash, an Algerian-born Jew, was deported to France after losing a two-year battle against extradition that raised the passions of nationalist elements in Israel and pitted the rabbinical authorities against the secular courts.

Nakash came to Israel in 1983 under an assumed name and was granted automatic citizenship under the Law of Return. His identity was revealed when he was arrested here for armed robbery. In the interim he had become a baal teshuvah — a Jew who returns to the religious fold — and embraced Orthodoxy.

He had fled to Israel to escape an arrest warrant, was tried in absentia for the crime, convicted and sentenced to life imprisonment. The French authorities agreed recently to give him a second trial.

Liberal and left-wing circles noted that a French court found Nakash to have committed a criminal act that had no bearing on the fact that he is a Jew and his victim was an Arab. They argued that Israel should not be turned into a "haven for criminals just because they happen to be Jews."

Court Upholds State Dept. Order to Close Washington PLO Office

WASHINGTON (JTA) — The State Department was acting within its legal rights when it ordered the closing of the Palestine Liberation Organization's information office

here, a U.S. District Court judge ruled.

The State Department decision was an "expression of our country's resolve to go beyond preaching and rhetoric in the fight against terrorism. The action by the State Department effectively declares that all ideas are welcome in this country, but the operating centers of terrorist agencies will not be tolerated."

The State Department order came in the wake of strong pressure from Congress to close both the information office here and the PLO's observer mission at the UN in New York. The department said it could close the Washington office, which it considered a foreign mission, but not the UN office, because of treaties with the United Nations.

German City Reopens JCC

BONN (JTA) — A multi-million dollar synagogue and Jewish community center was opened recently in Freiburg, in the state of Baden-Wuerttemberg, to replace the synagogue destroyed by the Nazis 49 years ago.

The new center was built on land donated by the local authorities, who, along with the state and federal governments, contributed toward its cost. No more than 300 Jews now live in the vicinity.

Mayor Rolf Boehme of Freiburg recalled that 1,400 Jews had lived in the south German town before the Nazis came to power in 1933. By 1941, none were left. "What we inherited was shame and guilt," Boehme said.

Freiburg's original synagogue stood on land now occupied by the local university. A memorial plaque at the site reminds visitors of its destruction.

East Berlin's Jews Keep Eye on Trial of Neo-Nazis

BONN (JTA) — Western observers and East Berlin's

small Jewish community are closely watching the trial in an East Berlin district court of neo-Nazi thugs accused of an anti-Semitic attack on a Protestant church that maintains friendly relations with Jews.

The trial amounts to the first acknowledgement by the (East) German Democratic Republic that neo-Nazis are indeed active in what the authorities like to call the "first anti-fascist state on German soil."

The state prosecutor has demanded prison sentences of 14 months to two years for the neo-Nazis.

According to observers, the charges against the group have never been heard in the East German courts. East Germany has repeatedly claimed that neo-Nazism and anti-Semitism are "capitalist" manifestations that do not exist in the communist Democratic Republic.

More recently, the authorities charged that East German youths were incited and "poisoned" by West German neo-Nazi activists. Western reporters say they have seen on many occasions East Berlin municipal workers rushing to erase swastikas on walls and buildings.

The Zion Church has been promoting Christian-Jewish dialogue and its leaders have warned of recent outbreaks of anti-Semitism in East Germany. The East Berlin Jewish community was seriously disturbed recently when the secret police, Stassi, arrested several church activists in East Berlin and elsewhere and confiscated books.

Israeli Military Sources Wary of SDI Participation

TEL AVIV (JTA) — Israeli participation in the American Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI) is likely to result in losses that will make the millions squandered on the

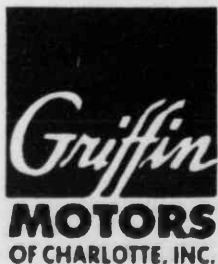
See WORLD BEAT page 15

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