

# WORLD BEAT

edited by Marta Garelik

## Panama's Jews Fear Anti-Semitic Reprisals

NEW YORK (JTA) — The Jewish community of Panama is wary of the potential of an anti-Semitic backlash to the political and financial crisis boiling in the Central American country, according to Jewish officials who have been in touch recently with some of the 1,800 Jews there. The Jews are supportive of a return to democratic government.

The Jewish community will donate to a food relief program recently established by the Catholic Church.

It has also been noted that Delvalle attends a Reform synagogue in Panama City, but that you hear virtually no mention of the fact that Delvalle is Jewish. In the face of a crisis, there is no telling if Delvalle's Jewishness might become a focus of anti-Semitism.

## Names of Suspected Nazi Guards to be on "Watch List"

WASHINGTON (JTA) — The Justice Department asked the Immigration and Naturalization Service to place the names of 9,800 suspected former concentration camp guards on its "watch list."

Those individuals, whom the department determined assisted or otherwise participated in Nazi-sponsored persecution, would be barred from entering the United States under the Holtzman Amendment.

The names were compiled from captured war records,

post-World War II wanted and detention lists and extradition requests. With the aid of a new sophisticated computer database, OSI's listings of suspected war criminals will be "more systematic" than ever before. Preventing alleged Nazi persecutors from entering the U.S. is an important aspect of OSI's mandate, along with the denaturalization or deportation of those illegally residing here. OSI currently is investigating 700 suspected war criminals, has brought to trial about 70 and has lost just one verdict.

## JWV Campaigns for Veteran to Receive Medal of Honor

WASHINGTON (JTA) — The Jewish War Veterans of the USA has launched a nation-wide campaign to ensure that Tibor Rubin, a Hungarian-born survivor of the Nazi death camps, receives the Congressional Medal of Honor.

The JWV will work through its 450 posts across the nation in the effort for the 58-year-old Rubin, a fully disabled veteran living in Garden Grove, Calif.

Eighteen months after arriving in the United States, Rubin enlisted in the Army. Nine months later, in November 1950, his unit was captured in Unsan, North Korea, and he spent the next 44 months as a prisoner of war.

Although badly wounded himself, he is credited with saving the lives of 35 to 40 other prisoners. Rubin provided medical care for the wounded and stole food and supplies for them.

Rubin was released in a secret exchange of the most badly wounded POWs. He smuggled out in a leg cast the names and whereabouts of 500 prisoners.

## Japanese Want to Sell to Israel

WASHINGTON (JTA) — Japanese manufacturers, especially automakers, want to sell to Israel, but neither the government nor any leading company is willing to openly buck the Arab boycott.

In an article called "Under the Arab Thumb," the March issue of the English-language publication *Business Tokyo* notes that unlike the United States and West European countries, Japan has not passed any legislation to bar compliance with the boycotts.

Japan is nearly 100 percent dependent on Arab oil, and if it were cut off, its economy could be destroyed. Japanese companies do buy Israeli products, particularly diamonds, with Israeli diamonds making up 25 percent of Japan's diamond imports, according to the magazine.

Israel could be an important market for Japanese cars. Fuji Heavy Industries Ltd., the only Japanese carmaker that exports openly to Israel, sold 20,000 Subaru cars in Israel in 1987.

## Israel and Hungary Establish Reciprocal Interest Sections

TEL AVIV (JTA) — Israel and Hungary established interest sections in Budapest and Tel Aviv respectively. It is the lowest level of diplomatic representation, but

nevertheless marks a resumption of diplomatic ties broken by Hungary during the 1967 Six-Day War.

The freeze between Israel and the Communist bloc countries seems to be thawing. Israel and Poland established interest sections in Warsaw and Tel Aviv last year. A Soviet consular mission has been in Israel since last June and an Israeli mission of similar rank will be going to Moscow.

But Israel and the Soviet Union have not reestablished ties, even on the interests section level. Israel has full diplomatic relations with only one Eastern bloc nation: Romania.

## India Won't Send Tennis Team to Israel

TEL AVIV (JTA) — The Indian government, reversing an earlier decision, announced that it will not send its Davis Cup tennis team to play in Israel because of Israel's "atrocities against the Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza." The International Tennis Federation informed India that as a result, it will be disqualified from the 1989 Davis Cup matches.

Israel and India met in last year's Davis Cup matches played in India, but only after the Delhi government succumbed to international pressure and withdrew its threat to deny visas to the Israeli players.

## Israel Still Favorite Getaway for Swiss

GENEVA (JTA) — There are fewer Swiss tourists going to Israel this year than in 1987, but there have been no mass cancellations because of the troubles in the Israeli-administered territories. El Al has flights every day and Swissair operates nine flights a week to Israel.

50,600 Swiss visited Israel in 1987, compared to 40,200 in 1986, a 26 percent increase.

The Red Sea resort of Eilat was the preferred destination.

Israel remains a favorite vacation spot for the Swiss; they identify with a small country like their own, admire it and sympathize with Israel despite its current difficulties.

## EPA Bars Use of Nazi Data

WASHINGTON (JTA) — The administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency decided to bar scientists from including data on World War II Nazi experiments in a forthcoming report on a deadly toxic gas. The gas, known as phosgene, is used in manufacturing plastics and pesticides and had been deployed as a poisonous gas in World War I by the Germans.

EPA Administrator Lee Thomas received a letter from agency scientists questioning whether it was ethical to use data from Nazi doctors, and he decided to exclude the information.

## Tid-Bits

GENEVA (JTA) — Overriding objections from several European countries, particularly West Germany, the United Nations Human Rights Commission adopted a resolution by consensus calling for the prosecution and punishment of all Nazi war criminals still at large.

TEL AVIV (JTA) — The Knesset legalized homosexual activity between consenting adults, and raised to 20 years the maximum penalty for rape of either sex under aggravated circumstances.

PALM BEACH, Fla. (JTA) — The Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith has presented its Joseph Prize to U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz for his "diplomacy, motivated by a blend of humanitarian feelings and practical political con-

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