

WORLD BEAT

edited by Marta Garelik

Israel's Health Care Crisis to be Investigated

TEL AVIV (JTA) — Supreme Court President Meir Shamgar appointed a five-member judicial commission to investigate the crisis in public health care and recommend long-term solutions.

It is trying to end the immediate crisis, which has subjected government and Histadrut hospitals to crippling strikes, work stoppages, slowdowns and sanctions by medical and non-medical personnel for the past several months.

The plan under consideration was drafted by the directors of 30 public hospitals. It calls for the members of various health insurance funds to pay an additional premium, equivalent to about \$15 per month.

The extra money would enable the hospitals to shorten the list of patients waiting for elective surgery.

The wait, which sometimes is as long as a year (some have waited 3 years), could be reduced to about six weeks by utilizing surgical theaters on a second shift.

Israelis now pay the equivalent of between \$50 and \$100 a month to belong to a health insurance fund. The additional \$15 will improve service. But who pays it to the doctors, since the Treasury will not do so, is a matter of dispute. Israel currently has no government health service.

Japanese Inundated with Anti-Semitic Books

LOS ANGELES (JTA) — "Japan is a country very

taken with literature that smacks of classic anti-Semitic scapegoating," but unlike the West, it has not led to any overt anti-Semitic acts, according to Rabbi Abraham Cooper, associate dean of the Simon Wisenthal Center here.

"What I found at virtually every one of the two dozen bookstands I visited in Tokyo," Cooper said, "were popularly priced books which blamed international Jewry for every conceivable problem, from the overvaluation of the yen to a purported cover-up of the Chernobyl nuclear disaster."

The Chernobyl charge is in a book by Takashi Hirose, published last month, titled "Find the Hyde of Dr. Jekyll," that was prominently displayed in Tokyo's two largest bookstores.

One of its main themes is a charge that Armand Hammer, chairman of the Occidental Petroleum Co., and other prominent Jews conspired to profit from the Chernobyl disaster.

Israel to Start Trading with USSR

TEL AVIV (JTA) — Israel and the USSR will commence trading with each other shortly, using West German business agents to facilitate the transactions. A dozen Israeli factories are preparing for the Germans' arrival here to sign agreements on behalf of Soviet importers.

Israel will export clothing, women's stockings and disposable diapers. The Soviets will export a special cloth fabric. The Israeli products will carry German patents and a code denoting the Israeli factory that

produced them, but no other sign indicating country of origin.

The products start arriving in the USSR this month. Soviet goods will be sent to Israel under a reciprocal agreement utilizing West German agents.

El Al Scales Down Operations

TEL AVIV (JTA) — El Al, Israel's national airline, is scaling down operations in anticipation of an \$11 million drop in revenue this year, caused by the adverse effects of the Palestinian uprising on tourism.

El Al President Rafi Har-lev said that the company planned economy measures, including combining flights, use of smaller aircraft and the dismissal of temporary workers. El Al has carried only 70 percent of the number of passengers they expected to fly so far this year. The number from the U.S. is expected to be down by a third.

The drop in bookings is especially noticeable in France, where the number of passengers in a given month has been half the number of the corresponding month last year.

Business has also dropped sharply in the Scandinavian countries, and economically, it would be worthwhile to suspend flights to Copenhagen for three or four months.

Virginia Governor Visited Israel

WASHINGTON (JTA) — Gov. Gerald Baliles of Virginia, accompanied by 100 of the state's business and communal leaders, has returned from a visit to Israel where he celebrated the 40th anniversary

of the Jewish State and increased the cultural and business ties between Virginia and Israel.

The week-long visit culminated two years of activities by the Virginia-Israel Commission which Baliles appointed in May, 1986. The commission provides exchanges between Israel and Virginia in such fields as agriculture, arts and music, economic development, education, public safety, research and medicine, tourism and human resources.

At a press conference before leaving Richmond for Israel, Baliles noted that Virginia companies are already selling aircraft control equipment, apples, pet food and harvesting equipment.

Israel Exports Sold in Lebanon

TEL AVIV (JTA) — An enterprising Lebanese living in Israel is operating a regular oceangoing cargo service between Haifa and the Beirut area. The three small vessels owned by Amin Haj, a Shiite merchant who makes his home in Nahariya, carry Israeli agricultural products to Lebanon. From there, some of them reach other Arab countries that officially boycott Israel.

About 90 percent of the cargo carried originates in Israel and has an estimated value of several million dollars annually. Lebanese produce accounts for 10 percent of the freight.

Rabin Bans Religious Activism in Army

TEL AVIV (JTA) — Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin has banned partisan activities by religious activists in army camps.

His order followed complaints by parents that ultra-Orthodox, who have established yeshivot for "chozrei b'tshuva" (born-again or newly-religious youth), have been influencing their children, many of whom subsequently sever relations with their secular families.

Rabin ordered that soldiers shall not be allowed to organize visits to such yeshivot

as part of their army service, and that spokesmen and activists for the chozrei b'tshuva movement may no longer be invited to carry out their activities in army camps.

The defense minister said that it is the task of the Israel Defense Force rabbinate alone to perform religious duties and activities inside the army.

Jerusalem to Get New City Hall

JERUSALEM (JTA) — A new \$65 million city hall will be constructed in Jerusalem, uniting under one roof all the departments of the municipality, which are now dispersed around the city.

Part of the project's funding will be provided by the Reichmann family of Toronto, billionaire financiers who are the developers of the Battery Park project in Manhattan.

Ron International Ltd., a Reichmann-owned subsidiary, will undertake construction and will loan the city \$30 million for 20 years. The sale of properties now housing the city offices will pick up any slack in funding.

Handicapped Athletes to be Sent to Olympics

TEL AVIV (JTA) — International businessman Shaul Eisenberg announced that he will head a public committee to raise funds to send an Israeli team to the 8th Olympics for the disabled.

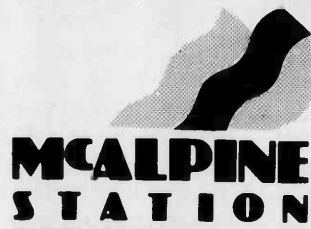
Israel plans to send 59 athletes to the event, which will feature 3,400 paraplegics, quadriplegics, amputees, blind and other handicapped athletes from around the world.

Recent Anti-Semitic Attacks

PARIS (JTA) — A powerful bomb did severe damage to the campaign headquarters of a prominent member of the Jewish community, Jean-Pierre Bloch who is running for Parliament.

The walls of the building housing the offices were covered with anti-Semitic

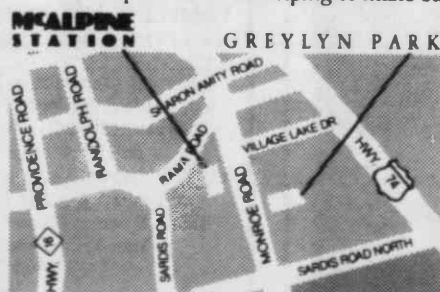
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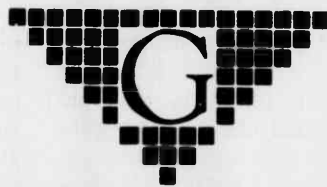
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