# WORLD BEAT

edited by Marta Garelik

### *Israel Exporting Two Unusual Items*

TEL AVIV (JTA) — Israel is developing two unusual export items — electronic fences — and alligators.

Over 600 miles of Israeli-made electronic fences have been sold to foreign governments for installation along borders and around airports, nuclear reactors, parliaments and royal castles.

One of the most recent deals was with the organizers of the Olympic Games in Los Angeles, where some six miles of fences with devices to signal penetrations, were installed around the Olympic villages. Israel developed the electronic fence system to safeguard its borders.

Native crocodiles disappeared from Israel nearly 50 years ago, but alligators were reintroduced from Florida when a special alligator zoo was established near Lake Tiberias three years ago, when about 20 alligators were flown in.

Last year 180 "sabra alligators" were hatched; the keepers at the nature preserve hope that this year over 250 of the eggs laid so far will hatch. The preserve authorities are now offering the Israeli alligators for sale to zoos and interested persons abroad.

### *Lebanese Children To Attend Israeli Camp*

(JTA) — Some 200 Lebanese school children are scheduled to attend a week-long camp at Ashkelon national park, arranged by the IDF liaison unit in south Lebanon. They are residents of Tyre, Sidon, Nabatiya, Jezzine, Hasbaya and a number of smaller towns in south Lebanon. The camp's purpose has been described as strengthening ties between Lebanese school children and Israel.

Between 20 and 30 Lebanese teachers, students and municipal officials will visit Israel.

### *Israeli Schools To Stress Democracy*

JERUSALEM (JTA) — Teachers throughout the country will be asked to stress to students the nature of democratic values, the meaning of tolerance and openness to varying views, and to warn the children against phenomena which could destroy the relations between Jews and Arabs.

### *Israel Helped With Lights*

TEL AVIV (JTA) — Soggy dollar bills and Italian currency recovered from the 25-year-old wreck of the Italian luxury liner Andrea Doria off the U.S. Atlantic coast were found with the help of special lights made in Jerusalem.

According to expedition leader Peter Gimbel, he used 15 high-intensity specially-built underwater lights made by Birns Oceanographics (Israel) Ltd. at their factory in Jerusalem's Givat Shaul quarter.

### *La Dolce Vita — Israeli Style*

NEW YORK (JTA) — A new Hebrew-language magazine is trying to lure the Israeli community in New York City. The new monthly, "Le'an Ha'erev" (Where To Tonight), is the first Hebrew newspaper for entertainment, arts and leisure.

The publication already enjoys a circulation of 25,000 copies and sells for $1. It is available at newsstands.

### *Unemployment in Israel Reaches Record High*

JERUSALEM (JTA) — Unemployment nationwide has reached a three-year record high. The present rate of unemployment is the worst since the period of economic slowdown that preceded the 1967 Six-Day War.

Full employment continues in most high-tech industries, with a strong demand for engineers and skilled workers in many fields. Most of the unemployed are among the unskilled and semi-skilled.

The unemployment rate is part of the nation's growing economic woes which include a 408 percent annual inflation, a rising foreign debt and a decline in the foreign currency reserves.

### *Other News From Israel*

JERUSALEM (JTA) — Caution: fresh vegetables may be hazardous to your health, doctors at the Haemek Hospital in Afula warned in an article published recently. The doctors traced a so far unknown phenomenon of toxicity to an overdose of pesticides in victims after eating a large quantity of fruit and vegetables—even though they were carefully washed. The doctors found that despite the washing, the pesticides remained embedded in the produce, causing diarrhea, heartburn, stomach aches, insomnia and nervousness—which were mistakenly diagnosed as psychosomatic and neurotic symptoms.

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JERUSALEM (JTA) — Only 2,500 Arabs were scheduled to leave this summer on the annual pilgrimage to Mecca and Medina, the holy places of Islam in Saudi Arabia, compared to more than 6,000 in previous years. The reasons for the decrease — a levy of about $400 imposed by the Saudi authorities on each visitor, the limit of the Jordanian authorities on the entry of men younger than 26, and a fare of about $1,000.

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JERUSALEM (JTA) — During the first six months of this year, police had recorded 127,005 reported crimes, an increase of 8.8 percent compared to the same period last year.

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TEL AVIV (JTA) — The Safari Park in Ramat Gan, which now houses the Tel Aviv zoo, has begun exporting its surplus animals to Arab states as well as to the Moscow zoo. The animals are purchased by a wildlife dealer in Holland who ships them to Yugoslavia, for onward shipment to Saudi Arabia, Amman and Abu Dhabi

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(JTA) — Kuwait announced that it had severed diplomatic and economic relations with Liberia following that African country's resumption (in August 1983) of its relations with Israel.

### *Anti-Semitic Acts Reported*

(JTA) — The local Jewish residents were preoccupied with the murder in Cannes of a 75-year-old Jewish widow whose only crime, according to her 20-year-old killer, was that she was Jewish.

Henriette Barsky was stabbed to death by Reynald Eykans, a self-confessed Nazi who told police after he was apprehended, "I hate Jews." He told police investigators that he felt a compelling urge to kill Barsky, for whom he had worked as a part-time gardener and handyman, after he discovered she was Jewish.

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SAN FRANCISCO (JTA) — Police are continuing to investigate the occurrence of anti-Semitic vandalism at five synagogues and a Jewish day school. The buildings were plastered with posters declaring "Death to the Jews" and "Long Live the PLO," with a large swastika in the center.


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