

WORLD BEAT

edited by Marta Garelik

Maccabiah Hoping to Include Athletes From USSR

TEL AVIV (JTA) — Jewish sportsmen and women from the Soviet Union may be allowed to participate in the 13th Maccabiah Games this summer, the first time Soviet Jews would take part in the quadrennial Jewish Olympics.

The international organizers of the quadrennial games, now meeting at Kfar Maccabiah in Ramat Gan, are hoping that the Soviet authorities will not bar their attendance, in light of Mikhail Gorbachev's policies of glasnost.

Michel Green, chairman of the European Maccabi, told the meeting that Soviet Jews have been holding their own little Maccabiahs in a Moscow suburb. He said that his branch of the organization has invited 50 Soviet Jewish athletes to make the trip to Israel. Thousands of Soviet Jews have been coming to Israel as tourists, staying as long as three months.

Other first-time participants at this year's Maccabiah in July are expected from Cuba, Hungary, Singapore, Hong Kong, Portugal and South Korea.

The "Bar Mitzvah Maccabiah" will be the largest ever, with more than 3,500 sportsmen and women from 40 countries joining 1,000 Israeli athletes to compete in 29 sports.

Tunnel for Smuggling Found in Rafah

TEL AVIV (JTA) — Egyptian police arrested three members of a Rafah family for smuggling Israeli products into Sinai.

The Israeli-Egyptian boundary passes through Rafah, an Arab town at the southern end of the Gaza Strip.

The police in Sinai discovered a tunnel 50 yards long

by one yard wide through which the family allegedly was hauling cartloads of Israeli-made clothing and other products from the Israeli to the Egyptian side of the town.

Five years ago, in May 1984, Israeli security forces found a 190-foot tunnel connecting the Israeli and Egyptian parts of Rafah. Apparently it was used for smuggling, but no arrests were reported at the time.

Greeks to Investigate Nazi Extermination of Salonika Jews

JERUSALEM (JTA) — The Greek government is about to launch the first official investigation into the extermination of the 50,000 Jews of Salonika under Nazi occupation during World War II.

The investigation, formally requested by West Germany, could lead Bonn to seek the extradition of Alois Brunner, one of the last major Nazi war criminals still at large, who is known to be living in Syria. It refers to specific criminal acts by Brunner, a close aide of Adolf Eichmann who was an SS captain stationed in Salonika.

President Kurt Waldheim of Austria also may be implicated. He served as an intelligence officer with the German army in Greece and Yugoslavia during the war.

Bonn asked the Greek authorities to try to obtain testimony from four Greek Jewish deportees who may still be alive.

Airlines Paid 'Protection Money' to Terrorists In '70s

WASHINGTON (JTA) — A U.S. airline and three West European carriers paid millions of dollars to Palestinian terrorists in the 1970s not to hijack or attack their planes.

Neil Livingstone, a professor of national security studies at Georgetown University and president of the private Institute on Terrorism and Subnational Conflicts, would not reveal the names of the airliners that paid the "protection money" to an arm of the Palestine Liberation Organization.

A spokesman for the Federal Aviation Administration denied any knowledge of protection money being paid, but Livingstone said his information was corroborated by a half-dozen intelligence agencies in the United States, Europe, Israel and Arab countries.

He said the countries in which the airlines were based knew of the extortion.

Dutch Earmark Aid For Survivors Traumatized by Release of Nazis

AMSTERDAM (JTA) — Organizations providing psychological help to war victims are demanding that the government pay for treating the thousands whose conditions were aggravated by the release from Breda prison a month ago of the last Nazi war criminals imprisoned in Holland.

Welfare Minister Elco Brinkman has promised an additional \$500,000. But five organizations that deal with war victims say the amount is far from sufficient. They said large numbers of war victims are traumatized by the knowledge that Ferdinand aus der Fuenten, 79, and Franz Fisher, 88, are now free men.

The two Germans, responsible for the deportation of more than 100,000 Dutch Jews, were released from Breda Jan. 28 by order of the lower house of Parliament.

They were declared undesirable aliens and deported to West Germany.

Solomon Islands Establish Ties; Hungary Inks Accord On Travel

JERUSALEM (JTA) — Israel and the Solomon Islands have established diplomatic relations for the first time, the Israeli Foreign Ministry announced.

Israel's representative to the Solomon Islands will be its ambassador in Fiji and the Pacific island nation's envoy to Israel will be an ambassador based in the Solomon capital of Honiara, which is situated on the island of Guadalcanal.

The Solomon Islands, which lie east of New Guinea, consist of the southern islands of the Solomon group: Guadalcanal, Malaita, Santa Isabel, San Cristobal, Choiseul, New Georgia and numerous smaller islands.

In another diplomatic development, Hungary's minister of communications, transport and construction arrived in Israel to sign an air traffic agreement with his Israel counterpart.

There are still no direct-dialing facilities between the two countries, even though there may be as many as 100,000 Jews in Hungary. Such an arrangement could be established as part of the accord, with other fields of cooperation including satellites and cable TV.

Tid-Bits

NEW YORK (JTA) — The Hasidic community of New York's Williamsburg section is hoping to acquire the Brooklyn Navy Yard and use it to provide housing for the growing number of Hasidic families here.

The famed naval station, where ships were built during World War II, is among the 86 U.S. armed forces bases that the defense secretary's Commission on Base Realignments recommended be closed in 1990 for budgetary reasons.

NEW YORK (JTA) — The liberal policies of Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev that have brought about a fundamental change in Soviet attitudes toward Jews face fierce opposition from

conservative groups there, foremost among them being the anti-Semitic organization called Pamyat (Memory).

It is dedicated to reversing Gorbachev's "glasnost" (openness) and "perestroika" (restructuring) policies, which it regards as a conspiracy of Jews, Masons and Westernizers.

NEW YORK (JTA) — The Judaic Studies Center, the first institution of its kind in the Soviet Union in 60 years, opened officially in Moscow. Its founding father, Rabbi Adin Steinsaltz, a world-famous Talmudic scholar from Jerusalem, welcomed the first class of 80 students enrolled in the three-year course of study.

NEW YORK (JTA) — A second Jewish cultural center will be established in the Soviet Union, following the establishment of one in Moscow Feb. 12.

JERUSALEM (JTA) — The head of the Israeli Geographic Society, Mula Yaffee, said that his company intends to fly some 1,000 Israeli tourists to China this year.

At a news conference in Tel Aviv with a representative of the Chinese Ministry of Tourism, Yaffee presented the many different tours available to China, ranging from \$3,300 to \$6,000. He told reporters that China is completely open to Israeli group tours, that single Israelis can join groups of tourists in Hong Kong for China tours, and Israelis can visit Tibet as well.

GENEVA (JTA) — Four leading Swiss travel agencies have dropped Israel from their 1989 tour catalogues. The Swiss public considers trips to Israel too risky because of the Palestinian uprising. Travel bureaus are therefore directing their clients to safer destinations.

About 50,000 Swiss tourists visited Israel in 1987; the number fell to 45,000 in 1988 and is expected to be much lower this year.

The travel agencies no longer promoting Israel tours are Kuoni, Hotel Plan, Exco and Pimholtz.

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