

WORLD BEAT

edited by Marta Garelik

Kach Excluded From Festivals

LOS ANGELES (JTA) — A Los Angeles Superior Court judge has upheld the right of the Jewish Federation Council to exclude the local Kach chapter from official participation in two community festivals.

In its suit, Kach International argued that its exclusion from the Exodus '89 festival, held April 9 in the San Fernando Valley, and the Los Angeles Jewish Festival, scheduled for June 4, violated the group's right to freedom of speech and religion.

Federation representatives countered that Kach, led by the right-wing extremist Rabbi Meir Kahane in Israel, is "a racist organization that endorses violence and programs and practices repugnant to the federation."

In her ruling, Judge Miriam Vogel said that the federation could exclude whomever it wished, adding that "I do not believe that when an umbrella group has a festival for one day that it is required...under any amendment to the Constitution to make space available for any group with which it disagrees."

AT&T Defeats Neo-Nazi Proposal

NEW YORK (JTA) — For the second year in a row, the American Telephone & Telegraph Co. has overwhelmingly defeated a proposal by the neo-Nazi National Alliance that urges the company to eliminate its affirmative action programs.

The white supremacist organization purchased 100 shares of AT&T stock in 1986, which enabled it to present its resolution on a ballot at the annual shareholder's meeting April 24 at Radio City Music Hall.

Preliminary counts from proxy returns, prior to the vote of the 2,360 people, show that 91.9 percent opposed the National Alliance proposal and 8.1 percent were in favor.

Danes Arrested Six Suspected of Stealing For Terror Group

COPENHAGEN (JTA) — Police recently arrested six Danish citizens for robbing millions of dollars to be routed to a Palestinian terrorist organization.

Approximately \$10 million is said to have been directed to the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, a Palestine Liberation Organization faction led by George Habash.

Five men and one woman were charged with participation in several robberies that took place in and around Copenhagen between 1980 and 1983. In addition, they were charged with the kidnapping and attempted ransom of a bank director in July 1980. That attempt was aborted when the bank director was unable to open his safe and a gang of three men fled the scene, leaving the man tied up in a cellar.

Hadassah Helps Save Soldier's Life

JERUSALEM (JTA) — Two new sophisticated instruments, recently acquired by Hadassah-Hebrew University Medical Center, were used to save the life of a 20-year-old soldier who was stabbed while on patrol in Bethlehem.

The soldier, Gadi Amzaleg, arrived at the hospital bleeding massively from a severed main artery and with damage to his diaphragm and a major hepatic vein.

During the eight-hour operation, the doctors used an instrument called a "Cell Saver." It sucks blood from

the body cavity, purifies it and returns it to the body, thus reducing the necessity for transfusions and the chance of infection.

The second instrument used is called a "Rapid Infusion System." It allows for the rapid infusion of all the blood components into the body at a rate several times faster than in regular manual transfusions. This reduces the risk of hypothermia (loss of body heat), which can be life threatening.

The Rapid Infusion System, developed in Pittsburgh, is believed to be used in only two medical centers in the United States.

Protestors Outnumber Skinheads at Hitler Celebration in Idaho

COEUR D'ALENE, Idaho (JTA) — Over 1,000 demonstrators marched in protest here against a celebration of the 100th anniversary of Hitler's birth, dwarfing less than a hundred Skinheads and white supremacists who were gathered for the commemoration.

Of the more than 1,000 people who participated in the protest march, only about 50 were Jewish. Many of them attended the event with other groups, such as the Rainbow Coalition, the United Front Against Fascism and gay rights organizations.

Some spent part of the day walking behind a Jewish banner, but no Jewish groups were in evidence despite the New Jewish Agenda's last-minute decision to cosponsor the event.

Some of the Jewish demonstrators who participated in the rally decried the lack of Jewish involvement in the protest as part of a disturbing trend. One of the groups who refused to participate in the demonstration was the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith.

European Community Increases Aid for Palestinian Refugees

BRUSSELS (JTA) — The European Community's Executive Commission has decided to allocate food commodities worth about \$13 million to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian Refugees.

An additional cash contribution of \$3 million is intended to cover the operating costs of the U.N. agency's supplementary feeding program. The grant, funded by the European Community's food aid program, was announced by a spokesperson for the commission.

UNRWA offers health, education and relief services to more than 2.2 million registered Palestinian refugees living in Lebanon, Jordan, Syria and the Israeli-administered territories of the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Jewish Law on Abortion Is a Matter of Interpretation

NEW YORK (JTA) — Under Jewish law, abortion is not only allowed but required when a mother's life is in danger by the pregnancy.

But behind this simple rule wafts a haze of gray areas. Some interpreters of the law would extend it to cover a mother's mental as well as physical health, while others would limit it to include only those conditions directly associated with childbirth. There is also dispute about whether abortions are allowed in cases of rape or incest.

Jewish law holds that life begins at birth and that abortions therefore are not considered murder. In a clash between the actual, the mother's life, and the potential, that of the fetus, the actual comes first.

Canadian Newspaper Chain Buys Major Shares of Jerusalem Post

TEL AVIV (JTA) — A Canadian-based newspaper chain has won the top bid for a controlling interest in The Jerusalem Post, Israel's only

English-language daily paper.

The sums mentioned vary between \$17.5 million and \$20.6 million. Ari Rath, co-editor and managing director of the Post, said the amount was "probably closer to the \$17.5 million figure."

Aliyah Rate Is Up This Year

TEL AVIV (JTA) — Immigration to Israel during the first three months of 1989 was 23 percent higher than in the same period last year.

This year, 4,210 immigrants came to Israel between Jan. 1 and March 31, including 1,057 from the Soviet Union, 469 from Romania, 222 from France, 365 from North America and 684 from Argentina.

Tourism Minister Gideon Patt reported, meanwhile, that 137,000 tourists came to Israel in March, compared to 142,000 who came in March 1988 for the Passover season. That is considered good, since Pesach fell in mid-April this year.

Israel Advances In Soccer

TEL AVIV (JTA) — Israel has advanced to the quarter-finals in the World Cup soccer tournament, after playing to a 1-1 tie with Australia in Sydney.

The tie with Australia in Oceania region play, following a 2-2 draw with New Zealand in Auckland, means Israel will now play the winner of the Latin American region of the World Cup tournament.

The World Cup games will be decided in the final tournament in Italy in 1990.

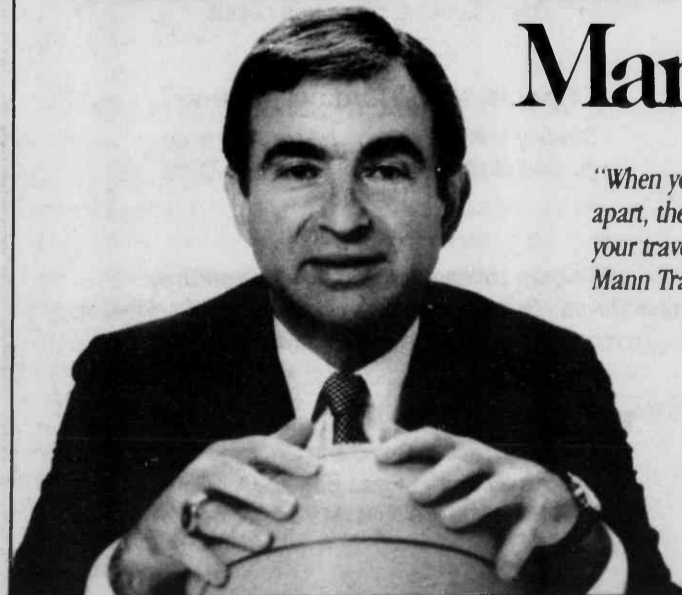
Seder Meals Were Shipped to Moscow

NEW YORK (JTA) — Smiling employees at Lou G. Siegel's kosher restaurant in Manhattan's garment district loaded 500 glatt kosher Pesach seder meals onto trucks, the first step in the food packages' journey to Moscow.

The shipment was funded

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