

World Beat

cont'd from preceding page

El Al has mapped its route for the three-hour-and-40-minute flight to Moscow. It crosses Cyprus, Turkey and the Black Sea.

The flights are expected to bring thousands of Soviet Jews to Israel each year, both those wishing to immigrate and those coming as tourists. Currently, those bound for Israel must change planes in Romania, Hungary or other countries that serve both airlines.

El Al announced that it resumed direct flights to Bulgaria at the end of December, after more than 25 years.

Medical Notes

NEW YORK (JTA) — A new test to detect chlamydia, the nation's most prevalent sexually transmitted disease, has been approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration. Developed by Professor Israel Sarov, head of virology at Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, the test will enable doctors to detect the disease simply and quickly in their own offices.

According to medical experts, the early detection will help prevent infertility and mental retardation among babies, characteristics that are the long-term results of what has come to be known in the '80s as "the silent epidemic."

Chlamydia, a disease striking four million men, women and children a year, is caused by the sexual transmission of a bug, chlamydia trachomatous, the smallest bacterium in the world. It is the major cause of mechanical infertility in women due to pelvic inflammatory disease, often leading to the destruction of the fallopian tubes.

Prior to Sarov's development of the new test, existing tests used smears and cultures that were costly, cumbersome and inefficient. The Sarov test enables a doctor to detect the presence of chlamydia in two to three hours.

JERUSALEM (JTA) — An Iraqi-born Israeli pediatrician, Dr. Zamir Hayek, has invented a lightweight artificial breathing device, the Hayek Oscillator, that some of his peers consider revolutionary in its ability to alleviate breathing disabilities without inserting a tube through the trachea.

It can be used for the short-term treatment of diseases congesting the lungs, such as pneumonia, cystic fibrosis, asthma, pulmonary shock, neuromuscular disease and even to aid drowning victims.

The armies of Israel, the U.S. and Britain have expressed

interest in purchasing a number of units for the treatment of victims of chemical warfare.

So far, Hayek has employed it to produce normal breathing in young children.

The oscillator stimulates respiration with air pressure pumped in and out of a plastic chamber fitted around the patient's chest, creating a semi-vacuum.

It enhances the natural clearing of mucous and other fluids from the lungs by means of an attached electronically controlled air pump, which alternately inflates and deflates the air pocket around the chest at high frequency. This method causes expansion and contraction of the chest cavity, enabling the lungs to inhale and exhale air.

TEL AVIV (JTA) — Dr. Ram Ishai will resign as chairman of the Israel Medical Association at the end of this month to become the first Israeli to head the World Medical Association.

He was elected president of the international body at its last annual meeting in Vienna a year ago.

Ishai, who headed the IMA for 18 years, was born in Tunisia, raised and educated in France and studied family medicine at the Paris Sorbonne before settling in Israel in 1950.

Archaeological Findings

TEL AVIV (JTA) — The remains of a Byzantine church dating from the fifth or sixth centuries C.E. have been discovered at the Be'er-Sham ruins in the Negev.

A building was found with two chambers. One used for baptisms contains a marble-covered baptismal font.

But the most important discovery was the three inscriptions on the mosaic floor.

Two honor the priests and members of the local community. The third, in Homeric-style Greek, mentions Heladius, the governor of Gerar, which was a province during the Byzantine period in what is now southern Israel.

The inscription says a battalion of the governor's horsemen helped build the structure.

The inscriptions are especially important to archaeologists, because they name the province and the governor, and credit cavalrymen with erecting the church.

The second chamber, adjacent to the first, has a colorful mosaic floor with inscriptions that mention, among other things, "Victor the Hermit." He may have been a hermit priest who

lived in the area and helped lay the mosaic tiles.

JERUSALEM (JTA) — Archaeological excavations in the area of Kibbutz Sha'ar Hagdan revealed remnants of two rectangular stone structures, giving evidence of a stable, permanent dwelling site.

Previous discoveries in the area testified to a nomadic way of life.

The most exotic find was the largest stone figurine that can be attributed to the neolithic people who lived in the area between 5,000 and 6,000 BCE.

About 100 figurines have been found at Sha'ar Hagolan over the years, most of them 2 to 2.5 inches high. The latest find, however, is almost 12.5 inches high. It has an elongated head, diagonal eyes and a rounded hole for a nose or mouth. The largest stone figure previously found in the region was only 8 inches high.

The profusion of figurines, more than at any other site from the same period, suggests that Sha'ar Hagolan may have been an important spiritual or cultural center.

It is just southeast of the Sea of Galilee, on the bank of the Yarmuk River, where it forms the border between Israel and Jordan.

Tid-Bits

WASHINGTON (JTA) — A Swedish jury found Radio Islam, a non-profit, public access radio program broadcast in Stockholm, guilty on 21 counts of airing neo-Nazi and anti-Jewish propaganda, including denial of the Holocaust.

PARIS (JTA) — Part instructional and part country fair, a daylong Yom Hatorah drew nearly 50,000 Jews from all over France to a Paris suburb, much to the delight of Chief Rabbi Joseph Sitruk, who organized the event to bring French Jews back to the faith.

COPENHAGEN (JTA) — A Jewish member of the Folketing, the Danish parliament, has called for tightening anti-terrorist laws. His request has elicited a positive response. He drafted a bill that would punish people who collaborate in planning terrorist acts, even if they themselves don't actually participate in them.

WEST BERLIN (JTA) — An employee of the West German Red Cross chose to pay a fine of 2,000 marks (\$1,086) rather than apologize for calling a doctor at a Jewish home for the

aged a "Jewish pig."

NEW YORK (JTA) — The AFL-CIO unanimously passed a strongly worded resolution in support of the State of Israel, at its 18th convention held recently in Washington.

JERUSALEM (JTA) — Close to a half-million Israelis live on the poverty line, almost half of them children.

JERUSALEM (JTA) — Terrorist attacks have tripled in Israel this year compared to 1988, but that does not mean the intifada has spilled over from the administered territories into Israel proper.

(JTA) — There are only 203 Jews registered with the Jewish community in East Berlin, with an estimated 200 more in the rest of East Germany.

About 3,000 Jews living in East Berlin, most of them Communists, are not involved in Jewish activities; 2,000 live in the rest of the German Democratic Republic.

A growing number of the children and grandchildren of these people have been presenting themselves to the Jewish community, expressing a desire to identify and participate as Jews.

LONDON (JTA) — Poland's tiny Jewish community is deeply concerned with resurgent anti-Semitism, even as momentous political change is taking place.

LONDON (JTA) — The Board of Deputies of British Jews has objected to the introduction of ethnic identity ques-

tions in the 1991 national census.

ATLANTA (JTA) — Two human rights groups active in the administered territories — one Israeli and one Palestinian — were named the co-recipients of a human rights award established by former President Jimmy Carter.

Al-Haq, the West Bank affiliate of the International Commission of Jurists, and B'Tselem, an Israeli group composed of lawyers, intellectuals, journalists and Knesset members, both document human rights violations in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

LONDON (JTA) — Orthodox Jews in Britain are fighting a government proposal to introduce daylight saving time the year round, on grounds it would impose a hardship.

NEW YORK (JTA) — The Hebrew Free Loan Association is now able to provide interest-free loans of up to \$1,000 each to Soviet immigrants. This assistance is available due to a grant from UJA-Federation of Jewish Philanthropies of New York.

The loans are intended to help new Americans meet the costs of retraining; to raise seed money for business ventures; to meet the costs of school tuition; and for sudden crises and other emergency needs.

TEL AVIV (JTA) — The Chief Rabbinate of Netanya is forcing married Soviet immigrants to be remarried in a religious ceremony, according to Soviet immigrants living at the Ben-Yehuda Absorption Center there.

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