

World Beat

Peruvian Indians Making Aliyah

TEL AVIV (JTA) — About 100 Peruvian Indians who claim to be descendants of Marranos will immigrate to Israel this month.

They will be settled in Elon Moreh, a settlement in the West Bank near Nablus founded by the Gush Emunim. Their immigration is being organized jointly by the settlers and the Jewish Agency.

A special rabbinical court was sent from Israel to Peru to supervise the group's conversion.

The community, which calls itself Bnei Moshe and lives in northern Peru, claims its ancestors were Marranos, Jews from Spain who converted to Catholicism in the 16th century to escape the Inquisition but secretly practiced the Jewish faith.

The Bnei Moshe proclaimed their background 40 years ago, cutting themselves off from neighboring groups. Twenty years later, after meeting with the rabbi of the Jewish community in Lima, they built synagogues and began circumcising their sons.

The first members of the group were successfully absorbed in Elon Moreh last March. They comprised 14 families with a total of 55 people.

The newcomers will be housed initially in 20 mobile homes.

Indian Jews Making Aliyah Via Cairo

TEL AVIV (JTA) — Jews from India are immigrating to Israel by way of Cairo, Egypt.

The Egyptian magazine "Al Sha'ab" disclosed that 130 Jews from Bombay landed in Cairo in June on the way to Israel. It published their names and pass-

port numbers.

According to the magazine, 70 Jews from Bombay passed through Cairo on June 16 and another 60 on June 23.

Israel and India have low-level diplomatic relations. Israel maintains a one-man consulate in Bombay, but has no representation in New Delhi, the capital. India has no mission of its own in Israel.

Christian Arabs to be Allowed To Volunteer for Israeli Army

JERUSALEM (JTA) — The Israel Defense Force is about to break a tradition that has governed it since the state was founded 43 years ago: it will now admit Arabs.

Dr. Alexander Blei, the prime minister's adviser on Arab affairs, announced that Arab citizens of Israel would be accepted as volunteers for the IDF.

At this stage, however, only Christian Arabs will be eligible. There are about 107,000 Christians out of an Israeli Arab population of 800,000.

Blei's announcement drew a sharply negative reaction from Ibrahim Nimer Hussein, chairman of the National Committee of Arab Mayors. He objected to the artificial distinction between Christian and Moslem Arabs, noting that all are Arabs.

According to Hussein, no Arab should enlist in the IDF until there is peace in the region.

The only other minority allowed to volunteer are Bedouins, who serve in the IDF mostly as trackers.

Israel-Czechoslovak Air Route Opens

TEL AVIV (JTA) — El Al has opened Israel's first regular air service to Prague, Czechoslovakia. The Israeli national airline

had flown to most Eastern European capitals before the Communist bloc broke diplomatic relations with Israel in 1967. But it never served Prague.

Arrangements to fill the gap began when President Vaclav Havel of Czechoslovakia visited Israel last year.

El Al sources said the Czechoslovak capital would not be used as a pickup point for Soviet Jews immigrating to Israel. They will continue to travel via Budapest, Warsaw or Bucharest until the Soviet Union permits direct flights from Moscow to Tel Aviv.

Kollek Battles Conversion of East Jerusalem Hotel into Yeshiva

JERUSALEM (JTA) — Mayor Teddy Kollek has urged the Israeli government to prevent East Jerusalem's leading hotel, the Intercontinental, from being converted into a yeshiva.

An Orthodox group reportedly wants the landmark structure atop the Mount of Olives for that purpose. The mount is itself largely a Jewish cemetery.

Kollek intervened following appeals from prominent Palestinians, including Mayor Elias Freij of Bethlehem. Freij warned that if the hotel is turned into a yeshiva it would become another source of friction between Jews and Arabs in Jerusalem.

Kollek has written to a number of key ministers that the interests of both Jews and Arabs in the capital would be best served if the hotel is retained as is. He said the municipality would fight any move in the planning committee to change its status. The hotel, whose distinctive seven-arched windows are a familiar part of the Jerusalem skyline, was owned by the Jordanian royal family before 1967. After Israel captured East Jerusalem, it was taken over by the government and leased to its present operators.

The hotel's business has suffered this past year, as Israeli tourism slumped because of

intifada violence and the Persian Gulf War. But Kollek said he is confident it will regain its former eminence as the tourist industry improves.

New Book Honors Italian Jewish Deportees

ROME (JTA) — A new book which names and traces the fate of every one of the 8,000 Italian Jews deported or imprisoned by the Nazis in World War II was honored here.

The keynote address at the ceremonies was delivered by Giovanni Spadolini, president of the Italian Senate and a former prime minister.

The diplomats present included the ambassadors of Germany and Israel and the charge d'affaires of the Polish Embassy. The Vatican was represented by Cardinal Johannes Willebrands, formerly secretary of the Holy See's Commission on Religious Relations with the Jews.

Among dignitaries present were Italian Chief Rabbi Elio Toaff and Tullia Zevi, president of the Union of Italian Jewish Communities. Guest of honor was Liliana Picciotto Fargion, editor of the vast work of research, titled "The Book of Memory — The Jews Deported from Italy 1943-45." Published only weeks ago, its first edition has already sold out.

Other speakers included Nazi-hunters Simon Wiesenthal of Vienna and Serge Klarsfeld of Paris.

Jews were not deported from Italy until the Nazis occupied the country when Mussolini's fascist regime collapsed after the Allied invasion in the summer of 1943. Most went to the death camps and others died in Italian prisons.

Spadolini, a vocal friend of the Jews and Israel, referred to Israel as the "state which arose out of the ashes of the Holocaust."

For that reason, he said, "the entire West, including the Soviet Union, must show its firm determination to guarantee the historic borders of Israel and the safety of its population."

Student Activists to Build Homes For New Immigrants in Israel

BINGHAMPTON, N.Y. (JTA) — A Jewish student activist, James Oppenheim, 22, newly graduated history major

from State University of New York in neighboring Vestal, N.Y., initiated a project that captured the imagination of college students across North America.

As a result, 40 volunteers went to Israel in June to participate in "Operation Redemption," a program to assist in the construction of homes for new immigrants.

Julie Levine, 21, from Nashville, Tenn. who was never in Israel, canceled her summer plans in order to participate. "This is exactly the work I wanted to do," she said.

All of the volunteers are Jewish except one, Dante Paradiso of Chicago, a junior at Yale.

Groups such as Betar/Tagar, the Institute of Faculty and Students on Israel, and the University Students Department of the American Zionist Youth Foundation, helped with the program's logistics.

The volunteers pay their own air fare to Israel and will live in the dorms at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem.

The construction site is in the Jerusalem suburb of Ma'aleh Adumim.

Kosher Cuisine Combats Dismissive Preconceptions

NEW YORK (JTA) — When a gourmet magazine recently cited food-and-wine pairing dinners as a "hot" trend at innovative restaurants, Sol Kirschenbaum was not surprised.

"We've been doing it for three years," says Kirschenbaum, one of three brothers who own Levana, a kosher restaurant and caterer on Manhattan's Upper West Side.

But "we're ignored simply because we're kosher," he complains.

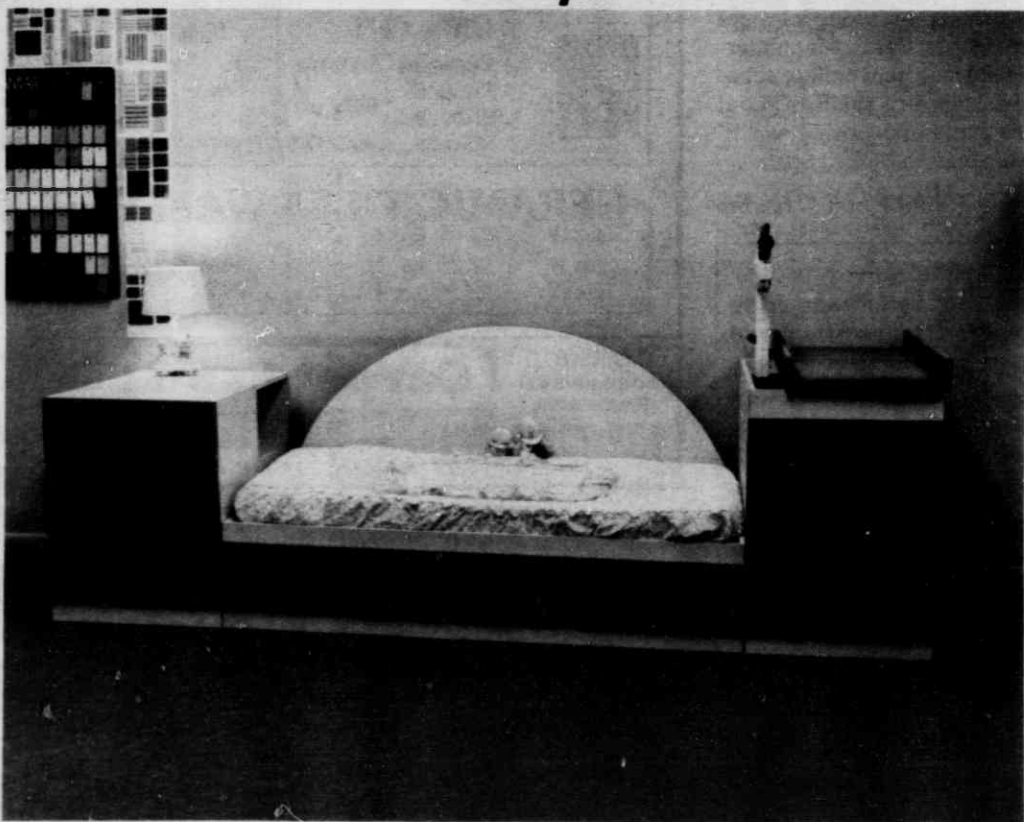
"Food critics and writers are often prejudiced when it comes to kosher," Kirschenbaum is convinced, and he is not alone.

Gil Marks, editor of Kosher Gourmet magazine, recently served on a panel judging kosher wines for a leading wine magazine.

He recalled that wines which did not fare well when identified as kosher rated very highly in blind testing, "some even as the best in their categories."

The prejudice applies to kosher restaurants and caterers. See WORLD BEAT next page

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