

# World Beat

## Nigeria May Restore Ties with Israel

JERUSALEM (JTA) — The visit here last month by Nigeria's minister for external affairs, retired Maj. Gen. Ike Nwachukwu, marks major progress in Israel's gradual return to normal relations with African nations.

No official statement on a resumption of diplomatic relations between the two countries was made, but the Nigerian minister told reporters that his very presence in Jerusalem showed Nigeria's willingness to restore relations, "which would take place not too long from now." He spoke of the necessary resolution of "certain modalities" and said a formal announcement would be made when Foreign Minister David Levy pays a reciprocal visit to Nigeria.

Nigeria, like most African nations, severed ties with Israel in the wake of the 1973 Yom Kippur war. Since then, at least nine countries have restored ties, including Zaire, Liberia, Kenya, Ethiopia and several smaller countries on the southern coast of western Africa.

Levy said Nigeria and Israel have a lot in common and they intend to increase cooperation.

Nigeria is seeking aid from Israel in agriculture and other spheres. The extent of that aid will be determined in contacts between the two countries in the coming weeks.

Nwachukwu said his country is also seeking Israel's "influence with international financial bodies," and he believes world Jewry could bring about significant investment in Nigeria.

The Nigerian official also called on Israel to play a leading role in what he called the "democratization" of South Africa. "Knowing the very strong democratic values which you hold dear," he said, "we would like to see that strong Israeli arm pushing for that change in South Africa."

Despite the absence of formal ties, some 2,000 to 2,500 Israelis are presently working in Nigeria, engaged in projects involving hundreds of millions of dollars. Israeli exports to Nigeria last year totaled \$22 million, and a sharp increase is expected this year. Israeli imports from Nigeria do not exceed \$100,000.

Nigeria's announcement on resumption of relations with Israel is expected to serve as a green light for other African countries to follow suit.

## Jewish Settlement Expanded In Two West Bank Locations

JERUSALEM (JTA) — The compound of the old bus station in central Hebron will soon serve as dormitory buildings for students of the nearby Shavei Hebron yeshiva. The bus station was confiscated by the army several years ago, following a terrorist attack. The buses were

relocated away from the center of the predominantly Arab West Bank city.

For years, the army has resisted pressures by Jewish settlers to expand the Jewish Quarter of Hebron. The establishment of the dormitories creates a territorial continuum of Jewish settlement from the Jewish Quarter to the heart of the Arab section of the city.

The Defense Ministry has confirmed reports that 15 families have been allowed to settle in Eshkolot, a military post held until now by a paramilitary Nahal unit. Eshkolot is located in the Hebron Mountains, south of the city of Hebron. The settlers are being housed in mobile homes, which were brought from Kiryat Arba.

## Jewish Families Sought For Adoption

NEW YORK (JTA) — The Jewish Children's Adoption Network has sent out a call for help in finding Jewish families to adopt Jewish children. The agency's goal is to keep Jewish children in Jewish homes. It contacts social service agencies around the country to find out if they have custody of Jewish children and tries to impress upon those agencies that Jewishness is an essential characteristic to be considered in placement.

The organization keeps a list of Jewish families all across the United States that are considering adoption and circulates materials about Jewish children referred to them.

The agency is actively looking for more families to adopt these children. Last year, 86 children were referred to the agency and about 200 families registered an interest in adoption.

There are just not enough Jewish families. Most other agencies don't care about keeping Jewish kids in Jewish homes. They think, "Why should we wait for a Jewish parent when others want to adopt it?"

One of the problems is the uneven distribution of Jewish families in the United States. There is no problem finding a family for a kid in New York, but there is a terrible shortage in Massachusetts. The agency has six to eight children in Massachusetts who need a family or they will be taken away from our heritage.

The Jewish Children's Adoption Network invites inquiries and support. The agency's address is P.O. Box 16544, Denver, CO 80216-0544. Its phone number is (303) 573-8113.

## Jewish-Russian Cookbook Now Available

NEW YORK (JTA) — Eleven years ago, Tamara Krasilnikova was living in Leningrad and learning about Judaism from a refusenik named Grigory Wasserman.

Krasilnikova's approach to learning about her Jewishness was to gather recipes. She would interview elderly grandmothers and adapt recipes from kosher cookbooks smuggled in by visitors from the West — all at a time when such fare was considered illegal religious matter.

The results of Krasilnikova's labors, over a thousand hand-typed copies of kosher recipes coupled with instructions on how to prepare for Jewish holidays, were passed clandestinely from Jew to Jew throughout the country.

By the time a copy of the cookbook was smuggled out of the Soviet Union in 1987, Krasilnikova was in New York and her teacher, Wasserman, was in Israel, heading the regional branch of a Jerusalem-based support group for Soviet immigrants, Shvut Ami.

Wasserman proceeded to put out a professionally published edition of Krasilnikova's book called "The Aleph-Bet of Jewish Cooking," and Shvut Ami is now sending more than 1,000 copies of the book into the Soviet Union, as part of its ongoing campaign to establish basic Jewish libraries in Jewish homes throughout that country.

An additional 15,000 copies of the book will soon be published within the Soviet Union, in cooperation with the Jewish Publication Society of Vilna.

In an attempt to bring at least some of Krasilnikova's recipes — and the story of the refuseniks — to English-speaking Jews, a dozen of the recipes, all of them centering around the Sabbath and the Jewish holidays, have been translated into English.

The booklet is available from Shvut Ami, International Center for Soviet Jews, 10 Belius Street, P.O.B. 46141, Jerusalem 91061, Israel.

## Yiddish Films to Open in New York

NEW YORK (JTA) — The first major retrospective of Yiddish films will open at the Museum of Modern Art in Manhattan on November 14. The series, titled "Yiddish Between Two Worlds," will present 28 restored feature films from the Rutenberg and Everett Yiddish Film Collection. They will be shown over seven weeks, augmented by an exhibition of posters and enlarged stills from the films.

The series will feature films not seen here for decades and some never before shown in America.

Highlights include the Molly Picon musical comedy, "Yiddle With His Fiddle," made in Poland in 1936; Maurice Schwartz in Sholem Asch's classic "Uncle Moses," made in the United States in 1932; and the 1931 Ludwig Satz comedy, "His Wife's Lover."

## New Homes to Go Up in Golan Heights

JERUSALEM (JTA) — Housing Minister Ariel Sharon announced that the planned settlement of Avnei Hefetz near the Arab city of Tulkarm in the West Bank would soon become a "large town." Road-paving and infrastructure work has already begun, he said.

The housing Ministry approved the construction of 380 new homes in the Golan Heights whose status might be raised at the negotiating table, should peace talks between Israel and Syria materialize.

Sharon said his ministry planned to build 60,000 new housing units next year, of which half would be located in the administered territories, Jerusalem or on the so-called Green Line, the imaginary boundary between the territories and Israel proper.

The chain of settlements would be known as "Star Project."

The contractors, delighted to get the new business, nevertheless expressed concern that Sharon's projections were too optimistic. They doubted that more than 40,000 new housing units could be built next year.

See WORLD BEAT next page

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