

## ■ HIZBOLLAH THREAT

Lebanon's pro-Iranian Hizbollah group vowed its Muslim militant fighters would wage suicide raids on Israeli targets worldwide. Hizbollah chief Sheikh Nasrallah told militants and supporters at a Beirut mosque: "The Zionists are beginning to understand that they are fighting a kind of people who are not afraid of death."

## ■ EINSTEIN

The latest postal stamp showing Albert Einstein was issued this year by Turkey, and it is the 50th portraying him—in countries from Aitutaki to Zaire. The artists sometime give him an exotic air—African on the stamps from St. Thomas and Uganda, Asiatic on those from China and Vietnam—and they adorn him with light beams, laboratory equipment and the famous E=MC<sup>2</sup>.

## ■ WRITER ATTACKED

A Norwegian-born Jewish writer slashed in an apparent anti-Semitic attack last year was beaten in her home in Italy by three assailants.

Police are investigating whether the assault on Maria Thaelman Geelmuyden-Bodil was religiously motivated. She told authorities the attackers appeared to be neo-Nazi skinheads, who harbor anti-Semitic and xenophobic views.

## ■ SWASTIKA ATTACK

Dutch police were hunting for three men who reportedly branded a swastika into the forehead of an Iranian after he stopped to help them push their stalled van.

"He was hit on the forehead with something, we don't know what," said Haus Plat, police spokesman in Zoetermeer, a western Dutch city. "He didn't discover the swastika until he looked in the mirror at home."

## ■ SENTENCED

Three squad members who in 1993 attacked Jak Kanh, a Turkish businessman and prominent figure in the Jewish community of Istanbul, have been sentenced to 15 years in prison and fined 415 million Turkish pounds each. The squad fired rockets at Kanh's car while he was driving to work in Istanbul.

## ■ SPY HUNT

Argentine President Menem, speaking to reporters on his return from a visit to Syria, said that a top Argentine spy is in Lebanon hunting the perpetrators of the car-bomb attack on the Jewish center in Buenos Aires last July. Menem also said that he had sought help tracking down the terrorists in his discussions with President Hafez-al-Assad.

## ■ STAMP ACT

A Brazilian Jewish institute has been honored by the Post Office. For eight days last month all the correspondence distributed by the Central Post Office in Belo Horizonte, capital of the Brazilian state of Minas Gerais, carried a special cancellation on the occasion of the tenth anniversary of the founding of the Jewish Historical Institute of Minas Gerais.



World Jewish Congress

## DATELINE

# WORLD JEWRY

JANUARY 1995

## FOCUS: GERMAN NEO-NAZIS

INSIDE:  
FAKE AD  
BOOK SLASHER  
HITLER'S BIRTHPLACE  
LEBANESE JEWS

## ■ SOARING HATE

Anti-Semitic attacks by neo-Nazis and other rightists in Germany soared in the first nine months of 1994, according to government figures.

937 attacks directed at Jews or Jewish property were recorded by federal police up to the end of September, as compared with 656 anti-Semitic recorded offenses during all of 1993.

## ■ PROTEST

About 2,000 people have protested in Sindelfingen, Germany, against a congress of the far-right Republican party, one of the country's largest right-wing groups.

The owners of the convention center where the congress was being held had at first refused to rent the hall to the Republicans, but a court had ruled that because the party was not banned, the owners had to allow the congress to go ahead.

## ■ CONVICTION

One of Germany's most influential neo-Nazis and a driving force behind efforts to create a national neo-Nazi network has been jailed by a Frankfurt court.

Christian Worch, who has already served time in jail for incitement to violence and racial hatred, is credited with masterminding the use of hi-tech electronic links and mailboxes to connect extreme right-wing groups while keeping them out of the reach of police and intelligence services.

## ■ HITLER SALUTE

Prosecutors in eastern Germany have charged nine suspected right-wingers for giving the stiff-armed Hitler salute and distributing banned neo-Nazi propaganda.

The spokeswoman for the prosecutor's office in the eastern city of Weimar said the nine were believed to be members of the far-right Viking Youth.



## ■ VIKINGS OUT

The German Federal Minister of the Interior has announced that he outlawed the right-wing extremist organization Viking Youth.

The group, the oldest right-wing extremist youth organization in Germany, is estimated to have 400 members, mostly over the age of 21.

## ■ FIREBOMB TRIAL

Four German youths went on trial accused of firebombing a synagogue in Luebeck last March. Court sources said the defendants, aged between 15 and 20, were charged with arson and five counts of attempted murder in the attack.

## ■ CRACK DOWN

German police have cracked down on far-rightists in Saxony-Anhalt, raiding numerous homes and seizing weapons and neo-Nazi propaganda.

The police operation was directed at 25 members of a rightist group calling itself the "Middle German Assistance," which had renamed itself "Wittenberg Fellowship" after a ban imposed by state justices.

## ■ DESECRATION

Suspected neo-Nazi vandalized a 160-year-old historic Jewish cemetery in Busenberg, in southwestern Germany. About 50 grave-stones were toppled, and swastikas and slogans like "Jews should die" were sprayed.

## ■ HATE BAN

The German government plans to ban several far-right groups, according to a report in news magazine *Der Spiegel*.

The report said that Bonn would ask the courts to outlaw the groups, which "ranted against Jewish capitalism."

## U.S.A.

### ■ NOW YOU SEE IT

New York State prison officials agreed to accept a computer image of a clean-shaven Hasidic rabbi instead of forcing the imprisoned Orthodox Jew to shave his beard and sideburns.

Rabbi Shlomo Helbrans, 32, claimed shaving his facial hair to satisfy prison requirements for photos of inmates violated his religious beliefs. After reviewing computer images in court, prison officials determined the images could accurately depict Helbrans as he would appear without his facial hair.

### ■ MENORAHS VANDALIZED

U.S. authorities are investigating the destruction of two public menorahs at the Jewish Community Center and Keneseth Beth Israel in Richmond, Virginia. Police have stated that they will consider this a hate crime if they find it "was done in a malicious manner directed against a particular group."

### ■ FAKE AD

A full-page ad that ran for four days in the *Miami Herald* and solicited money for a Jewish organization, called *FLAME*, was a fraud, the newspaper said. *FLAME* (or Facts and Logic About the Middle East) said that they knew nothing about the ad.

## ■ MOVING IN

Several multinational firms have announced they are setting up shop in Israel.

Among them are Del Monte Foods International and healthcare giant Johnson and Johnson, which are establishing Israel subsidiaries, and the New York based international investment firm Merrill Lynch, which plans to set up an Israeli office in 1995.

## ■ MOSAIC DOVE

A rare color mosaic has been discovered by the Israeli Antiquities Authority in a Byzantine church dating between the fourth and seventh centuries in the center of Beersheba. The mosaic depicts a dove with an olive leaf in its beak.

## ■ RELIGIOUS RIGHTS

The Jordanian government has agreed to allow worshippers and students of Jewish religious schools to make regular visits to Jewish sacred sites in Jordan.

The Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty, signed on October 26, underlines the right of Jews to visit all tourist attractions in Jordan.

## ■ TOP TOMATO

The price of tomatoes has skyrocketed in Jordan after Israel started importing them from the Kingdom. In Israel, the price of tomatoes had reached almost \$1.50 a pound, five times their normal price.

## AROUND & ABOUT

### ■ HYPNOSIS

Witnesses of the Panamanian air-crash which occurred one day after the bombing of the Jewish community center in Buenos Aires will be hypnotized and questioned by U.S. agents as part of the investigation. Twelve of the 21 victims of the crash were Jewish and it has been suggested that they may have been the target of the bombing.

### ■ LEBANESE JEWS

A delegation of French Jews made an appeal to the Lebanese government to disclose the fate of seven Lebanese Jews abducted between 1984 and 1986, during the civil war in Lebanon (1975-90). The group, from the Representative Council of Jewish Institutions in France, received a promise from Foreign Minister Farris Bouez that he would disclose any information that the government receives about the missing Jews.

### ■ SYNAGOGUE FIRE

Arson squad detectives in Australia are investigating a fire which severely damaged a Melbourne synagogue early New Year's Day. Senior Station Officer Colin Bibby of the fire brigade said investigators called in the arson squad after discovering broken windows and accelerant in the altar area. Police are believed to be investigating links between this fire and a fire attack on a library for religious books in November last year.



## ■ EXCELLENCE

With few exceptions, the 17 Jewish secondary schools in Britain have been highly placed in a 1994 government performance table.

Among the scorers were London's Harnon, which was 10th in comprehensive school placings nationwide, Manchester's King David High, which placed eighth, and Liverpool's King David High, which placed fifth.

## ■ TANK FIND

During a search of the homes of suspected neo-Nazi extremists Austrian anti-terrorist police discovered a tank and an armored personnel carrier. The discovery was made on a farm in the village of Goepfritz an der Wild. The vehicles were reportedly in good working order, and large amounts of explosives and rifles were also found.

## ■ HITLER'S BIRTHPLACE

Town councilmen in Adolf Hitler's birthplace have rejected plans to name a street and fountain after a key figure of Austria's anti-Nazi resistance, Franz Jaegerstaetter, a devout Roman Catholic who was executed in 1943. Jaegerstaetter became a symbol of resistance to the Nazis for refusing to serve in Hitler's army.

## ■ POPE PLANS

Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres said that Pope John Paul II plans to visit Israel before the end of the century, following a meeting with him in Vatican City. Peres also spoke about extending the Christian-Jewish dialogue to include the Islamic world in an effort to combat fundamentalism.

## ■ TRIAL SET

Christian David is to be tried before a Paris court for premeditated murder following last year's shooting of René Bousquet. Bousquet was the wartime chief of the French collaborationist Vichy police, and was accused of being responsible for a two-day round-up of more than 12,000 Jews by French police in 1942.

## ■ HOTLINE

Britain's National Union of Students has opened a 24-hour hotline to combat far-right groups spreading propaganda against Jews, Blacks, and gays on campuses. The union, whose campaign is supported by the Union of Jewish Students and the anti-fascist magazine *Searchlight*, believes groups such as the British National Party are keen to create a student following to help sustain credibility.

## ■ SOCIALIST PLEDGE

The Chairwoman of the Socialist Group of the European Parliament, Pauline Green, declared at a meeting in Brussels that the Group "is opposed to those who advocate the politics of hate" and that it would fight to stem the rise of fascism in Europe, and Italy in particular, in the coming years. Mrs. Green went on to say that "The European Union was built on the ashes of fascism and anti-Semitism, and let's not forget that."

## ■ MEMORY

The Belgian Jewish community, which lacks archives of its history, has created a "Foundation of Contemporary Memory" to collect and establish written evidence of events of this century.

The foundation will assemble oral histories and documents from the period, including the years of Nazi occupation of Belgium.

## SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

### ■ HEAL THYSELF

Researchers at Israel's Technion in Haifa have developed equipment which helps to close wounds in less than an hour, utilizing the skin's capacity for self-healing.

The equipment, which stretches healthy skin from the outer edges of a wound over the wound, is being marketed as "Sure-closure" by an American firm.

### ■ SOLAR WATER

Israel's Amiad Filtration & Fertilization Systems has manufactured a water filtration system that operates on solar energy.

The device, which is capable of filtering highly contaminated water, is especially useful for remote areas not supplied by electric cables from a central power source.

### ■ EYE TRY

Researchers at Israel's Weizmann Institute of Science have developed a new procedure for the treatment of glaucoma which avoids the creation of scar tissue and post-surgical complications.

It is expected to take several years for the procedure to become generally available.

## ■ 3-D

The Israeli firm Holo-Or has developed a new trifocal contact lens.

The innovation will aid people, mostly 45 years and up, who have lost the eye's natural abilities to focus.

## EASTERN EUROPE

### ■ APOLOGY

Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma, on a state visit to the United States, paid tribute to Holocaust victims and expressed regret over Ukrainians who collaborated with the Nazi occupiers during the Second World War. Kuchma met with Jewish leaders in New York and Washington and also toured the Holocaust Museum, which he presented with a list of Ukrainians credited with saving Jewish lives during the war.

### ■ CZECHMATE

Czech Jewish leaders have complained that the government is delaying the return of property seized during the Nazi occupation and by the Communist rulers of former Czechoslovakia. The chairman of the Czech Republic's Federation of Jewish Communities, Jiri Danicek, said that the Jewish side is "obliged to submit to all the quirks of bureaucracy and forced to hold endless talks with an unclear prospect of success."



## ■ ZHIRINOVSKY SUIT

The head of the Russian Federal Counter-Intelligence Service (FSK), Sergei Stepashin, has brought a case against ultra-nationalist Vladimir Zhirinovskiy for allegedly calling him "an agent of Mossad," the Israeli intelligence agency. Stepashin sued Zhirinovskiy as a private person whose honor and dignity had been publicly insulted, rather than in his position as head of the FSK.

## ■ COORDINATION

Lithuanian President Algirdas Brazauskas has established a special working group to coordinate state policies dealing with Jewish cultural heritage and the issue of the Holocaust. Among other objectives, the group also wants to expand relations between Lithuania and Israel, as according to the secretary of the working group, Lithuania will benefit from establishing closer ties with Israel and the world Jewish community.

## ■ CHURCH CALL

A declaration has been issued by the Hungarian Catholic Bishops and the Ecumenical Council of Hungarian Churches calling the Holocaust "the biggest shame of the 20th century." The statement also asks forgiveness in the name of the Christians who "failed to act against the deportation, persecution and killing of 600,000 Hungarian Jews during the Holocaust."

# ISRAEL

## ■ MIXED RESULTS

A survey conducted by the Jewish Agency has confirmed that while Israelis love the idea of immigration, they are not so keen on immigrants themselves.

Although 41.5% of those polled said that immigration had top priority as being essential to the State of Israel, 53% said they could not, or were unwilling to help an immigrant family with its initial absorption, and 25% were against immigrants living in their buildings.

## ■ CHINA COAL

Following successful trials, the Israel National Coal Corporation is importing another two shipments of coal from China, where the coal quality has been found to be good. Until recently, South Africa has been the major exporter of coal to Israel, supplying 60% of the country's needs.

## ■ TAX TIME

The total 1994 Israeli tax burden reached 41.2% compared with the 1993 taxation of 40% and 39.6% in 1992.

Israel is ranked fourth in the world in taxes behind Switzerland, Belgium and Denmark.

## ■ COMORO KNOT

Israel and the Comoro Islands have established diplomatic ties. With a population of 400,000, the islands, halfway between Madagascar and Mozambique, are the smallest member state in the Arab League.

## ■ MEDICAL ETHICS

For the first time, a leading Arab physician will join a Jewish Nobel Prize winner in San Francisco at February's sixth annual International Conference on Jewish Medical Ethics.

Professor Abdallah Daar, the senior physician in the Sultanate of Oman, will join Nobelist Dr. Arthur Kornberg and participants from other countries to discuss medicine in the Bible and Talmud, organ transplantation, the treatment of pain in cancer patients, and other issues.

## ■ BOOK SLASHER

Stephen L. Womack, 42, suspected of slashing thousands of books in libraries at Harvard and Northeastern Universities over a four-year period, is being held on charges of making anti-Semitic bomb threats against Boston-area schools. Prosecutors allege that Womack threatened to bomb the universities and a bank unless they paid a ransom and fired Jewish employees.

## ■ ELITE STUDY

A study by Purdue University said that despite small gains by Jews and Catholics in the last years, mainline Protestants (less than 5% of all Americans) still make up far more of America's social, economic and political elites.

## ■ INDICTMENT

A Boston grand jury charged Roy Frankhauser with inducing witnesses to destroy or conceal evidence, including Nazi material, in the investigation of a neo-Nazi group called the New Dawn Hammerskins. Frankhauser allegedly persuaded the mother of Brian

Clayton, the founder of the white supremacist group, to destroy a newspaper clipping reporting the desecration of synagogues. Clayton pleaded guilty in October to advocating violence to drive out Jews and Blacks.

## ■ ANTI-SEMITISM SUIT

In Denver, Colorado, Mitchell and Candice Aronson have filed a federal lawsuit claiming that neighbors launched an anti-Semitic campaign to drive them from their home. The Aronsons are accusing their neighbors, the Quigleys, of ethnic intimidation, slander, interfering with civil and property rights, assault, civil conspiracy and outrageous conduct.

## ■ NAZI CHARGE

The Justice Department has accused Algimantas Dailide, presently living in Cleveland, of serving the Nazis during World War II in a Lithuanian security police force.

Officials said the case against Dailide is based on records found in the Lithuanian Central State Archives. Dailide faces revocation of his U.S. citizenship and deportation, should he be found guilty.

# EUROPE

## ■ SYNAGOGUE RESTORATION

Ceremonies were held this week to mark the restoration of the Middelburg Synagogue, the oldest synagogue in the Netherlands that is still in use. The small synagogue, measuring 33 by 30 feet, was built in 1705 and now serves a community of 31 Jews.