THE AMERICAN JEWISH COMMUNITY RESPONDS TO ISSUES OF THE DAY: A COMPENDIUM*

DOMESTIC AFFAIRS

Affirmative Action

The American Jewish Committee (AJ-Committee) restated its pledge to support programs to upgrade “those who have been historically disadvantaged or discriminated against by reason of race, religion, or sex.” It rejected the concept of quotas as being “contrary to the best interests of all Americans, including the disadvantaged,” and spelled out details for fair and effective affirmative action programs (May 12).

The American Jewish Congress (AJ-Congress) published an analysis of 20 civil rights decisions affecting the Jewish community, and called on all groups to work for racial justice (June 7).

Seven organizations—Agudath Israel of America, AJCommittee, AJCongress, Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith (ADL), Jewish Labor Committee, Jewish War Veterans, and National Council of Jewish Women—wrote to U.S. Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare Joseph A. Califano, Jr., urging him to develop guidelines for the elimination of discrimination in employment and education. A copy of the letter was sent to President Jimmy Carter with the request that he declare a policy which “vigorously pursues legitimate aims of affirmative action while eschewing any taint of a quota system” (August 11).

Bakke Case

Several organizations—ADL, AJCommittee, AJCongress, National Jewish Commission on Law and Public Affairs (COLPA), and Jewish Labor Committee—submitted amici curiae briefs on behalf of Allan Bakke, who had sued the University of California Medical School at Davis for denying him entrance while admitting minority students with lower scores. These groups argued that a Supreme Court decision prohibiting university preferential admissions programs based on race would encourage the development of non-discriminatory admissions procedures (August 8, 10).

ADL (September 19) and AJCommittee (September 26) criticized a Justice Department brief supporting the University of California as condoning the use of racial quotas in school admissions. AJCommittee and AJCongress issued a

*Compiled mainly from press releases issued by organizations in 1977. References to items may be found in Index under the various agencies.
joint statement recommending a strong affirmative action program beginning at the junior high school level "to correct Black underrepresentation among qualified candidates" (December 30).

AJCongress, AJCommittee, and ADL joined 76 national organizations in a pledge to work together for full civil rights for everyone, in spite of the controversy which had arisen over the Bakke case (November 8).

**New York City Quotas**

The New York Metropolitan Council of the American Jewish Congress disputed the Federal Office for Civil Rights (OCR), which had charged the New York City school system with discrimination against minority teachers. AJCongress accused the agency of being "ignorant of recent New York City school history and the legislation it produced" (January 9). Later in the year, AJCongress protested against OCR's threat to withdraw funds from New York schools unless they acceded to racial quotas in hiring (September 11). ADL termed OCR's plan to assign New York City teachers by ethnic and racial background "unconstitutional and undemocratic" (October 27).

ADL reported the settlement of a class action suit requiring the City College Center for Biomedical Education to admit or recompense students rejected from a 1974 program because of reverse discrimination (June 24).

**Ethnicity**

ADL published the proceedings of a conference on "Pluralism in a Democratic Society," with the aim of helping school officials to develop understanding and respect for cultural differences (January 26). ADL produced a film, "Free to Be?", exploring ethnic and religious differences (June 30).

AJCommittee's Institute on Pluralism and Group Identity published a selective bibliography and literature review in the area of mental health and ethnicity. Its purpose was to point out the importance of ethnic identity, thus providing federal agencies with a new perspective for dealing with various social problems (May 15).

**Urban Problems**

Several Orthodox groups, including Agudath Israel of America, the National Council of Young Israel, Torah Umesorah, and the Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations (UOJC), formed People Against Crime, in an effort to make New York City streets safer through tougher laws (April 21). UOJC called on the Mayor and the New York City Police Department to do something about the inadequate police protection prevailing in Orthodox Jewish communities in Brooklyn (June 28).

AJCongress' Black-Jewish Information Center urged businessmen in high-crime areas to look into the Federal Crime Insurance Program offering low-cost protection against property loss resulting from burglary (May 20).

AJCommittee's New York City chapter assisted in a special project to aid small merchants whose businesses had been destroyed in the looting that followed a power blackout (July 21).
The Metropolitan New York Coordinating Council on Jewish Poverty reported that efforts by local Jewish religious, educational, social service and fraternal organizations in the Washington Heights-Inwood section of the City had met with success in preserving and upgrading the quality of life of the Jewish community there (July 21).

AJCongress' New York Metropolitan Council urged the New York City Council to take action against banks refusing mortgage loans to poor people and members of minority groups (June 11).

**Welfare and Social Security**

AJCongress issued a study of President Carter's proposed changes in the Social Security system, explaining how citizens would be affected, and describing existing benefits and their limitations (January 11).

AJCongress filed a brief with the New York State Court of Appeals challenging a state law prohibiting home relief payments for minors in certain cases. It testified before the New York State Assembly committees on health and welfare that the cuts in public assistance grants and Medicaid proposed by Governor Hugh Carey would have a "disastrous impact on the neediest members of our society" (February 24).

AJCommittee urged the Carter Administration to act more boldly in the area of welfare reform (May 14). It supported the President's proposed restructuring of the welfare system and recommended that a national health-care system and the Social Security system be incorporated into the President's plan (August 11).

**Employment**

National Full Employment Week received the support of AJCongress, whose members were urged to organize rallies and demonstrations (July 27), and AJCommittee, which called for comprehensive full employment legislation (August 16). The Jewish Labor Committee encouraged support of the Full Employment Action Council's national job program (July-August).

AJCongress announced that, through its affiliated Experience Reserve Bank, it was launching a one-year program to help qualified business persons from minority communities in California buy established businesses; management and technical assistance would be provided (October 21).

**Energy**

AJCommittee endorsed President Carter's proposal for a Federal Energy Department (March 9), sponsored a joint meeting with 36 voluntary organizations to publicize the need for mass support of the President's energy program (April 21), called on Congress to enact a balanced energy package as speedily as possible (October 24), and stated its preference for the de-regulation of newly found natural gas (October 28).

The National Jewish Community Relations Advisory Council, coordinating body of nine major Jewish organizations, urged its constituent groups to form coalitions with other national
groups "for an effective energy program" (August 5).

AJCongress proposed an energy-action program which called for, among other things, reduced consumption of imported oil and the achievement of energy self-sufficiency (August 26).

Aged

AJCommittee submitted a brief to the New York State Supreme Court arguing that elderly people eligible for Supplemental Security Income (SSI) should also be eligible for Medicaid assistance (January 5). The court affirmed this position.

AJCongress filed an amicus brief with the New York State Supreme Court contesting a state law prohibiting home relief payments for recipients of SSI (May 25). AJCommittee joined those seeking to overturn a New York law preventing needy persons over 65 from receiving home relief benefits. A court decision granting these benefits was handed down on December 27.

AJCongress' Northern California division received a grant from the State to provide for five ACTION-VISTA volunteers to work in projects for needy senior citizens in San Francisco (March 30).

AJCongress charged that New York State's system of handling nursing-home abuse failed to deal properly with patient complaints and the hardships of the sick and elderly (April 11).

The National Jewish Welfare Board (JWB) announced that its Florence Heller Research Center had received a grant of $30,000 to conduct a three-year project on health and physical fitness for the elderly (April 12).

AJCommittee, together with the National Council of the Churches of Christ, U.S. Catholic Conference, and Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism, sponsored a meeting on "Images of Old Age in the American Media." President Carter's counsellor on the aging spoke of the difference between the media image of the Social Security system and its actual provisions (December 8).

Abortion

The Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations of America praised the U.S. Supreme Court for not compelling the government to subsidize abortions through Medicaid. AJCongress saw the denial of government funds for abortion as "crude discrimination against the poor" (April 26). It criticized President Carter for statements justifying the Supreme Court decision (April 26, June 27).

Electoral College

Two groups reacted negatively to President Carter's proposal to abolish the Electoral College. AJCongress saw the revision of the present electoral system as a threat to democracy. AJCommittee cautioned that the proposed change could eliminate the political voice of labor and ethnic minorities (April).
INTERFAITH ACTIVITIES

Relations with Church Groups

ADL expressed deep concern over the National Council of Churches' "record of insensitivity" to Jewish concerns, particularly its "pronounced anti-Israel prejudice" (February 18).

Meeting with Vatican bodies in Italy, representatives of ADL, AJCommittee, the World Jewish Congress, the Synagogue Council of America, and the Israel Interfaith Committee discussed Catholic-Jewish relations, especially the matter of proselytism (March 27–30).

AJCommittee hailed a recommendation by the American Catholic Bishops Committee on Liturgy to omit from the Good Friday ritual a hymn containing offensive references to Jews (April 1). AJCommittee's Interreligious Affairs Department published a report, prepared in conjunction with the National Conference of Catholic Bishops, on religious texts used in Catholic schools. The report noted the slow but steady removal of offensive Jewish stereotypes (May 11).

The Union of American Hebrew Congregations, in cooperation with the Central Conference of American Rabbis and the University of Chicago, held a four-day convocation for Christian and Jewish scholars to consider changing religious trends in the western world (April 17–20).

ADL applauded the resolution of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church denouncing the Christian Yellow Pages and similar "buy Christian" directories (June 24).

ADL issued two volumes, Jewish Philosophical Polemics Against Christianity in the Middle Ages and Stepping Stones to Further Jewish-Christian Relations (July 19).

AJCommittee praised the United Presbyterian Church's 189th General Assembly for rejecting a resolution calling for U.S. Government recognition of the Palestine Liberation Organization (June 30). AJCommittee and the Texas Baptist Convention co-sponsored a three-day dialogue on issues of mutual concern (December 5–7).

The Synagogue Council of America participated in the second meeting of the Interreligious Peace Colloquium in Lisbon. The session focused on ways in which the major faiths could cooperate to meet pressing human needs (November).

Humanitarian Concerns

AJCongress urged President Carter to promulgate "a broadly framed amnesty for those who resisted this country's participation in the Vietnam War" (January 23).

ADL and AJCommittee praised the Carter Administration's commitment to human rights and support of Andrei Sakharov, dissident Soviet physicist (February 2). AJCongress (April 2) and AJCommittee (May 2) applauded President Carter's statement that foreign policy must be based on social justice and human dignity. AJCommittee's annual meeting issued a statement on human rights, and called upon the U.S.
delegation to the Belgrade Conference to work to ensure freedom of emigration and other guarantees of individual and group rights (October 30). ADL expressed solidarity with Soviet dissidents Anatoly Shcharansky and Andrei Sakharov (November 31).


AJCongress called on the Carter Administration to grant haven to 249 Indochinese refugees living on a tanker off the coast of Singapore (June 22). AJCongress and the Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations praised the Israeli government's offer of asylum to 16 Indochinese refugees rescued by an Israeli freighter in the South China Sea (June 24). ADL lauded President Carter's decision to grant emergency admission to 15,000 Indochinese refugees (July 20).

The Synagogue Council of America adopted a resolution appealing to the governments of South Africa and Rhodesia to work toward "policies based on human dignity, justice, and racial conciliation" (October 7). AJCommittee's annual meeting deplored South Africa's apartheid policy and repressive measures against Blacks, and urged the South African government to reduce and ultimately eliminate "legal and de facto discrimination against its non-white population" (October 30).

Church-State Issues

AJCongress hailed a New Jersey Court of Appeals decision outlawing religious practices in public schools (March 29). It urged New York Governor Hugh Carey to veto two measures that would revive Sunday blue laws, arguing that the State has no right to "compel adherence by all persons" to Sunday observance (July 28). AJCongress joined with 12 New Jersey civic and religious organizations in challenging a state law providing tax deductions for tuition in parochial schools (November 8).

The Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations of America criticized a Supreme Court decision that employers need not make special arrangements for people who observe Saturday as the Sabbath, if such arrangements create overtime pay costs or violate employee seniority privileges. It called upon Congress to "pass remedial legislation to further guarantee the employment rights of the Sabbath observer" (July 6).

The Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations of America hailed the decision of the trustees of the State University of New York to suspend classes on Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur (July 5). ADL praised the U.S. Department of Labor for issuing a reminder to federal contractors that "as the Jewish High Holy Days approach employers should take positive steps to accommodate the needs of those who must be away from work for religious observances" (September 8).

AJCongress filed an amicus brief defending the right of Congregation Beit-Havurah in Norwalk, Connecticut to
worship in a farmhouse also used for sleeping quarters. A Norwalk zoning law prohibited use of the house in this manner (March 30). AJCongress joined nine religious and civic organizations in challenging a Tennessee statute which barred clergymen from holding public office (August 1).

DISCRIMINATION AND ANTISEMITISM

Employment

AJCommittee, reporting success in its executive suite program, commended eight major corporations for efforts "to recruit and promote Jewish personnel in management positions on the basis of merit" (May 14). It made public a report by its Philadelphia chapter on a substantial increase in the number of Jews in managerial positions in the area (June 15). AJCommittee hailed the first-year results of an affirmative-action program under government auspices, involving the hiring and promotion of Jews for executive positions with a major national insurance company (December 3).

"Buy Christian"

ADL reported that over a million copies of the "Christian Yellow Pages" and the "Christian Business Directory" had been distributed in 18 cities (March 3). It filed suit against the publishers, charging them with religious discrimination (August 25).

Nazism

ADL reported that The Hoax of the Twentieth Century, a book by Northwestern University professor Arthur R. Butz, claiming that the Holocaust never happened, was published by the neo-fascist National Front Press in England, and promoted by the American Nazi Party (February 3).

The Synagogue Council of America and AJCongress announced that protests by several American and Canadian groups had succeeded in preventing the admission of Ferenc Fiala, former official of the Nazi-puppet regime in Hungary, to the United States for a lecture tour (March 21). The Congress expressed satisfaction that the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service had cancelled the stay of deportation against Croatian war criminal Andrija Artukovic (May 6).

AJCommittee, at its annual meeting, heard U.S. Representative Elizabeth Holtzman call on Congress to investigate why the Immigration and Naturalization Service had failed to deal with cases of Nazi war criminals living in the United States (May 15). It issued a report claiming that U.S. Nazi groups constituted no serious danger to American political institutions, despite increased activity on their part, and took under advisement the question of Nazi rights under the first amendment (October 30).
U.S. Middle East Policy

AJCommittee urged the Carter Administration to “hold fast to policies that will ensure Israel’s survival” (February 14). AJCongress’ national women’s division warned that “any accommodations Israel may be called upon to make must be assessed with great care and circumspection” (April 27). The president of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations alleged that statements by President Carter represented a “disengagement from the traditional American position calling for direct negotiations without pre-conditions” (June 13). The Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations detected a “dangerous drift in United States Middle East policy” and criticized the President’s remarks about a Palestinian homeland (June 16). The president of the Central Conference of American Rabbis called on President Carter to “hold fast to his pre-election affirmations regarding the State of Israel” (June 20). ADL criticized the U.S.-Soviet joint declaration of principles for the Geneva Peace Conference, deploring the “reintrusion of Soviet influence in an area that was comparatively well rid of it” (October 3). AJCommittee’s National Executive Council warned that “a crisis of confidence in the administration’s Middle Eastern policy has arisen among American friends of Israel” (October 30). ADL expressed concern about the role of the Arab oil weapon in shaping U.S. Middle East policy (November 17).

Likud Victory

Prior to the election in Israel, AJCongress restated its commitment “to the idea of a Jewish state and to the security of the people of that state” regardless of “any individual political leader or political party” (April 11). Following the victory of Menachem Begin, AJCongress expressed confidence in continued consultation and exchange between Israeli and American Jewish leaders (May 18). The Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations of America lauded Israel’s democratic system of government and likened the economic philosophy of the Likud to the American free enterprise system (May 20). The American Zionist Federation called for support of the new government and its peace efforts (June 23).

Sadat Visit

AJCommittee saw in Egyptian President Anwar Sadat’s trip to Israel a model for “face-to-face discussions among all parties to the dispute of the Middle East” (November 18). The American Zionist Federation called the Sadat-Begin meeting the beginning of a “new era in Middle East diplomacy . . . an era in which Jew and Arab face each other openly” (November 21). AJCongress warned that the “euphoria” of the meeting must be replaced by “sober evolution of events” (November 21). Hadassah supported the peace plan put
forward by Israeli Prime Minister Begin (December 22).

United Nations

AJCommittee urged Jews not to abandon the UN, but to work for its improvement (May 13).

AJCongress hailed U.S. withdrawal from the International Labor Organization because of the "continued exploitation of that body's processes and procedures for anti-democratic political purposes" (January 12).

The Union of American Hebrew Congregations asked President Carter and UN Ambassador Andrew Young to assume the "moral initiative" in reversing the anti-Zionist resolution passed by the General Assembly (September).

Palestine Liberation Organization

ADL charged that a PLO official, formerly ordered to leave the United States because of passport fraud, had returned to open a propaganda office in Washington (January 7). AJCongress expressed regret that President Carter had agreed to meet with PLO representatives at a UN reception (March 16), and protested the issuance of a visa permitting the PLO official to "roam the country at will" (October 31).

ADL accused the American Friends Service Committee (AFSC), which had invited a PLO official to a Middle East conference, of being a "mouthpiece for the propaganda line" of the PLO. Hadassah, in a letter to the AFSC president, explained that Jewish organizations perceived AFSC as "antisemitic, anti-Israel, pro-Arab, pro-Palestinian, and pro-PLO," because it fosters PLO activity despite that group's avowed aim to destroy the Jewish State. AJCongress stated that AFSC had been "misled by Arab propaganda" into pressuring Israel to negotiate with the terrorist PLO (February).

Terrorism

Virtually all Jewish organizations condemned the release of Palestinian terrorist Abu Daoud by the French government, accusing it of cowardice and expediency. AJCongress announced cancellation of a membership travel program to France (January 14).

AJCongress praised the ambassadors of Egypt, Iran, and Pakistan for their intercession on behalf of Jewish and other hostages held by Moslem terrorists in three Washington buildings (March 11). AJCommittee urged stronger legal measures against terrorists who took innocent hostages for political purposes (March 17).

Following the terrorist highjacking of a Lufthansa plane, AJCongress called upon the Carter Administration and civil aviation authorities to boycott all countries giving sanctuary or support to air highjackers (October 24). AJCommittee's National Executive Council condemned Algeria, Libya, and Uganda for granting asylum to highjackers, and urged a suspension of air service to all countries abetting such terrorists (October 30).

Arab Boycott

Three organizations (AJCommittee, AJCongress, and ADL) reported that an
analysis of boycott-related reports filed with the Department of Commerce indicated that 87 per cent of American firms doing business in Arab countries complied with the boycott (January 6). An AJCongress study revealed a similar high degree of compliance among the largest American corporations (February 1). Upon pressure from AJCongress, eight major corporations formally agreed not to take part in the boycott (April 21).

AJCommittee, AJCongress, and ADL opposed the Justice Department's proposed settlement of an antitrust action against the Bechtel Corporation, claiming it failed to prohibit Bechtel's "participation in, and implementation of, the Arab boycott of U.S. firms" (April 6).

ADL representatives met with leaders of the Business Roundtable (executives of 170 major corporations) to consider the feasibility of drafting a joint statement of principles with regard to federal foreign boycott legislation (March 4).

Spokesmen for several Jewish organizations testified before the House Committee on International Relations, endorsing the Bingham-Rosenthal Bill against the Arab boycott (March 8), and before the Senate Subcommittee on International Finance, endorsing the Williams-Proxmire proposal (May 3).

Various Jewish groups witnessed the signing of the first anti-boycott law by President Carter (June 22). AJCommittee, AJCongress, and ADL called on Secretary of Commerce Juanita Kreps to enforce the new federal anti-boycott law, and to plug potential loopholes in the measure (August 24). They criticized proposed Commerce Department regulations as subverting the "thrust and purpose of the anti-boycott statute" (November 16).

AJCongress filed a complaint with the New York State Division of Human Rights against Morgan Guaranty Trust and Citibank for "unlawful discrimination" in violation of the state anti-boycott law (January 14).

AJCommittee and ADL exhorted the New York State Division of Human Rights to stop the U.S.-Arab Chamber of Commerce from engaging in acts that encouraged the Arab economic boycott of Israel (May 5). In response, the Division charged Chemical Bank with "discriminatory practice" in compliance with the Arab boycott (May 10).

AJCongress labeled as "grossly inaccurate" reports that the New York anti-boycott law was harming the state's economy (February 10, June 13).

AJCommittee's New York chapter and AJCongress urged the City Council to adopt pending legislation that would prohibit the granting of municipal contracts to suppliers participating in illegal international boycotts (August 31).

ADL hailed a federal government ban on anti-Jewish discrimination by U.S. firms hiring for overseas work (February 2). In response to a complaint by ADL, the U.S. Department of Commerce ordered the withdrawal of a discriminatory advertisement for employment in Saudi Arabia which had been publicized by the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy (October 13). AJCongress asserted that
the federal government was a "silent partner" in Saudi Arabia's "religious bigotry against Jews" because, in pursuing economic cooperation with that country, it participated in "discriminatory arrangements" (October 13).

AJCommittee criticized Harper and Row for publishing a Businessman's Guide to the Middle East with the name of Israel omitted from the central map (October 13).

ADL and AJCommittee accused the French government of endorsing the Arab boycott through an executive order excluding Israel from a law against discrimination in commerce (August 5, 9).

THE INTERNATIONAL SCENE

Soviet Jewry

The Synagogue Council of America adopted a resolution reaffirming the obligation of the Jewish community to assist all Jews who emigrate from the Soviet Union.

The Workmen's Circle, American ORT, and the Jewish Labor Committee participated in a Solidarity Day march sponsored by the New York Conference on Soviet Jewry (May 1). Representatives of Jewish groups joined the solidarity program sponsored by the National Conference on Soviet Jewry in Washington, D.C. (June 12).

AJCommittee's National Executive Council expressed deep concern over the Soviet Union's continued harassment of Jewish activists, suppression of Jewish religious and cultural life, and denial of the right to emigrate (October 30).

European Jewry

AJCommittee denounced the Czechoslovak government for its allegation that the signers of the "Charter 77" human-rights manifesto were Zionists involved in a "fight against Socialist Czechoslovakia" (April 26).

ADL labeled the appointment of a former SS officer to the West German Parliament "an offensive and insensitive act of deep concern" (July 1).

ADL heard a report from Chief Rabbi Moses Rosen of Rumania on the strengthened relations between Israel and his country. He described the Rumanian Jewish community as "thriving" and "vibrant" (November 10).

The World Zionist Organization-American Section announced that the first official delegation of Polish Jews residing in the United States visited Poland at the invitation of the Government. The group presented a memorandum requesting action to preserve and commemorate the Polish Jewish heritage (December 12).

Jews in Arab Countries

The Union of American Hebrew Congregations was instrumental in the shipment of 2,500 pounds of matzohs to the
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400 Jews living in Alexandria and Cairo, Egypt (February 20).

AJCommittee's Foreign Affairs Department issued an update on the situation of the 5,000 Jews living in Syria. It reported that while many restrictions and abuses had been eliminated, Jews were still under a measure of restraint. The ban on emigration remained in force (May).

The World Organization of Jews from Arab Countries described Egyptian President Anwar Sadat's invitation to Jews to return to that country as "nothing but hypocrisy intended to mislead public opinion." It pointed out that only five per cent of Egyptian Jews had held Egyptian citizenship (July 28).

Latin America

AJCommittee announced the closing of its Buenos Aires office because of death threats received by the office's director (July 7).

ADL reported that three members of the Deutsch family, kidnapped on August 27 and detained by government authorities, had been released. Two other family members remained in custody (October 27).

AJCommittee's National Executive Council reaffirmed its solidarity with the Jewish community of Argentina, and called on the United States to assure the Argentine government that "restoring basic freedoms will have a direct impact on Argentine-American relations" (October 30).

The ADL Director of Latin American Affairs added his voice to an inter-faith appeal to Argentine President Jorge Rafael Videla for a holy day amnesty for "prisoners of conscience now being detained without charge in government facilities" (December 20).

AJCommittee urged Videla to free newspaper editor Jacobo Timerman, and permit him and his family to leave the country (December 21).

Fourteen leaders of American Jewish organizations met with Mexican President José Lopez Portillo to assure him that a number of Mexico's votes in the United Nations had "done much to ease past strains" (February 17).

AJCommittee hailed the fifth Jewish-Catholic meeting held in San José, Costa Rica as "an important event that holds great promise for future cooperation" (April 25).

AJCommittee urged Congress to ratify the Panama Canal Treaty, asserting that such a step would have a "positive impact on U.S. relationships with Latin America" (September 2).

JEWISH IDENTITY, RELIGION, AND CULTURE

Youth

ADL conducted a survey of 200 rabbis in 136 American cities regarding missionary activities. It found that while attempts by religious cults to convert young Jews had largely failed, missionary activities continued, causing strong
anxiety among parents (March 16). AJ-Committee devoted a session of its annual meeting to the impact of cults on Jewish young people (May 13). The Union of American Hebrew Congregations listed the cult problem high on its conference agenda (November 18–22). Its rabbinical affiliate, the Central Conference of American Rabbis, had previously considered the question of "Methods and Techniques in Dealing with Cults" (June 23).

The North American Jewish Students' Network published A Guide to Jewish Student Groups, [Vol. IV], describing more than 350 Jewish campus and high-school groups (September).

**Family**


The Tarbuth Foundation, in cooperation with local Jewish federations, sponsored a series of family weekends in cities throughout New England, dealing with such matters as divorce, the single-parent family, and the aged (April 28).

At its annual meeting, the Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations of America dealt with the problems of intermarriage and assimilation as threats to Jewish family life and continuity (May 15).

The Women's League for Conservative Judaism conducted a two-day conference on the Jewish family, and held a follow-up conference evaluating action programs in this area in the light of "rapidly-changing social, cultural, and behavioral mores and values" (September 19).

At the Union of American Hebrew Congregations' biennial General Assembly, it was agreed to develop special synagogue programs to meet the needs of increasing numbers of singles and single-parent families (November 23).

**Women**

The United Synagogue Review, reflecting the views of Conservative Judaism, devoted three of its issues to discussions of women in Jewish law, as synagogue presidents, and as future rabbis (March 17).

The Central Conference of American Rabbis launched a program to make Reform congregations aware of the growing number of women rabbis seeking pulpits (October 11).

The Jewish Theological Seminary named a Commission for the Study of Women in the Rabbinate to prepare recommendations for the 1979 Rabbinical Assembly convention (November 10).

Hadassah and AJCongress' National Women's Division sent delegations to the National Women's Conference in Houston (November 18–21).

Hadassah (February 24) and AJCommittee (October 29) declared their support of the Equal Rights Amendment, and urged members to work actively for its passage.
Religion

Agudath Israel of America held an All-European Conference in Antwerp at which delegates from branches in England, Switzerland, Belgium, France, Austria, Holland, and Denmark made plans to strengthen religious observance and raise standards of Torah study in European countries (January 6–9).

JWB shipped Passover supplies to U.S. Jewish military personnel and hospitalized veterans throughout the world (February 28), and arranged High Holy Day services at all military bases where Jews were stationed (August 1).

The Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations of America reported that over 1,000 newly-settled Russian Jews participated in its special Passover seder program in New York and Israel (April 25).

The Union of American Hebrew Congregations’ biennial General Assembly considered the theme “Judaism in a Secular Age” and dealt with problems of synagogue administration, education, worship, social action, and interreligious affairs (November 18–22).

Jewish Education

Agudath Israel of America reported the success of its adult Torah home-study program. (January 5).

The Women’s League for Conservative Judaism and the Jewish Theological Seminary of America sponsored a series of weekly lectures on biblical texts and Jewish thought. The program was designed for women who wanted “to move toward a deeper understanding of the meaning of Jewish existence and the Jewish mission” (February 2).

AJ Committee’s National Executive Council issued a statement urging the intensification of efforts to promote Jewish education, particularly in the area of day schools (October 28). It also announced the publication of a series of discussion guides on subjects of concern to the Jewish community (January 5).

AJ Committee’s Academy for Jewish Studies Without Walls conducted a five-day seminar on a biblical theme at Brandeis University (July 11–14). It also sponsored a two-week television series on Jewish history, tradition, and culture, broadcast nationally by NBC (February 28–March 11).

JWB’s National Conference on Jewish Camping conducted workshops on Jewish subjects to “deepen the Jewish knowledge and commitment of camp executives” (January 6–11).


The World Zionist Organization-American Section sponsored its seventh annual Yediat Israel examination (April 17). Its Commission on the Teaching of Zionism and Israel initiated a pilot program to strengthen and enrich the teaching of these subjects in Jewish schools throughout the country (December 15).

The Yivo Institute for Jewish Research, at its 51st annual conference, heard scholars speak on Yiddish culture, Jews
and Russian culture, and New York Jewry (April 24-27).

The World Zionist Organization—American Section reported that 120 contestants from 45 different communities met in New York City to compete for selection as representatives to the 1978 International Bible Contest in Jerusalem (May 15).

The Tarbuth Foundation for the Advancement of Hebrew Culture inaugurated three new television series on Jewish historical and artistic themes for cable TV in New York City (November 14).

**Holocaust Programs**


The Workmen’s Circle held a public ceremony in commemoration of the Holocaust at which a bronze sculpture by Natan Rapoport symbolizing the martyrdom of victims of the Holocaust was unveiled (April 19).

ADL established a Holocaust Information Center to house audio-visual and teaching materials on the Holocaust (July 29). ADL sponsored a conference for 200 educators on teaching the Holocaust in American secondary schools (October 9-11). Its New York Regional Board hailed a curriculum guide on the Holocaust for the City’s schools as a way of helping students “understand the background and concerns of the Jewish people” (November 16).

JWB, in cooperation with local agencies and other national groups, instituted community projects to commemorate the Holocaust in St. Louis, St. Paul, Buffalo, and other cities (October).

**Jewish Culture**

The Jewish Museum was selected by the National Endowment for the Humanities to participate in its Challenge Grant Program. The funds received were to be used to meet operating costs and improve the facilities (June 20).

The Tarbuth Foundation for the Advancement of Hebrew Culture, in cooperation with the Oxford (England) Center for Postgraduate Hebrew Studies, conducted the first International Conference on Jewish Art in Oxford. The conferees urged Jewish communities everywhere to seek landmark preservation of Jewish historical sites (August 31).

AJCongress received a grant of $560,000 under the Federal Comprehensive Employment and Training Act (CETA) to hire 50 artists for a variety of year-long programs involving Jewish themes (November 17).

The Jewish Theological Seminary of America library acquired a unique collection of more than 2,000 manuscripts and books relating to Jewish music (January 13).

JWB sponsored “Here is Israel,” a multi-media production (September-December), as well as tours by the Haifa Municipal Theater (February 20-April 16) and the Nesher puppets (September). The organization’s Book Council announced publication of Volume 35 of the Jewish Book Annual, a trilingual annual of Jewish literary achievement (October 17). Its Music Council held its 33rd annual Jewish Music Festival, at which the theme was “Music of Jewish
Resistance and Survival” (March 4–April 2). It also sponsored an all-day conference on “Jewish Music in America: Status and Directions” (June 19).

Israel Programs

The World Zionist Organization–American Section issued the 12th edition of its annual Guide to Israel Programs, listing almost 200 programs, from brief study tours to six-month work programs and academic courses at the high-school, yeshiva, and university levels (March 18).

More than 100 students participated in year-long high school programs sponsored by the World Zionist Organization’s Department of Education and Culture and the American Zionist Youth Foundation (August 28). The World Zionist Organization’s Torah Education Department arranged for more than 160 yeshiva students to study in Israel (February 14). American Zionist Youth Foundation sponsored a semester of study at Tel Aviv University for 15 students (February 27). The World Zionist Organization’s Department of Education and Culture conducted a year-long program for 33 college students at Hayim Greenberg College in Jerusalem (September 6).

The American Zionist Youth Foundation arranged for 85 volunteers to participate in two six-month work and study programs in Israel (February 3). It also sent 70 college graduates to Israel for a year of social service, as part of its Sherut La’am program (July 18, October 28).

The American Zionist Youth Foundation conducted a leadership-training program for high-school graduates, consisting of a year’s study and work on a kibbutz or moshav (September 6). It also sponsored a folk-dance seminar, and an Israel Summer Sports Program, combining a tour of Israel and participation in the Maccabiah Games (January 12).

Hadassah announced plans to open a fifth Youth Aliyah Center to serve as an all-day facility offering remedial instruction, recreation, guidance, and vocational training for teen-agers (August 21).

JWB participated in the First World Conference of Jewish Community Centers held in Jerusalem (May 3–8). It opened permanent headquarters there in November, and initiated programs aimed at increasing study, volunteerism, and travel in Israel (November 25).

Special tours of Israel included the American Zionist Federation’s ten-day tour for 30 journalists (March 6) and three-week work and study mission for 24 nuns, priests, and lay Catholics (June 28); ADL’s two-week study seminar for 20 professional staff members (March 14); and AJCongress’ 13th annual American-Israel Dialogue in Jerusalem, bringing together 35 jurists and rabbis from the United States and Israel (July 5–8).

Leadership Training

AJCommittee established the Hilda Katz Blaustein Leadership Development Program for the training of competent and committed leaders on the local and national levels (May 13).

JWB, which instituted a leadership development program in 1976, conducted a seminar in Atlanta, Georgia to train leaders for that community (May).
The National Federation of Temple Youth produced a documentary film depicting the training of future lay and rabbinic leaders for Reform Judaism (May 22).

The Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations of America conducted its second national Orthodox Leadership Conference on Public Affairs to explore the problems and prospects of the urban Orthodox community (November 23–24).

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