

This Tea Supports Retarded Children

Sisters of the St. Vital Hospital and parents of St. Amant children will present their annual Tea on Sunday, May 4, from 2 to 5 p.m. at the Hospital, Greendell and River Rd. in St. Vital. Refreshments will be served in the cafeteria, and guests will be invited to visit the children on the St. Amant Ward.

The Tea, convened this year by (Mrs.) Ruth Hand, will be officially opened by the Hon. Donald Craik, Minister of Youth and Education.

An information booth will be set up to provide answers to questions about the Ward. A highlight of the day will be a draw for a 19" RCA portable color TV, a stereo record player and a 7-piece patio set.

The Association for Retarded Children of Greater Winnipeg will provide shuttle buses which will operate from the end of the St. Mary's Rd. bus route to the hospital.

The work carried on at the St. Amant Ward has drawn worldwide

interest, and this tea provides an excellent opportunity for the public to acquaint themselves with the outstanding facility Manitobans enjoy for working with and caring for physically and mentally retarded children. All interested citizens are invited to attend.

Russian Festival At Concert Hall

By arrangement with the Canadian Government's cultural exchange program, the 1969 edition of the "Russian Festival of Music and Dance", a company of 110 artists, direct from the USSR, will perform for four days in Winnipeg at the Centennial Concert Hall on April 30, May 1, 2 and 3, 8:30 p.m. nightly.

The Russian Festival of Music and Dance will appear in Montreal, Calgary, Edmonton, Saskatoon, Vancouver, Victoria, Winnipeg, Fort William, London, Toronto, Ottawa, Sherbrooke and Quebec City. Highlights of the evening, during which some 110 artists will demonstrate their talents, is the Piatnitsky Ensemble, a giant group which includes dancers and musicians. The Piatnitsky Ensemble is the oldest and most popular in the USSR and was a feature of the first Russian Festival in 1959. It will perform 20 thrilling numbers each evening.

The rest of the program includes acrobatic dancers, stars of the Leningrad Kirov Opera and Ballet, stars of the Obortsov Puppet troupe and a celebrated balalaika virtuoso from the famous Osipov orchestra. The Festival will be hosted by Boris Brunov, a multi-lingual comedian

who has made a huge career in the USSR and is widely acclaimed in both London and Paris as well as many other parts of the world, will adapt his material to French in French speaking Canadian cities and in English in western Canada.

Because of the immensely successful tour of the Royal Winnipeg Ballet in the Soviet Union, as a complimentary gesture the Russian

Festival of Music and Dance have priced the tickets lower than usual so that the public will have the rare opportunity to see and hear the greatest stars of the theatre in the Soviet Union.

Reserved seat tickets are now available on a "first-come" basis at the Attractions Ticket Office at Eaton's (downtown and Polo Park), at Celebrity Box Office at the Bay and the Co-Op Book Shop at 882 Main St.

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Rabbi Witty Accepts Exec. Appointment



Rabbi Irwin E. Witty of Winnipeg has been appointed executive director of the Toronto Board of Jewish Education and Dean of Midrasa. The announcement was jointly made by Abe Posluns, chairman, United Jewish Welfare Fund of Toronto, and Stephen E. Berger, chairman, Toronto Board of Jewish Education.

In Winnipeg, Rabbi Witty was simultaneously principal, Talmud Torah Day School; principal, Joseph Wolinsky Collegiate (High School); director, Maimonides College and Rabbi of Congregation Beth Hamedrash Ashkenazi.

He comes to his Toronto position with a broad background as an educationist, spiritual leader, lecturer and author. Prior to coming to Winnipeg he had been chairman of the Hebrew Department, Akiba Hebrew Academy, Merion Station, Pa., and during the same period, Associate Rabbi at Congregation Adath Zion, Philadelphia.

Rabbi Witty has written articles and reviews in Hebrew and English

for such publications as Jewish Spectator, Nir, Niv, Hadoar, Jewish Horizon, Jewish Forum, Commentator, Chats, Viewpoints, Hamenahal, Jewish Parent, and others.

Active in several organizations reflecting his broad interests, his list of affiliations includes National Council for Jewish Education, Rabbinical Council of America, National Council for the Social Studies, Religious Education Association of America; Religious Zionists of America; National Federation of Teachers and Principals (Agudat Hamorim Vehamahanalim), and Canadian Council for Children. His service includes board membership on the National Committee for the Jerusalem Examinations of the Hebrew University (Jewish Agency), National Bible Contest, Jewish Agency (also Regional Chairman), and National Executive, Religious Zionists of Canada.

An outstanding scholar, Rabbi Witty graduated Magna Cum Laude in 1949 from Talmudical Academy, Brooklyn, where he was a gold medalist and winner of the Bienfeld Award for excellence in Hebrew. He then attended Yeshiva University where in 1953 he graduated B.A. cum laude, majoring in Jewish studies and winning awards in American Jewish history and Hebrew Literature. He next undertook graduate studies and Masters work at Columbia University, Dropsie College (Philadelphia), and Temple University where his fields were Rabbinics and Education. Finally, he received his rabbinical ordination at Yeshiva University, Rabbi Isaac-Elchanan Theological Seminary.

Married and the father of four children, Rabbi Witty will take over his new post with the beginning of the 1969-70 semester.

Dayan Ridicules Victory Claims

Jerusalem (JCN) — The Arabs' propensity for believing their own fantasies, may again lead them into trouble, Moshe Dayan, the Israeli Defence Minister, has warned.

At an Independence Day rally at Binyanei Ha'Ooma (the National Convention Centre) here, he noted that Cairo radio broadcasts over the past five weeks claimed that Israel had suffered a total of 500 casualties in Suez Canal clashes and lost 123 tanks.

In fact, Mr. Dayan stated, Israeli losses in this period were nine dead and 48 wounded; some tanks were hit, but all were soon back in action. Mr. Dayan reiterated his readiness to "go a long way" towards a settle-

ment with the Arab States. "Sit down with us," he declared, "and we will listen carefully to all your complaints. We want to come to some arrangement with you on everything — Jerusalem, borders, refugees. We really want peace and will go a long way to meet you."

But, he warned, concessions would not come "through shells across the Canal, riots in Nablus and Gaza, mortar fire on Elath or Kiryat Shmona."

Nor would they come through "pressure from the Great Powers," Mr. Dayan continued. "They will not budge us. The only way to come to a settlement is by talking with one another, neighbor to neighbor."

It's a Small World — Isn't It?

A staff journalist of the Milwaukee Journal recently visited Barkai Israel where many of the Kibbutzniks were from Milwaukee. Evidently there are Milwaukeeans all over Israel, including one in particular — Golda Meir, the Prime Minister.

The special feature was concerned with the Kibbutz (Barkai) which is located 40 miles north of Tel Aviv, and is sprawled over 1000 acres of agricultural land. The Kibbutz is the home of some 170 adults and 160 children. Among

them is Batya Freedman who came to live there 19 years ago to help in building the then new Israeli nation. Interviewed, Mrs. Freedman told how she found the land covered with rocks. There was only one tree in sight.

Mrs. Freedman lives at the Kibbutz with her husband, Aron, and four children. They are the son and daughter-in-law, and grandchildren of Chana Freedman of Winnipeg, and their well-known songstress sister is none other than Miriam Breitman. SMALL WORLD, isn't it?

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Israelis Repulse Raids at Canal

Tel Aviv (JTA) — Israeli forces repulsed a fifth Egyptian commando raid across the Suez Canal south of Qantara Friday night killing six Egyptians. Israelis also fought gun battles with guerrillas in the Gaza Strip, the Golan Heights and in the Jordan rift south of the Dead Sea over the weekend. Four potential saboteurs were killed in those clashes, a military spokesman said. Nine Israeli soldiers were injured Thursday night when their truck hit a mine south of El Arish in the northern Sinai Peninsula. All were

hospitalized and three were released almost immediately. Jordanian forces fired bazooka shells at an Israeli patrol near Shair Hagolan in the Beisan Valley. Mortar and automatic fire was exchanged between Israeli and Jordanian forces near the Valley settlement of Kfar Ruppin. No Israeli casualties were reported in either incident. The semi-official Middle East News Agency in Cairo said Egyptian troops attacked an Israeli artillery outpost and munitions dump and rocket base near Port

Fuad in the northwest Sinai. Syria claimed that an Israeli soldier was killed and an Israeli half track and an observation post were destroyed in a gun duel in the Golan Heights. Maj. Gen Chaim Bar-Lev, Chief of Staff of Israel's armed forces, said that security forces had successfully foiled all attempts by saboteurs and terrorists to penetrate the country during its 21st anniversary celebrations. He attributed the successful preventive measures in large measure to the terrorists' failure to enlist the support of the local Arab population in occupied territories.

Israel Silent on De Gaulle Resignation

Jerusalem (JTA) — There was no official reaction here over the resignation of President Charles de Gaulle following his defeat in the April 27 national referendum in France. But the Israeli man-in-the-street, to whom Gen. de Gaulle was an arch villain because of his pro-Arab policies and embargo on military material to Israel made no effort to conceal his delight over the French leader's downfall. The state-owned Kol Israel radio also abandoned some diplomatic inhibitions to broadcast songs and other material that clearly ridiculed the 78-year-old former President.

Commentators expressed the hope that Israel's 50 Mirage jets, frozen for two years by the de Gaulle embargo, would soon be delivered. But some cautioned that no drastic changes could be expected in French policy toward Israel at least until a new President is elected and possibly for a long time afterwards.

A few commentators tempered their elation over Gen. de Gaulle's departure with recollections of his valiant fight for French survival against the Nazis in World War II. They said that despite the "inglorious end" of his political leadership, the General's merits far outweighed his shortcomings when viewed over the perspective of his entire career.

When French Premier Maurice Couve de Murville, announcing President de Gaulle's defeat in the referendum, said, "beginning tomorrow a new page will be turned in our history," Israel and Jews the world over began wondering what that new page would say.

Now that Gen. De Gaulle has left office after more than 10 years of maintaining France in his iron political grip, the main contenders for the high post are former Gaullist Premier Georges Pompidou and Alain Poher, the Senate President who today became interim President. If either should accede to the Presidency, what are the prospects for a warming up of the now distant relations between France and Israel? The prospects are good, write's JTA's Paris correspondent

Edwin Eytan. President de Gaulle's departure following the country's rejection of his constitutional reform referendum "could mean a new page in Franco-Israel relations," he said. "Though no one here expects that Franco-Israel relations would automatically revert to their previous close degree of understanding and cooperation, Gen. de Gaulle's defeat would speed up a process of normalization." Both Messrs. Pompidou and Poher "are known to be much closer to the sentiments and feelings of French public opinion and to support Israel's security for a variety of human and democratic reasons," Mr. Eytan cabled.

Informed political sources say that the election of M. Pompidou would probably move France toward a

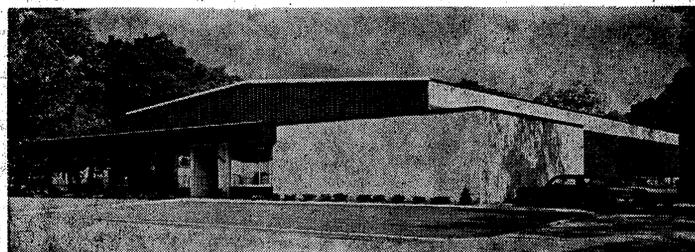
more neutral French line but he probably would fear abandoning the de Gaulle embargo for an indefinite period. It was indicated that M. Pompidou would probably make his "goodwill" views manifest in the Big Four talks. The prospects for a more favorable policy toward Israel were considered much better if M. Poher attained power. He is regarded as a typical representative of France's usually humanitarian and enlightened middle class and himself a warm friend of Israel. There is a general belief that Gen. de Gaulle's successor must align himself more closely with the pro-Israel sentiments of the French public at large which have been at great variance with the anti-Israel views of the resigned President.

WOMEN'S LEAGUE FOR ISRAEL AWARDS FREEDOM CUP TO SAMUEL ROTHBERG



Mrs. Jack Starr, President (right) salutes Mr. Rothberg for distinguished leadership in mobilizing American Jewry's aid to the people of Israel. Women's League has established 5 residences and vocational training schools for girls in Israel as well as a student center, cafeteria and Women's dormitories on both campuses of the Hebrew University. The award was made at the League's 41st annual luncheon April 17. Mrs. Philip Greenwald (left) chaired the luncheon.

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