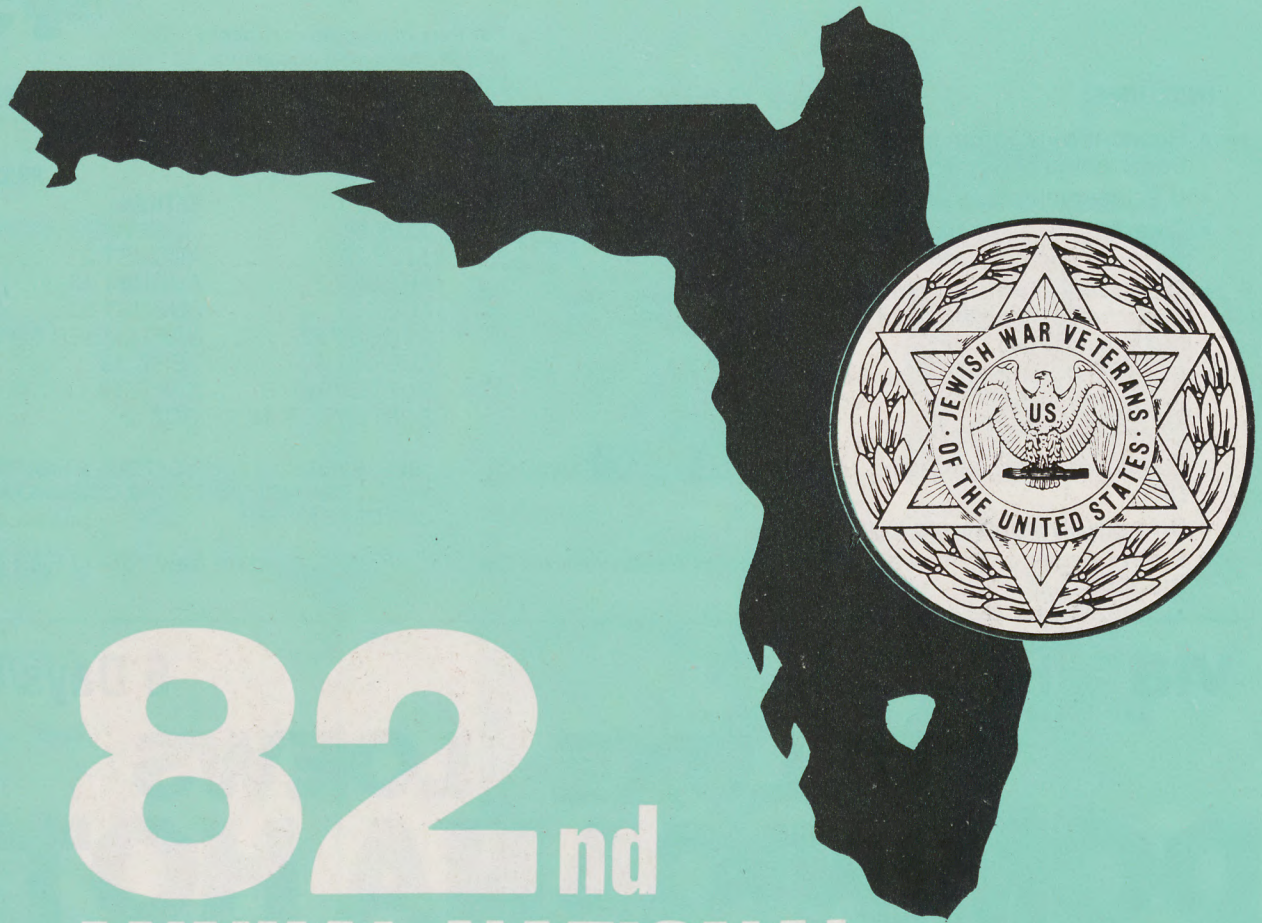


REGISTRATION

**For Convention and Fun
See Pages 24 and 25**

The Jewish Veteran

July-August 1977



82nd ANNUAL NATIONAL CONVENTION

**OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

**HOLLYWOOD, FLORIDA
JULY 31st thru AUGUST 7th, 1977**

1977 ROMANIA

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- Bucharest: City sightseeing tour, ONE DINNER ON ARRIVAL DAY.
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		PRICE PER PERSON
DEPART	RETURN	TWIN
JULY 5	JULY 19	\$509.00
JULY 19	AUGUST 2	\$509.00
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AUGUST 16	AUGUST 30	\$509.00
AUGUST 22	SEPTEMBER 5	\$509.00
AUGUST 30	SEPT. 13	\$499.00
SEPTEMBER 5	SEPT. 19	\$465.00
SEPTEMBER 19 ...	OCT. 2	\$450.00

*SEPTEMBER 19 TOUR OFFERS 5 NIGHTS AT THE BLACK SEA INSTEAD OF THE USUAL 6 AND RETURNS ONE DAY EARLIER.

Prices based on New York (J.F.K.) departures.

via  PanAm

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in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic

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OPTIONAL MEAL PLAN

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DEPART
OCTOBER 19
OCTOBER 24
OCTOBER 29
RETURN
OCTOBER 24
OCTOBER 29
NOVEMBER 3

The Jewish Veteran

JULY-AUGUST 1977

VOL. 31, NO. 6

CONTENTS

The Jewish War Veteran
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17  17

5 A YEAR TO REMEMBER by Dr. Robert Shor



9 "BELGRADE" APPROACHES—Soviet Human Rights Violations Continue



12 THE "OTHER" REFUGEES— Jews from Arab Countries



15 MAKING IT IN THE KOSHER MARKET



19 WASHINGTON AND THE LIKUD VICTORY



DEPARTMENTS

BRIEFING	4
POTOMAC FEVER	22
TAPS	23
LETTERS	26
AROUND THE CIRCUIT	27
INSURANCE	31
TRAVEL	2, 32

briefing

CIVIL DEFENSE DEBATE . . . Experts in the defense community and on Capitol Hill continue to debate the value of domestic civil defense efforts, especially with respect to similar Soviet efforts.

A joint Congressional Committee recently concluded that one billion dollar a year Soviet civil defense programs do not provide any reliable protection against U.S. strategic forces. It concluded, therefore, that it would be a waste of money for the United States to counter Soviet civil defense developments. However, despite Carter Administration protests, the House has voted to increase the civil defense budget from \$90 million to \$134.8 million.

Maj. George Kolt of the U.S. Air Force, in the current issue of *STRATEGIC REVIEW*, concedes that the Soviet effort has not demonstratively proven its worth. He says, though, that the amount of effort and money being poured into their program insures its improvement.

Major Kolt describes Soviet civil defense training as a "lifetime program for each citizen."

ISRAELIS DESIGN NEW TANK . . . Israel has developed, successfully tested and is now producing a new 56-ton tank which is, in many ways, revolutionary in design. The tank, known as the Merkava (Chariot), presents an unusually low silhouette making it a difficult target even for sophisticated anti-tank missiles and affords maximum protection for its crew, according to the descriptions just released. The new tank carries special equipment against chemical warfare. It is hermetically sealed and carries an air conditioning system.

The Merkava has been tested on the Golan Heights and in the Sinai—rocky and sandy regions, respectively—and is now on the production line although it has not been delivered yet to the armored corps. The development of such a tank by Israel has long been rumored in professional publications, including the *American Armed Forces Journal*. Confirmation that it exists was made only after President Carter promised last week that the U.S. will continue to assist Israel to manufacture weapons for its defense.

The Merkava is driven by a 900 hp American made engine manufactured by Teledyne Continental Motors. Otherwise it represents an entirely Israeli conception and design that has been in the making for seven years and is credited to Gen. (Res.) Israel Tal, the former armored corps commander who directed the giant tank battles of the Yom Kippur War.

The Merkava is heavier than the American Patton tank, the British Centurion or the Russian T-62. It is armed with a 105 mm. cannon which gives it fire power equal to that of any other tank but it is said to have greater mobility. Its flat turret makes for the lowest silhouette of any known tank. Its engine is in the

front, allowing for a rear escape hatch for its crew, a revolutionary safety feature. The Merkava normally will carry a four-man crew but it can transport 10 fully equipped infantrymen in addition to a payload of 62 105 mm. shells.

SAVING SOCIAL SECURITY . . . The U.S. social security system, which has been easing the retirement years of Americans for 41 years, is in danger of going broke. An increasing number of longer-living retirees combined with inflation-bloated benefits are threatening to drain the system's precariously low reserves. Some estimates see bankruptcy for the system as early as the end of this decade.

In May, the Carter Administration announced a three-pronged approach aimed at stemming the tide. Firstly, it would raise the \$16,500 level on which employees pay social security taxes. How high it would be raised has yet to be determined. But the Administration hopes to gain \$4 billion in new reserves over a three-year trial period. Secondly, the \$16,500 limit on which employers pay social security taxes would be eliminated. Henceforth, they would pay the 5.85 percent social security tax on their employees' full wage, injecting \$30 billion into the system over a three-year period. Lastly, the plan foresees the diversion of \$14.1 billion in general tax revenues into the social security fund over the three-year trial period and would seek to institutionalize that remedy whenever the nation's unemployment rate rose above 6 percent.

The plan must first be accepted by Congress before it becomes operational. But Congress is unlikely to focus its scrutiny on the plan until next year.

RIGHT-WING U.S. FOUNDATIONS HELPING NAZIS . . . Simon Wiesenthal has charged that two right-wing foundations in the United States are channeling tax-free donations for the legal defense of Nazi war criminals and said that one of them is connected with a world-wide disseminator of anti-Semitic and other racial hate propaganda.

The Nazi-hunter named the foundations as the *Hermine Ryan Defense Fund* of New York and the *Patriotic Legal Fund* of Marietta, Ga. He said they collected monies from about 80 neo-Nazi and Fascist groups in the U.S. and Canada. According to Wiesenthal, the *Patriotic Legal Fund* is connected with *White Power Publications* of Liverpool, W. Va.

He said that *White Power* prints 60 publications in five languages which are distributed in the U.S., South America, notably Argentina, Europe, especially West Germany, and South Africa. It also sends German language editions of Nazi books to German underground groups, he said. Its titles include "Adolf Hitler's Testament", "My Part in Germany's Fight" by Goebbels and "Mein Kampf."

According to Wiesenthal, neo-Nazi groups are in various stages of development in different parts of the world. "In Germany and Austria, they are still at the first stage of propaganda," he said. "In Argentina, they have already moved on to the formation of terror commandos, striking synagogues, Jewish community centers and Jewish cemeteries. In South Africa, they foment the conflict between Blacks and whites. . . ."

A Year to Remember

by Dr. Robert Shor

I won't quickly forget the early hours of that August 24th morning, almost one year ago, when I was elected your National Commander. It was with a certain numbness that I walked to the podium in the Diplomat Hotel's Conference Hall to accept your confidence and support. Buffeted by cheers and acknowledgements, I was, for the moment, far away. That sense of animation gave way quickly, though. For when I returned to my room and sat down amidst a sudden quietness, I realized that I had an important, tough job ahead of me. It is difficult to command attention in a society composed of disparate voices. Yet, the Jewish War Veterans of the USA is unique, a one of a kind organization, whose views and attitudes are reflected by no other national organization. I was

determined, then, from the start of my term, that our voice be heard.

Then candidate Carter's call for a blanket pardon for Vietnam-era draft evaders, issued to the American Legion Convention in Seattle two days after my election, gave JWV a ready-made issue. At that time, I repeated our position first adopted at our 1973 Convention: that draft evaders be considered on a case-by-case basis by a blue ribbon panel selected by the President.

I pushed that stance in my September 1st meeting with President Ford. I also urged the President, who was extremely gracious to both Auxiliary President Toye and myself, to scale down the proposed sale of Sidewinder, Maverick and TOW missiles to Saudi Arabia. Apparently our views, and those of other sup-

porters of Israel, held considerable weight. For subsequently, the Ford Administration drastically cut the quantity of lethal missiles being shipped to Saudi Arabia.

While I was in Washington to meet with the President, I also saw Israeli Ambassador Simcha Dinitz and Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld. Although Ambassador Dinitz was quite busy, he gave me an uninterrupted 40 minutes. Dinitz stressed the important role played by the JWV and encouraged me to press our views as diligently as possible.

I met Secretary Rumsfeld at the Pentagon fresh from my meeting with Dinitz. I informed Rumsfeld of our opposition to the Saudi Arabian arms deal and urged him (as I later urged Ford) to re-



National Commander Dr. Robert Shor in warm greeting with the President of Israel, Ephraim Katzir.