



Drug prevention seminar participants

B'nai B'rith Chile Combats Drug Abuse

In the eastern section of Santiago, Chile, where three of every five high school students have experimented with illegal drugs and three in ten are habitual users, B'nai B'rith District 27 has taken a new approach toward solving a common problem.

"Youth, Drugs and the School Community," co-sponsored by the narcotics unit of the Chilean police, prepares local educators to combat drug abuse. The week-long seminar, held in B'nai B'rith headquarters, is conducted by drug pre-

vention experts with follow-up provided by the district.

The success of the program has spurred a flurry of expansion. This month B'nai B'rith will bring together all of Chile's drug prevention groups for a national symposium on drug abuse. And district leaders are planning a full-time information center, where specialists will assist addicts and monitor activities related to Chile's drug trade.

"Originally created as a challenge, this program has grown far beyond that," says District 27 Executive Director Ram Tapia Adler, "and we must be responsible to what it has become."

New Links

The B'nai B'rith Membership Cabinet welcomes the following recently chartered units: Remembrance Unit 5455 (Tamarac, Florida) and Salomon Unit 3354 (Dijon, France).

Mandela Supports Peace Talks

This fall, African National Congress President Nelson Mandela met with American Jewish leaders to express his support for the Middle East peace talks and to discuss relations between his organization and the Jewish community. Mandela told B'nai B'rith's Director of International and Public Affairs Daniel Mariaschin, International Council Director Warren Eisenberg, and four other participants that the peace talks were an inspiration to blacks currently negotiating a transition from apartheid to democracy in South Africa.

The ANC leader reiterated his recognition of Israel's right to exist, but also criticized its "occupation of the conquered territories." Adding that he has encouraged Palestinians to extend recognition to Israel, he said, "It is unrealistic not to recognize the existence of a state which is there."

Turning to the ANC's relations with South African Jewry, Mandela spoke of the community's ongoing support, including legal and medical assistance provided during his 27-year incarceration.

"The Jewish community is playing a vital role in helping us to solve our problems," he said.

Commenting on the meeting, Mariaschin said that while he is still troubled by the ANC's ties with the Arab world, he was reassured by Mandela's tone.

Fourteen children in Bombay, India underwent a mass *pidyon haben* recently, thanks to B'nai B'rith member Jack Goldfarb. The ceremony, a redemption of first-born sons, is usually performed 30 days after birth but was delayed because the community lacked a *kohen* to conduct it. When Goldfarb offered his services, families traveled from villages more than a hundred miles away to present children ranging in age from seven months to 17 years old.

