sionals or senior civil servants and are relatively comfortable economically. While there are few obstacles to emigration, the Government discourages professionals from leaving.

Religious activity is minimal. There is no observance of Jewish marriage and divorce laws and adherence to dietary laws is rare. Still, a recent poll showed that 43 percent of community members observe some holidays or customs, and one out of three Jews attends synagogue at least once a year.

The community is said to have fully supported Marshal Tito, who ruled from 1943 until his death, and his Yugoslav brand of decentralized Communism.

During my stay, I encountered few people who noticed any anti-Semitism in the country today. In fact, Yugoslav law strictly forbids incitement to national, religious or racial hatred.

Yet several years ago a jarring incident—an "abhorrent act," Lavoslav Kadelburg called it—stirred bitter memories, prompting a vigorous response from the Jewish community. A Belgrade magazine, Ilustrovana Politika, serialized excerpts from "The Mysterious World of Freemasons," by Mihajlo Popovski. The book quoted at length the infamous anti-Semitic document "The Protocols of the Elders of Zion," and the magazine published those passages. Concocted in Paris in the 1890s by an agent of the Russian secret police, the document alleged that a sinister Jewish conspiracy sought to dominate the world. Though repeatedly exposed as an outright fabrication, it has been used by anti-Jewish hatemongers in Tsarist Russia, Nazi Germany and elsewhere to justify anti-Semitic policies.

On the federation's behalf, Kadelburg lodged a vigorous protest against the magazine, attracting the attention of political organizations and the media. When condemnations of Illustrovana Politika by Government and Communist Party officials snowballed, its editorial board decided to publish an account of the protests and an apology for its "ignorance and uncritical approach to the material in question."

As for Israel, interest is deep-rooted among Belgrade's Jews. Most call themselves Zionists, but quietly. Jews here recall that Yugoslavia was one of the first countries to recognize Israel in 1948. Earlier, Yugoslavia had secretly allowed thousands of illegal Jewish immigrants to cross its territory en route to Palestine, and after Israel's independence, approximately half of the country's remaining Jews emigrated there.

Though official policy today is tilted toward the Arab nations, trade and tourism continue between Yugoslavia and Israel. Yugoslavia buys citrus fruit, cement, phosphates, textiles and plastics from Israel, and sells the Israelis timber, furniture, meat and metal products. Travel between the two countries has increased in recent years despite the absence of formal air and sea links. It is difficult to judge where the sympathies of the Yugoslav in the street lie in the Middle East dispute, though newspapers and other branches of the media are generally pro-Arab.

It should be noted that in addition to the federation headquarters on 7 Juli Street, the Jewish community owns a building on fashionable Zmaj Jovina Street that was offered as the site of the Israeli Embassy. The building has been closed, however, since the 1967 Six-Day War, when Yugoslavia broke diplomatic relations with Israel. Even so, the Jews of Belgrade patiently wait for its doors to be reopened. □

Jack Goldfarb's travel essays have previously appeared in Present Tense.