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BANGKOK JEWRY
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says Djemal. "Events in Israel are hardly reported here, and bilateral ties are good, although the government doesn't like to make too much noise about them."

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VOL. 4, NO. 1

FEBRUARY, 1989

PASSOVER REUNION IN SHANGHAI

An historic and dramatic milestone has been scheduled for Shanghai during Passover 1989 when members of the Jewish community, some with roots in China for generations, and some that survived the Holocaust by taking refuge in that Chinese city during World War II, will return for their first reunion in China.

Members of the China Jewish community, their families, Jewish leaders and Jews from around the world will converge in China between April 18 and April 30, 1989 to re-establish their ties with China for the first time in 40 years. Some 30,000 Jews, most of them fortunate escapees from Hitler's Europe, lived in China during the World War II period.

Receptions and meetings with Chinese officials and dignitaries, economic and business seminars, historical tours and Passover seders with food specially flown in from the United States are but some of the highlights of the *International Assembly of Jews in China*.

Ambassador Yosef Tekoah, former Israeli ambassador to the United Nations, Chancellor of Ben Gurion University of the Negev in Israel and a former resident of Shanghai, is Honorary Chairman and will be the keynote speaker of the Assembly.

Rabbi David Rosen, former Chief Rabbi of Ireland and currently Dean of Jerusalem's Sapir Jewish Heritage Center and Special Advisor on Interreligious Relations for the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith in Jerusalem, will conduct the Passover Seders in Shanghai.

"For most of us, returning to Shanghai will be a tangible restatement of our faith in Jewish survival and our friendship toward China," said Ambassador Tekoah.



First and foremost, the Assembly is a reunion of Jews of China and an opportunity for them to return to the land that was once their home. But there is more.

With the full blessing of the Chinese government, appropriate signs will be placed on all still existing buildings that were important to the Shanghai Jewish community. Shanghai Television will broadcast these ceremonies and an American film crew led by Mary Catherine Harold, producer of the hit television series *Knots Landing*, will record the events for inclusion in a Public Broadcasting System documentary on the Chinese Jewish community.

Because the Assembly will occur during a time of increased contact between China and Israel, the importance of official Chinese partici-

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REPORT ON TRIP TO THE PRC
Fall and Winter, 1988

by Albert E. Dien

Late this summer my wife and I led a tour group to Tibet, after which we returned to Beijing. We were able to remain in China for the next several months because we were both on sabbatical leave from our respective universities. While most of my time was engaged in research connected with my academic interests, the archaeology and history of medieval China, certain of my activities may be of interest to members of the Sino-Judaic Institute.

Beijing

I met Mr. Tang Yusheng, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, and had a long conversation with him at his home. He has almost completed a MS of a book analyzing the belief system of the Kaifeng Jewish community based on the various inscriptions. He is hoping to have the manuscript translated into English or Hebrew.

I also met Miss Chiara Betta, a young Italian student who is a member of SJI and who has just enrolled in Beijing University to continue her studies of Chinese and eventually, perhaps, to do a dissertation on some aspect of the history of the Chinese Jews, for submission to her university, the University of Oriental Languages of Venice.

Kaifeng

I was in Kaifeng from Dec. 3 to 10. Again, not all of my activities were directly related to Sino-Judaic matters and I will report only on those which might be of interest. I lived in the Dongjing Hotel, the manager (the formal title is Vice General Manager) of which is Liu Wenqing, whom some of us knew as a guide in the Kaifeng branch of CITS. He was very helpful and is interested

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