

August-September
2006

ISRAEL-CHINA VOICE OF FRIENDSHIP No.57

PUBLISHED BY THE ISRAEL - CHINA FRIENDSHIP SOCIETY IN TEL-AVIV,
FOUNDED BY IGUD YOTZEI SIN (ASSOCIATION OF FORMER JEWISH RESIDENTS OF CHINA)

T. KAUFMAN

The President of ICFS

FROM THE DIARY OF THE FRIENDSHIP SOCIETY

THE 15TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH CHINA

During January 2007 we will celebrate the 15th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Israel and China. After 40 years of complete isolation from each other a new era began in 1992.

During the past 15 years much has been achieved in the fields of rapprochement between our two countries in all kind of activities: diplomatic, commercial and cultural. Friendship with China became an integral part of our foreign policy. Commercial ties are growing with each passing day. Chinese imports into Israel have reached 1.5 billion dollars, Israeli exports into China - 600 million dollars. Israeli know-how in agriculture is constantly spreading in China, exchange of students exists between our two countries, Israeli exhibitions are held in China, and Chinese exhibitions are brought to Israel. These are the best proof of the fact that it is the desire of both countries to make up in 15 years for all that was missed in the 40 years of isolation. The Israel-China Friendship Society established in March 1992 plays an important part in these achievements. The Israel-China Friendship Society and the Association of Former Residents of China were the pioneers of the public non-government rapprochement of Israel with China. Preparations for the celebration of the 15th anniversary of the establishment of the Israel-China Friendship Society and a detailed report about our work in the past will demonstrate the contribution of the ICFS to the cause of rapprochement with the people of China. The second forum on the History and Culture of the Jews of Harbin which took place in June is the

best proof of ties that are becoming ever stronger between Harbin and the Heilongjiang province with Israel and Jews who are former residents of that city. The restoration of the building of the "New" Synagogue, the opening of a permanent exhibition on "The History of the Jews of Harbin", the building of a synagogue in the Jewish cemetery, the placing of memorial plaques on the facades of all buildings which remind us of the Jewish past in Harbin demonstrate the desire to strengthen ties with Israel and the Jewish people. All those who hold dear the Jewish past in China, and all those who for many years have already followed along the path of friendship with this ancient people can be glad and proud of an additional achievement in the building of an ever-lasting friendship between Israel, the Jews of the whole world and China.

HARBIN - DAOLI - AMIKAM AGREEMENT

Within the framework of the program of the Forum which took place in Harbin in June 2006, a treaty of friendship was signed between Harbin's district of Daoli (formerly Pristan) and the representatives of the settlement of Amikam, part of the Alona district council. This agreement concluded under the patronage of the Harbin municipality and the Israel-China Friendship Society has as a goal the strengthening of cultural, commercial and agricultural ties between the Daoli District where the overwhelming majority of the Jews of Harbin lived in the past, and Amikam, a settlement of young people (members of Betar). Amikam is the only place in Israel where several generations of former residents of Harbin live as a community till today. We, on our part, greet this undertaking and will render every assistance to achieve the purposes of the agreement.

ADDRESS BY H.E. CHEN YONGLONG, CHINESE AMBASSADOR TO ISRAEL (JULY 11TH, 2006)

Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,
Good evening!

It is my great pleasure to invite friends from Israeli government, business circle and media to come to this gathering, to review the traditional friendship between the Chinese and Jewish peoples as well as between the People's Republic of China and the State of Israel, to prepare for the 15th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relationship between China and Israel, and to initiate new thinking for the further development of our bilateral friendly cooperation.

During my stay in Israel for the last two and a half years, I am deeply impressed by the Israelis' growing interest in China. I have been "forced" to become a speechmaker by the Israelis' enthusiasm in getting to know China. Wherever I go, be it university, enterprise, municipality or kibbutz, people always keep me talking until my voice becomes hoarse. Basically, I think China attracts so much attention because of the tremendous changes that have taken place in less than thirty years, made only possible by the reform and opening-up policy. Indeed, from 1978 to 2005, China's GDP increased by 11 times, from 200 billion US dollars to 2,200 billion dollars. Its GDP per capita increased from 220 dollars to 1,700 dollars. Last year, China's foreign trade amounted to 1.4 trillion dollars. As of last February, China's foreign reserves stood at 850 billion dollars. China has succeeded in feeding its 1.3 billion population, relieving over 200 million people from poverty, and extending nine-year compulsory education system to almost every corner of the country. The Chinese government provides assistance to more than 60 million people with disabilities and offers equal development opportunities to all 56 ethnic groups. China now enjoys social stability. And the Chinese people are pursuing prosperity in peace.

More significantly, China is exploring and pursuing a path of peaceful development, the essence of which is that China seeks to develop itself by securing a peaceful international environment, while at the same time, promoting world peace through its own development. China will rely on its own strength, reform and innovation to achieve development. Meanwhile, it remains open to the world. China conducts exchanges and cooperation with other countries on the basis of equality and mutual benefit, in order to achieve a win-win situation and common development. China's development is a development of peace, open, cooperation and harmony in nature.

Despite all China has achieved, we remain a developing country facing many challenges. Big population, low productivity and unbalanced regional development are the basic facts of China's current situation. China still ranks behind the 100th place in

terms of per capita GDP. And 23.65 million of its rural population still lives in poverty. China needs to provide jobs for close to 24 million people every year. And over 100 million rural labor force in surplus needs to be transferred to other sectors. China still needs a long time and unremitting efforts and scientific thinking to develop before it achieves modernization. Therefore, the National People's Congress earlier this year approved "The 11th Five-Year Plan" of the national economic and social development for 2006-2010. In the next five years, China will stick to a scientific approach in guiding the overall economic and social advancement, make greater efforts in speeding up our reform and opening-up, strengthen creativity and the ability to take new initiatives, promote the readjustment of the economic and social structures and the transformation of economic growth modes, and enhance the effectiveness of the economic growth, so that all people can benefit from the achievements of our reform and development.

By firmly pursuing the path of peaceful development and concentrating in construction and development, China is not only growing in strength but also creating more opportunities for the whole world. And I think China and Israel are definitely able to build such a model of cooperating hand in hand while achieving mutual prosperity.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Both Chinese and Jewish civilizations are brilliant and have long histories. The friendship between Chinese and Jewish peoples has lasted from generation to generation and been constantly renewed. In the past 14 years since the establishment of bilateral diplomatic relationship, our two countries have developed omni-directional ties in political, economic, military, scientific, educational and cultural fields. The bilateral trade increased from 50 million dollars in 1992 to 3 billion dollars in 2005. The amount of Israeli FDI programs in China reached 204. At least 800 Israeli companies are doing business in China. And recently more and more venture capitals aimed at Chinese market. We have various cooperative forms in the agriculture area, such as joint research and development, import of equipments, training, and demonstration farms. Our efforts to learn from Israel bore sweet fruits. Mashav programs have accumulatively helped train more than 4000 specialized personnel. There have been 1000 Chinese students coming to study in Israel, and nearly 400 Israeli students have learned in China. The content and the variety of our cultural exchanges have been extended, with new energies injected by the participation of commercial and nongovernmental groups in this field. In 2005, our Embassy issued 37000 one-entry or multiple-entry visas for Israelis, which is 2.5 times of the number in 2001. There are 7 pairs of sister cities between China and Israel. And

3 new pairs are on their way.

We can conclude from above-mentioned achievements as the following: Israel has a developed economy and advanced technologies, whereas China has rich human resource, a huge market and limitless potential for development. Our two economies are highly complementary, which is the firmest base and strongest motivation to develop mutually beneficial cooperation at the times of globalization. It is because of discerning such advantages, the top leaders from our two countries both placed high expectations on bilateral cooperation. During his visit to Israel in December 2004, Chinese State Councilor Mr. Tang Jiaxuan proposed that Sino-Israeli trade volume should reach 5 billion dollars by 2008. And just two months ago, Prime Minister Ehud Olmert told me once again that China's development is not a threat but Israel's opportunity, and that Israel welcomes Chinese merchandise and continues to promote the export of Israeli hi-tech products to China. This consensus at the top level of the leadership proves that the bilateral relationship is becoming more mature and substantial. Now I would like to make some recommendations, which may serve as a clue for our future cooperation. Firstly, during "The 11th Five-Year Plan", China will pay most attention on agriculture, work hard to upgrade the science, technology and education, and strive to build a resource conservation and environment friendly society. Since Israel has management expertise and commercialized mechanism in agriculture, information technology, biological technology, new material and new energy, Israel will find promising business opportunities in China in the relative fields. Secondly, there are huge projects related to the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games and the 2010 Shanghai World Expo, which will bring unique opportunities for Israeli communication, security, software and electronic companies. Thirdly, the Chinese government is carrying

out the strategies of "Grand Development of Western China" and "Strengthening the Central China". Israel has already involved in the construction of central and western China and had a good basis for further cooperation. I believe more and better cooperation can be expected if both sides fully utilize the preferential policies of the Chinese government.

The entrepreneur spirit and business talent of the Jewish people are well acknowledged all over China. I therefore firmly believe that for Israelis, the Chinese market is just like the wide sea for fish to leap or the vast sky for birds to fly. And I am sure we will receive more and more good news of Sino-Israeli cooperation. Ladies and Gentlemen,

With our economy further developed and upgraded, the international status of China is also strengthened. Chinese are peace-loving people ever since ancient times and the core of Chinese culture is cherishing peace and harmony. Chinese people believe that peace, development and cooperation is the irreversible trend of our times. The Chinese Government unswervingly pursues an independent foreign policy of peace, which focuses on actively pushing for a better world system that is fair and rational, earnestly implementing the new approach to development centered on equality and mutual benefit, promoting the new security concept featuring mutual trust, mutual benefit, equality and cooperation, and advocating a new concept of inter-civilization cooperation that features respect for diversity. China sincerely hopes that Jewish and Arab nations will coexist peacefully. We oppose terrorism of all forms and support all proposals and mediation efforts helpful for relieving the tense situation in the Middle East. China will continue to make constructive contribution in pushing forward the Middle East peace process.

Thank you!

GATEWAY TO CHINA CHINESE GOVERNMENT INTERNET PORTALS

Chinese Government's Official Web Portal: <http://www.gov.cn>

Chinese State Information Office:
<http://www.chma.org.cn/english/index.htm>

Government White Papers:
<http://www.china.org.cn/e-white/index.htm>

Ministry of Foreign Affairs: <http://www.fmprc.gov.cn>

National Development and Reform Commission:
<http://en.ndrc.gov.cn>

Ministry of Education: <http://www.moe.edu.cn/>

Ministry of Science and Technology: <http://www.most.gov.cn>

Ministry of Justice:
<http://www.legalinfo.gov.cn/english/englishindex.htm>

Ministry of Finance: <http://www.mof.gov.cn>

Ministry of Commerce: <http://www.mofcom.gov.cn>

National Bureau of Statistics: <http://www.stats.gov.cn>

China National Tourism Administration:
<http://www.cnta.gov.cn>

Taiwan Affairs Office: <http://www.gwvtb.gov.cn>

Beijing Olympic Games:
<http://en.beijing-2008.org/33/28/homepage211612833.shtml>

Shanghai Expo: <http://www.expo2010china.com>

Media

People's Daily: <http://www.people.com.cn>

Xinhua News Agency: <http://www.xinhuanet.com;>
<http://www.chinaview.cn>

China Daily: <http://www.chinadaily.com.cn>

Embassy of the People's Republic of China in Israel
219 & 222 Ben-Yehuda St., Tel Aviv
P.O.B.6067, Tel Aviv 61060
Tel:03-5467312 (Secretary); 03-6023214 (Visa Section)
Fax:03-5467251

Website: <http://www.chinaembassy.org.il>

Email: chmaemb_il@mfa.gov.cn

Economic and Commercial Counselor's Office of the Embassy

94, Namir Road, Tel Aviv 62337
Tel: 03-5465922, Fax: 03-5465926

Website: <http://il.mofcom.gov.cn>

Email: chinabiz@netvision.net.il

Jerusalem Bureau of Xinhua News Agency of China

Tel: 02-5619212, Fax: 02-5610989

Website: <http://www.info-china.co.il>

Email: bjrxhaf@xinhua.org

JEW S VISIT CITY WHERE THEY WERE BORN, GREW UP

BY LI FANGCHAO
HARBIN

Though Harbin, capital of Northeast China's Heilongjiang Province, was credited as an international municipality with exotic historical architectural style, the sudden arrival of nearly 100 Jews was still something to marvel at. They are not visitors, but were excited to stand again in the old synagogue, streets, houses and schools they were so familiar with about more than half a century ago. They came to take part in a three-day international forum on the history and culture of Harbin Jews, and also to witness the opening of an exhibition of the same theme. Yehudit Bein could not conceal her excitement to see the house she was born in 66 years ago.

"It is still there after so many years," the Israeli scholar said in scattered English sentences.

Her former home still stands on Central Street, the city's earliest business centre. Her house is just across the street from the Modern Hotel, one of the most famous hotels founded by Jews in 1913. But Bein was a little disappointed to learn the house's entrance is being restored.

"I really want to see the apartment I was born in," she said. For several decades from the end of the 19th century to the middle of the 20th century, more than 20,000 Jewish people came to Harbin. They came to escape the waves of anti-Semitism in Russia and Europe, according to Qu Wei, president of the Heilongjiang Provincial Academy of Social Sciences. "Harbin people, with their unique and broad-minded hospitality, accepted and developed long-lasting friendships with them," Qu said. "That history is a brilliant page in China's humanitarian record."

Bein said that she represented the "young Israeli generation" who still remembers Harbin. People of her age left the city around the age of 10.

"Even today, we are still called 'the Harbin kids,'" she said. Bein expressed her appreciation of the peaceful childhood she enjoyed in Harbin.

"During the war, when the whole of Europe was aflame, we enjoyed a comfortable life," she said.

By the end of World War II, there were about 30,000 Jews in

China.

"Thirty thousand people came and 30,000 people left China," said Teddy Kaufman, President of the Association of Former Residents of China and the Israel China Friendship Society. "Nobody was killed," he said.

"A person may experience many important moments during his lifetime and today is one of them," said Kaufman, while attending the opening ceremony of the exhibition on the history and culture of Harbin Jews.

The permanent exhibition was held in the newly-restored Jewish "New" Synagogue, which was first built in 1921. "Only a great nation and people with the broadest minds can do such great things," he said.

The city made great efforts in preserving Jewish buildings and relics. Harbin has preserved the largest Jewish cemetery in East Asia, which has about 600 tombstones and includes the grave of the grandfather of the Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert. The city's dozens of Jewish assembly halls, hotels, schools, hospitals, banks, shopping malls, dwelling houses, kindergartens and office buildings, some of which are nearly a century old, are protected by Harbin municipal government. Some of the buildings have been repaired and maintained in large scale, like the Jewish "New" Synagogue, which was restored in 2005. "The Jewish people have contributed a lot to the economy of many countries in the world," said Ora Nanmir, former Israeli ambassador to China. "But no country, no city has done something like that."

"For a long time, no matter how the city expanded or relocated, these historical buildings or relics are basically preserved," Qu said.

Kaufman said that there are a few thousand ex-Harbin Jews in the world today. He hoped these people would come back to visit and do business in Harbin.

"It is very important that the heritage of Jewish past was preserved, they will keep it as they keep it now," he said.

Source: China Daily

INTERNATIONAL FORUM ON THE HISTORY & CULTURE OF HARBIN JEWS

哈尔滨犹太历史文化国际论坛代表合影 2006.6.18





ISRAEL ADOPTS A VILLAGE IN CHINA TO MARK ITS INDEPENDENCE DAY

A retractable roof, a modern irrigation system and high-quality vegetables. The features of two advanced greenhouses that Israel have designed for a village in the Beijing suburbs. The Israeli Embassy in Beijing yesterday celebrated its 58th Independence Day by adopting the Xiaoliugezhuang village in outskirts Daxing District. The greenhouse project is one part of the cooperation.

"We decided to celebrate our National Day this year in a unique way," said Dr. Yehoyada Haim, Ambassador of Israel, at the project inauguration ceremony held at the village. According to Haim, the Embassy will help Xiaoliugezhuang village by introducing advanced methods and technologies in four main fields: agriculture, health, education and community culture. Besides the two newly-built modern greenhouses, Israeli agricultural experts also installed modern pressurized drip irrigation systems in 20 local greenhouses. Local farmers also received 25,000 quality seeds from Israel, along with training and professional consultation. A total of six mobile digital milking machines and data collection software were installed at a family dairy farm.

"These modern facilities will make the small-scale dairy farm more professional and increase productivity," said Lior Yaron, an Israeli dairy cattle expert.

In the village there is a clinic, which serves approximately 5,000 residents from the surrounding area. In order to upgrade the local clinic, the Israeli Embassy supplied medical equipment including surgery comprehensive first-aid set, oxygen concentrator, ultrasound machine and much more. Chang Hong, a member of staff at the clinic, said that with all the equipment more local residents will come to the clinic for treatment of minor diseases rather than go to the larger hospitals further away. In addition, the Israeli Embassy has also helped a regional primary school with about 400 students by establishing a library and a playground, and offered books, computers and tracksuits for children. Chinese Foreign Minister Li Zhaoxing sent a written message Tuesday to Ambassador Haim and expressed his congratulations on the Israeli Independence Day which was celebrated in such a special way in China.

Li said China is on the way to build a harmonious society, with one important task to build a new socialist countryside under the concept of developing in a scientific way.

In a mural painting on the school's gate, renowned Israeli painter Rami Meiri and the school children jointly painted their dreams: an Israeli girl and a Chinese girl walking together up some stairs. Behind them are green forests, lawns and the Chinese words "Love from Israel".

"China Daily"

AT THE HARBIN JEWISH CEMETERY

犹太人冰城祭奠先人

一个多世纪的交往,让哈尔滨人和犹太人结下了不解之缘,作为当时远东地区聚居犹太人最多的城市,这里除了保存大量的犹太文化遗址遗迹,还有一块犹太人的墓地。19日上午,来参加哈哈会的以中友好协会会长考夫曼一行50余人,来到位于哈同公路六公里处的皇山公墓犹太墓地,拜祭埋葬在这里的亲人。

9时,祭扫活动准时在皇山公墓犹太墓地举行。50余名原在哈居住的犹太人及其后裔依次向自己亲人的墓碑敬献了鲜花。蒙蒙细雨中,庄严肃穆的气氛笼罩了整个皇山公墓。祭拜者中,有的默默伫立在亲人的墓碑前,手握经卷小声地祷告;有的翻阅着墓地的图表,仔细地在上面寻找亲人的名字。以色列驻华原公使欧慕然·奥尔默特来到自己的祖父墓前,双手扶着墓碑伫立了很久。欧慕然·奥尔默特说,他此次同时是代表身为以色列总理的弟弟埃胡德·奥尔默特来为祖父扫墓的。作为曾在哈尔滨居住过的犹太人后裔,他向哈尔滨人民表示感谢。82岁的以中友好协会会长考夫曼从小在哈尔滨长大,他对哈尔滨有着特殊的感情。而他的祖父、祖母、母亲、姐姐均在哈尔滨工作学习过,并最终长眠在这片土地上。

祭扫结束后,考夫曼向记者讲述了当年犹太墓地创建过程中一些鲜为人知的故事。考夫曼说,从1898年开始,一些犹太人陆续来到哈尔滨居住。到了1958年,已经有3000多名犹太人葬在这片土地上。那时,犹太人的墓地很小,安排不下很多的墓穴,一些葬在这个墓地外面的坟墓给其后人祭扫带来很大不便。于是,对葬在外面的坟墓进行迁移的事情提上日程。在犹太习俗中,迁墓相当受重视,程序也非常复杂,且需要很大一笔费用。



考夫曼冒雨祭扫

后来,一些犹太民间社团举办了募捐活动,筹资近20万美金,用5年时间建了这块墓地,首批共找到850个墓穴,迁墓625个,并对其他找不到亲人的225个死者的墓穴制作了金属标牌。

考夫曼感慨地说,哈尔滨犹太墓地是中国唯一的一所犹太墓地,也正因为这块土地收留了犹太人的祖先,并且为他们保留了一块灵魂的安歇之地,很多犹太人都亲切地称呼哈尔滨为“第二故乡”。

□ 见习记者 罗彦坤 文/摄

新闻背景:

哈尔滨犹太人墓地始建于1903年,原址位于哈尔滨市原太平区大安街。墓地完全按希伯来教规埋葬死者,设有教堂、休息厅和办公室,墓地周围建有两米高砖墙,正面向南有方形尖塔式高楼,被称为“犹太公墓”。

1958年,哈尔滨将犹太墓地迁到市区东郊的皇山,占地836平方米,保存坟墓605座。1977年,哈尔滨出巨资修复墓

地,建立了甬道、围栏等,由皇山公墓管理处负责管理。现存墓地中,有当年活跃在哈的著名企业家、市政管理者、音乐家、作家、演员和银行家的墓穴,安葬着以色列前总理拉宾的亲属,哈尔滨犹太人的精神领袖亚伦·吉塞列夫以及当年哈尔滨犹太宗教公会会长亚·考夫曼的亲属们。在皇山公墓中,完好地保存着远东地区规模最大的犹太人公墓。

Israel-China Friendship Society

RECEPTION AT THE RESIDENCE OF THE AMBASSADOR OF CHINA

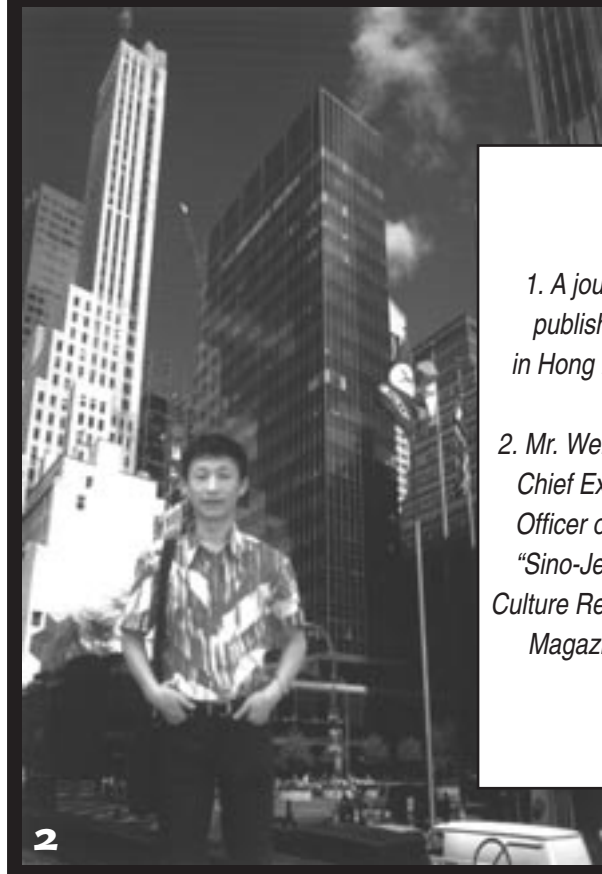
On July 11 a festive reception on the occasion of the entrance into the 15th year of the diplomatic relations between China and Israel was held at the residence of Mr. Chen Yunlun, the Ambassador of China to Israel. Numerous representatives of the Israeli government and wide circles of the Israeli public - about two hundred guests - were present. Mr. Chen Yonglong, the ambassador of China, Mr. Shimon Peres, the Vice-premier and Minister, Mrs. Tzipi Livni, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, and Mr. Itzhak Herzog, the Minister of tourism made speeches. Among those invited were the former ambassadors of Israel to China: Ze'ev Sufot, Moshe Ben-Yaakov, Ora Namir and Itzhak Shelev. The Israel-China Friendship Society and Igud Yotzei Sin were represented by Rasha and Teddy Kaufman.

VISIT TO BEIJING

In the evening of June 21 the delegation which participated in the work of the international forum on the history and the culture of the Jews of Harbin arrived in Beijing. The delegation consisting of six people was headed by T. Kaufman and Y. Klein. Besides them, the group included R. Kaufman, Y. Bain, G. Brovinsky and E. Goldreich-Alon. At the airport the delegation was met by Mr. Gao, a representative of the Central Committee of the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries, who accompanied the group to the "Capital" hotel in the center of Beijing, not far from Tian'anmen Square and the Forbidden City. From 9.30 to 11.30 a.m. T. Kaufman was interviewed by the Beijing television company in the building of the Association of Friendship. At 11.30 a.m. the General Director of the Association held a festive reception in honor of the delegation. Mr. Feng Zuoku in his address dwelled on long-term ties of his Organization with the Israel-China Friendship Society. T. Kaufman thanked Mr. Feng Zuoku in his 15-minute speech. He talked about joint work for the good of friendship and collaboration between our two countries. I. Klein presented Mr. Feng Zuoku with a souvenir "A view of Jerusalem" made of silver. At 10 p.m. a part of the delegation flew to Israel by an El-Al flight, while I. Klein and G. Brovinsky remained in Beijing for two more days.



1



1. A journal
published
in Hong Kong.

2. Mr. Wen Sha,
Chief Execut
Officer of the
"Sino-Jewish
Culture Research
Magazine"

AT THE RECEPTION IN BEIJING OF THE DELEGATION OF IGUD YOTZEI SIN AND THE ICFS



*From left to right:
(second left)
Judith Bein,
Y. Klein,
Mr. Feng Zuoku,
T. & R. Kaufman,
Gary Bravinsky,
Ella Alon-Goldreich
and the interpreter.*

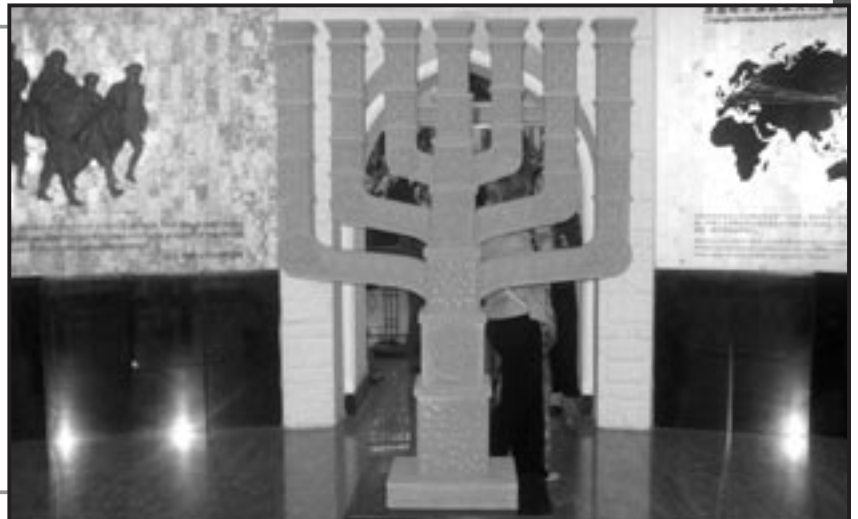
RECEPTION BY PARTY SECRETARY



*The Party Secretary with the
participants at the banquet.
From left to right: R. Kaufman,
Y. Klein, T. Kaufman, Ora Namir,
Shi Jiaxiang, the interpreter,
Amram and Regina Olmert
and Shi Wenqing,
the Mayor of Harbin.*

EXHIBITION IN HARBIN

*In Harbin at the
entrance to the
Exhibition on the
History of the Jews
of Harbin which was
held in the
"New" Synagogue
in June 2006.*



Israel-China Friendship Society

50 YEARS OF THE SHANGHAI ASSOCIATION OF FRIENDSHIP WITH FOREIGN COUNTRIES

Dear friends,

The Israel-China Friendship Society, in the name of all its members, the friends of China in Israel, and all those who were born and lived in Shanghai in the past, warmly congratulates your Society on the 50th anniversary of the establishment of your Association.

From the very first day of its existence, the Israel-China Friendship Society, established in March 1992, has been in close contact with your Association.

In the past years, our ties with Shanghai have considerably strengthened thanks to your Association. Tel Aviv has become a twin city of Shanghai. A Museum of the Jewish past is functioning in Shanghai, the Center for Jewish Studies, Shanghai, has been established, several seminars have been held, some albums devoted to former Shanghai Jews have been published. There has been an exchange of delegations

between Israel and Shanghai.

Your city occupies a special honorary place in the hearts of many Jews and we will never forget that 20,000 refugees from Europe found shelter in Shanghai when Jews were threatened with annihilation in the years of the fascist occupation. Your Association conducts great cultural work for the rapprochement of the peoples and countries of the world with China and it simultaneously represents your great city. We wish you further success in your work for the cause of the rapprochement of the peoples and the strengthening of world peace and understanding.

With warm regards and best wishes,

Israel-China Friendship Society
Teddy Kaufman
President

79th ANNIVERSARY OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S LIBERATION ARMY OF CHINA

On July 31 a reception was held in the "Dan-panorama" hotel on the occasion of the 79th anniversary of the establishment of the People's Liberation Army of China, arranged by Colonel Zhou Yuzhi, the Military Attache of the Chinese People's Republic in Israel, and his wife. More than 200 guests were present at the reception, among them high-ranking officers of the Israel Defense Force, representatives of the academic world, foreign military attaches accredited in Israel, representatives of the press and of the wide circles of the Israeli public. The Israel-China Friendship Society and Igud Yotzei Sin were represented by R. and T. Kaufman, P. and I. Klein, R. Veinerman and A. Fradkin.

VISIT OF DELEGATION OF THE JEWISH UNIVERSITY TO HARBIN

Representatives of the agricultural department of the Jewish university in Jerusalem visited Harbin. The delegation arrived in Harbin on July 30 and stayed in the city till August 2. During their stay in Harbin the members of the delegation met with representatives of Heilongjiang university and the administration of the Heilongjiang province.

SHANGHAI ALBUM IN RISHON LE'ZION

An exhibition of pictures "Shanghai Album" of artist Einat Maor opened in the Palace of Culture in Rishon Le'Zion. The opening ceremony took place at 7 p.m. on September 9. Einat Maor is the husband of Ilana Maor, the former Consul of Israel in Shanghai.



The Opening Ceremony of the International Forum On the History and Culture of Harbin Jews



Letters from....



Hunan

Dear Mr. Kaufman,

Are you in Israel now? How is everything going? I'm Chen Siming, journalist of Hunan Economic TV Station, remember? Thank you very much for your support in Harbin. Your kindness, intelligence and affection for Harbin are very impressive. I hope that you and your wife will visit Hunan province some day in the future.

Best wishes!

Attached are some photos taken in Harbin.

Sincerely Yours,

Chen Siming

News Center of Hunan ETV China



Chunqing

Dear Mr. Teddy Kaufman,

Thank you so much for your message. And I hope my mail will find you in good health.

And here I would like to give my heartfelt thanks for entrusting the symposium committee in Harbin to send me the invitation. But I am so sorry that I couldn't go there, and then missed the chance to meet you. Because after I came back, my parents-in-law who took care of my daughter for me came back to Beijing, and during those several days (when the symposium went on) my husband also went to Beijing for an academic meeting. I had to take care of my daughter at home. It's a great pity for me not going to the symposium in Harbin to meet you.

I am sure it must be a wonderful trip for you and Rasha to China this time. And I also believe as Rasha told me in the telephone before I left Israel that God will give us the third time to meet each other again.

Please give my sweet wishes to Rasha, I miss her very much.

All the best,

Yours,

Zhang Shuqing



Harbin

Dear Mr. Teddy Kaufman,

I'm Guo Qiuping, an associate professor of history in Harbin University. We met at the International Seminar on Jewish History and Culture in Harbin in August, 2004, during which we took a lot of photographs. I'm looking forward to seeing you in Harbin on June 17. I'm studying the history of Jews in Harbin, with the perspective of women issues. I know that your mother, B. I. Kaufman once worked in Harbin as the chairperson of the Harbin Jewish Women's Charity and Harbin Zionist Women's Organization. I hope that I can be fortunate enough to get some valuable material about how your mother organized women's work at that time, such as pictures, letters, documents, and other relevant details. That will be very precious to me. I'm very grateful for your generous help in advance.

Yours,

Guo Qiuping



Tianjin

Dear Sirs,

My name is Liu Yue (Louie), my Jewish friends from different countries recommended me to contact your organization. I work for Tianjin Museum of Modern History which is specialized in the researches on the colonial history of Tianjin. The Jewish history in Tientsin is one of our research projects. Within the last few years, we received a lot of Jewish visitors who tried to trace their family history. We also interviewed a few Tientsin Jews in the US, among them you many know Isabelle Maynard the author of China Dream and Ronald Levaco the film director of Round Eyes in the Middle Kingdom. I heard that there will a Tientsin Jews Reunion in Tel-Aviv in the coming December, I would be very grateful if your organization can invite me to take part in this event and do some interviews afterward. All the costs will be on our own account.

Looking forward to your reply, thanks so much.

With best regards,

Louie (Liu Yue)

Tianjin Museum of Modern History - Director



Harbin

Dear Mr Klein,

This is a letter from a postgraduate of Harbin University of Science and Technology majoring in Polymer Science. I am very fortunate having the opportunity working as a volunteer translator for the Harbin International Forum on Jewish History and Culture and honoured meeting you and Mr Kaufman. I would like to ask you and Mr Kaufman one question, however I was so busy these days translating that I had no chance to do. I have only your name card, so I am taking the venture to write to seek my answer. I remembered that all of you including: Ms Namir, Mr Olmert, Mr Kaufman and you gave a high praise to the work that the government of Harbin Municipality had done to protect Jewish historical relics and to promote friendship between Jews and Chinese. Then as the Deputy President and Treasurer of the Association of Former Residents of China and the Israel China Friendship Society, would you please tell us your government's and your association's policy to promote the communication between the people of the two countries? As a college student, I would like to know have you ever considered to hold some activities to promote communication between young people, especially college students of the two countries. As a Chinese postgraduate, I welcome from the heart young people especially college students from Israel to visit Harbin. And really hope someday I can go to Israel to gain a glimpse of your people's life.

At last, I lost Mr Kaufman's name card, could you please, tell me Mr Kaufman's email address and other contacting numbers. I would like to write to express my gratitude to his niece Ella. Thanks very much for your time to read my letter and hope to meet you when you come to Harbin next time.

Best wishes!

**George
Wang Zhaoli**

GREETING TO PRIME-MINISTER EHUD OLMERT FROM HARBIN

Honorable Mr. Ehud Olmert,

It is such a great pleasure to learn that your Excellency has been elected the Prime Minister of the State of Israel. On behalf of people of the City of Harbin and in my own capacity. I would like to extend our sincere congratulations and best wishes to Your Excellency and your people.

There is deep and traditional friendship between People of Harbin and People of Israel. During the first half of last century, lots of Jewish people who ever led a vagrant life all over the world came to live in Harbin and started their careers. They lived in harmony with local people and made prominent contributions to the development of Harbin. Especially, Jewish people in Harbin participated actively in the Zionist Movement. In recent years, friendly exchanges between Israel and Harbin are becoming more frequent. Among them, the Sister City Relationship between Givatayim and Harbin has been established.

I sincerely hope your Excellency can continue to support the related authorities of Israel to develop friendly exchanges and cooperation with Harbin. I sincerely wish the Government of The State of Israel and people of Israel led by Your Excellency

will make new achievements in process of development of your country.

In June 2004, Your Excellency paid a special visit to Harbin to pay respects to his grandfather buried at the Harbin Jewish Cemetery. I am looking forward to Your Excellency visiting Harbin again at your convenient time after you take up your Prime Minister,

Best regards,
Yours sincerely,

Mr. Du Yuxin Secretary of Harbin Committee of the CPC



HEILONGJIANG PROVINCE

LOCATION: Heilongjiang province is located in the northern frontier of China.

AREA: 469,000 square kilometers

CLIMATE: Heilongjiang Province is located between the temperate and the frigid zones with continental monsoon climate, the yearly average temperature of which is fluctuating from minus 4 to 4 degrees centigrade.

PROVINCIAL CAPITAL: Harbin

POPULATION: 36.89 millions (March 2001)

ETHNIC GROUPS: Besides the Han nationality, there are Man, Hui, Korea, Mongolian and Hezhen nationality etc. totally 49 different ethnic groups.

AGRICULTURE: Heilongjiang, one of the country's most important commodity grain production bases, occupies first place both in the volume of commodity grains and storage. The province's total grain output was 31.045 million tons in 1997, hitting a record high. Its farming, forestry, livestock and fishery industries contributed 50 billion yuan (US\$6 billion) of value-added last year. The province's annual output and export of soy beans rank first in the country. Its exports of soy beans make up two thirds of the country's total. The province's output of flax, beet and flue-cured tobacco also stand in the front row in the country. The province's amount of milch cows, output of milk and dairy products possess first

place in the country.

Industry: Heilongjiang. At present, the province's coal mining, timber felling and transport, petroleum recovering, machinery and chemical, food, textile and light industries have possessed fairly large-scale production capacities. The province mainly produces crude oil, timber, large generating facilities, freight trains, metallurgical equipment, tools and measuring tools, mini and light motor vehicles and heavy building machines, whose output ranks first in the country and 90 per cent of the total products are transferred to other parts of the country.

ISRAEL-CHINA FRIENDSHIP SOCIETY (FOUNDATION OF IGUD YOTZEI SIN)

"BEIT PONVE", 13, Gruzenberg Str., Tel-Aviv
P.O. BOX 1601, Tel. 972-3-5171997 Fax: 972-3-5161631
E-mail: igud-sin@013.net

Members of the Committee:

President -	T. Kaufman	B. Bershadsky	S. Müller
Deputy President		A. Fradkin	A. Podolsky
and Treasurer -	Y. Klein	A. Goldreich	V. Priver-Zussman
Vice-President-	R. Veinerman	M. Kamionka	R. Rashinsky
Secretary -	Y. Ladjensky	G. Katz	Y. Sandel
Legal Adviser -	D. Friedmann,	K. Maimann	E. Vandel
	attorney-at-law	B. Darel	T. Piastunovitch

Control Committee:

M. Lihomanov Z. Vatner