

JEWISH NEWS BRIEFS

TEL AVIV (WNS) A twenty-minute exchange of gunfire between Israel and Syria was reported here by Israeli officials who said the exchange erupted when Syrians fired from a hilltop on Israeli territory north of the Sea of Galilee.

WASHINGTON (WNS) Reacting to the assertion by Soviet Premier Kosygin in Paris that the Soviet Government would permit emigration of Jews for reunification with families abroad, Dr. William A. Wexler, B'nai B'rith head, said it was "an encouraging development" but that judgment must be suspended in view of the fact that "earlier Soviet declarations of similar character have not been fulfilled." In another development, B'nai B'rith officials announced that the organization was making plans to establish an affiliate in Spain under the reported easing of religious restrictions in that country.

PARIS (WNS) A possible softening in Soviet policy toward Israel and toward emigration of Jews from the Soviet wishing to become reunified with family members in Israel was seen here by Jewish circles following a statement by visiting Soviet Premier Alexei Kosygin bearing on emigration, and an assertion by Pravda in Moscow that the Soviet Union was interested in lessening tension in the Middle East.

NEW YORK: Commentary magazine will devote the major portion of its December issue to S. Y. Agnon, who will receive the Nobel Prize for literature in Stockholm on December 10. Coinciding with the award, the newly organized Commentary Library will issue as its first book selections to its members two books by Agnon. As a bonus gift with their first selection, new members of the Commentary Library are being offered a copy of the sociological work, The Jews, edited by Marshall Sklare. Details of the club are available at The Commentary Library, 165 East 56 Street, New York, N.Y. 10022.

NEW YORK: Stage readings of four full length modern Israeli plays are being made available for presentation at congregations and community centers throughout the country by the newly established Extension Service of the Herzl Institute, 515 Park Ave., N.Y.C. 10022.

PARIS (WNS) Dr. Nahum Goldmann, president of the World Jewish Congress, declared here that while the situation requires watching "there was no room for panic" over the recent political developments in West Germany, where neo-nazi elements have recently gotten a political foothold in Hesse and Bavaria.

ROME (WNS) A personal appeal for peace between Arabs and Jews has been issued by Pope Paul VI. The message indicated the gravity of the Mid-East situation.

NEW YORK (WNS) Suits challenging the constitutionality of the use of public funds for church and synagogue schools under the federal aid to education law were filed here.

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