

NEW YORK -- Rabbi Harlan J. Wechsler, an alumnus of Harvard College and of the Jewish Theological Seminary, has been named Associate Director of the United Jewish Appeal's Rabbinical Advisory Council.

JERUSALEM (WNS) -- Gideon Rafael, director general of the Foreign Ministry, is touring Scandinavian countries to organize plans to counter any possible Egyptian diplomatic move to "isolate" Israel at the UN General Assembly that meets next month.

NEW YORK (WNS) -- Richard Maass, chairman of the American Jewish Conference on Soviet Jewry reported that Mrs. Esther Markish and David Markish, the widow and son of the Soviet Yiddish poet Peretz Markish, who was killed in 1952 during the Stalin purges, have staged an eight-hour silent demonstration in Moscow, wearing yellow "Stars of David" to demonstrate against the plight of Soviet Jewry and to protest the USSR's refusal to grant them exit visas.

TEL AVIV (WNS) -- A week-long general strike of shop owners and taxi and bus owners in the Gaza Strip, called by the terrorist groups El Fatah and The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, came to a sudden halt after one day when Israeli occupation authorities cracked down on the strikers.

TEL AVIV (WNS) -- U.S. youths, 18 and under, won most of the medals in the sports segments of the Second International Israeli Youth Festival held in Beit Berl.

JERUSALEM (WNS) -- Some 80 Venezuelan friends of the Hebrew University, ranging in age from 6 to 70, are touring Israel as part of a three-week program that will include the laying of a corner stone of the Casa Venezuela, to be used for the University's Department of Latin American Studies.

COPENHAGEN (WNS) -- Vigo Karpman, Denmark's Prime Minister from 1960-62, who is chairman of the Denmark-German Democratic Republic Friendship Association, and who is well known for his friendship towards Israel, has reported that East German political figures have expressed interest in establishing diplomatic ties with Israel.

LONDON (WNS) -- The Peking official newspaper, People's Daily, has denied that contacts have taken place in Paris between Chinese and Israeli representatives with a view towards establishing diplomatic relationships.

NEW YORK -- Rep. Gerald R. Ford of Michigan, Minority Leader of the House of Representatives, and Major General Haim Laskov, former Chief of Staff of the Israel Army, will address the 74th National Convention of the Zionist Organization of America Sept. 4 in Pittsburgh.

JERUSALEM (WNS) -- Gonzalo Pacio, Foreign Minister of Costa Rica, in an interview prior to returning home after a weeklong visit, said his country would work actively against any Arab-sponsored anti-Israel resolution in the forthcoming United Nations General Assembly.

JERUSALEM (WNS) -- The Soviet Union was charged with deliberately breaking international postal law by refusing to deliver letters from Israelis to their relatives in the USSR, including invitations to join them in Israel.

NEW YORK (WNS) -- In a communication from the White House to Rabbi Israel Miller, president of the American Zionist Federation, President Nixon has reaffirmed America's commitment "that the military balance in the Near East will be maintained and that a settlement must be arrived at through negotiations between parties." The message added "that the security and well-being of the State of Israel" are among the "fundamental principles to which this government is committed."

NEW YORK (WNS) -- The American Jewish Conference on Soviet Jewry reported that Jews in the city of Tashkent, Uzbekistan, in Soviet Central Asia, are being prevented from building a new synagogue within walking distance of observant members of the city's Jewish community. The old synagogue was destroyed by an earthquake. Tashkent authorities have suggested the synagogue be built on the outskirts of the city.

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NYC ACCUSED OF "BLOCK BUSTING"

NEW YORK (WNS) -- Elly Rosen, Executive director of the Association of Jewish Anti-Poverty Workers, has accused the New York City Welfare Department of "block-busting" tactics in Jewish residential neighborhoods. (Block-busting is a practice of unscrupulous realtors who sell a home on a white block to a black family and then offer to buy homes from the other white families on the block at deflated prices caused by the panic the realtors created. They then sell the homes to black families at inflated prices.)

Rosen charged that the Welfare Department has leased homes in the heart of Jewish neighborhoods "and dumped multiple fatherless families into those homes," opening the way for block-busting. He stated that the Department placed "families in these homes that they would not admit into city housing." Rosen said Jewish neighborhoods were the easiest to bust, "because unlike other communities, Jewish communities do not protect their rights with guns, cross burnings."

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