

JEWISH NEWS BRIEFS

TEL AVIV (WNS) -- Israel suffered its worst single day of casualties since the Yom Kippur War as air and ground fighting continued in the Mt. Hermon area. Eight Israeli soldiers were killed and seven wounded as Syrian gunners scored a direct hit on them as they were getting off armored vehicles near the mountain's summit.

JERUSALEM (WNS) -- The Israeli Cabinet, which is waiting for the arrival of U. S. Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger, is expected to discuss the possibility of withdrawing from the Golan Heights town of Kuneitra.

NEW YORK (WNS) -- Carrying banners demanding freedom for Soviet Jews and singing songs in Hebrew, an estimated 200,000 Jews from the New York Metropolitan area marched down Fifth Avenue during Solidarity Day for Soviet Jewry.

WASHINGTON (WNS) -- Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger, just prior to leaving for the Middle East, met with leaders of the Conference of Presidents of Major Jewish Organizations to discuss Mideast issues.

WASHINGTON (WNS) -- Egypt has threatened to renew the war with Israel if Israel does not withdraw from occupied Arab territories when the Middle East peace conference is resumed in Geneva.

LONDON (WNS) -- Eleven Jews have joined the hunger strike by 50 prisoners in two forced labor camps in Perm to protest against their treatment.

NEW YORK (WNS) -- Jacques Torczyner, chairman of the American Section of the World Jewish Congress, has called for greater candor by American Jewish organizations in dealing with Israel's problems.

TEL AVIV (WNS) --- Chaim Werner, a Jewish boy from Canada, has won the International Bible Quiz for Jewish Youth held here.

JOHANNESBURG (WNS) -- Thirteen Jews were elected during the recent elections in South Africa.

NEW YORK (WNS) --- Israel's Chief Sephardic Rabbi Ovadia Yosef met with U.N. Secretary General Kurt Waldheim to express his "deep concern" at the "ongoing persecution" of Jews in Syria by the Syrian authorities.

JERUSALEM (WNS) -- Israel celebrated the 26th anniversary of its independence in a more solemn mood than in previous years with little fanfare and no military displays.

NEW YORK (WNS) -- Israel's Sephardic Chief Rabbi Ovadia Yosef in the United States for the first time, said the main goal of his visit is "to encourage our brothers not to assimilate" and to urge them to give the younger generation a Jewish education.

NEW YORK (WNS) -- The United States is "the staunchest friend of the Jewish people and the State of Israel," Israel's Sephardic Chief Rabbi Ovadia Yosef told some 700 American Sephardic and Ashkenazic lay and religious leaders at a dinner given in his honor at the Americana Hotel.

WASHINGTON (WNS)-- President Nixon has announced a special aid and development fund package for the Middle East which included \$250 million for Egypt.

CHOOSES U.S. OVER ISRAEL TO COMBAT SOVIET TYRANNY

NEW YORK (WNS) -- Pavel Litvinov, the Soviet Jewish dissident, told a press conference here that he decided to come to the U.S. rather than go to Israel because he wants to continue identifying himself as a Russian.

"I am Jewish," he said. "But I was raised up on Russian culture and I think of myself as a Russian."

Litvinov, the grandson of Maxim Litvinov, a Soviet Foreign Minister under Stalin, admitted that in his application to leave the USSR he said he wanted to go to Israel, but said this was just a pretext. Litvinov, who plans to teach physics at an American University, said he will continue to act for the defense of human rights in the Soviet Union.

He said the Soviet authorities fear mass emigration so they take "preventive measures" against well-known per-

sons by denying them work and persecuting them in order to frighten others.



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