

JEWISH NEWS BRIEFS

TEL AVIV (WNS) -- Three American corporations have filed bids to build a nuclear power plant in Israel to be completed in 8 - 10 years at a reported cost of \$500 million. The bids are from the Westinghouse Corp., General Electric and the Babcock & Wilcox, all leading manufacturers of power generating equipment and experienced in the nuclear field.

WASHINGTON (WNS) -- Egypt's objections to Israel's requests for long-range surface - to - surface "Pershing" missiles will be kept in mind by the United States, Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger said in a CBS interview. He said the arms list submitted by Israel to the U.S. last year which included the "Pershing" is part of a 10-year program which the U.S. has agreed only to "study."

NEW YORK (WNS) -- Rabbi Morton Rosenthal, director of the B'nai B'rith Anti-Defamation League's department of Latin American Affairs declared that the kidnapping and torture last month of Mrs. Mira Judewicz, a teacher at the I.L. Peretz School in Buenos Aires, is part of a continuing high level of anti-Semitism in Argentina.

TEL AVIV (WNS) -- A scuffle between Moscow Jews and Soviet police occurred during a Succoth picnic in a wooded area about 20 miles from Moscow when police tried to confiscate an Israeli flag. Eddie Berna, coach of the Israeli weightlifting team visiting the Soviet Union, reported in a telephone call to Tel Aviv.

NEW YORK (WNS) -- Chaim Herzog, Israel's Ambassador to the United Nations, praised the effectiveness of the American Jewish leadership.

WASHINGTON (WNS) -- Sen. Richard Stone, the first Jewish senator from Florida, has announced he has accepted a personal apology from Jack Eckerd, defeated Republican candidate for injecting a religious issue into the 1974 Senatorial campaign.

WASHINGTON (WNS) -- Pennsylvania Gov. Milton Shapp, 63, has announced his candidacy for the Democratic Party's Presidential nomination, becoming the first Jew to declare himself a major party candidate for the Presidency.

JERUSALEM (WNS) -- Labor Party leaders have been told by Premier Yitzhak Rabin that he is postponing a final decision on whether to propose Haifa Mayor Yosef Almogi as chairman of the Jewish Agency and World Zionist Organization Executive. Rabin wants to discuss the successor for the late Pinhas Sapir with Zionist and Jewish Agency leaders from abroad.

PARIS (WNS) -- Several bottles of pressurized gas, triggered by a wired explosive device, went off outside the home of France's Chief Rabbi, Jacob Kaplan.

WASHINGTON -- A two-volume guide listing publications, audio-visual aids and other resources for helping adults plan careers and find jobs -- a project funded by a \$162,000 Federal grant -- has been completed by B'nai B'rith Career and Counseling Services.

WASHINGTON -- B'nai B'rith, whose own history spans 132 years, will celebrate the American Bicentennial with a series of programs focusing on the development of Jewish communal life in this country.

NEW YORK -- Jewish immigration to Israel (Aliyah) from the United States and Canada during the month of August, 1975, increased 30 percent over August of last year, according to figures released today by the Israel Aliyah Center. The number of North American Jews immigrating to Israel this August was 578 as compared to last year's sum of 407 during the same month.

NEW YORK -- Florence S. Perlman (Hadassah Leader) died Wednesday, September 24.

CINCINNATI -- Prominent Jewish, Protestant and Catholic theologians will participate in a three-day conference on "Whither Liberal Religion: The Hard Questions" October 12-24 at Hebrew Union College - Jewish Institute of Religion.

ISRAEL POUND DEVALUED 10 PERCENT, GASOLINE \$2.20 A GAL., ELECTRICITY UP

JERUSALEM (WNS) -- The Israel Pound has been devalued by 10 percent so that it now stands at IL 7 as compared to \$1.

The decision was made by the Cabinet during a six-hour special meeting devoted to the nation's economic plight. The devaluation along with a series of new taxes and levies is designed to reduce Israel's huge budget deficit and combat inflation by absorbing excesses. The announcement, which was made at dawn, caught most Israelis asleep.

The devaluation came barely three weeks after a special ministerial committee reduced the value of the Pound by 1.9 percent. The committee was created last June

with the authority to reduce the Pound up to 2 percent every 30 days if necessary. But the 10 percent reduction required the full Cabinet to act.

The Israel Pound has now been reduced by 43 percent in value since last November.

The impact on consumers was eased somewhat by the Ministry of Finance, bowing to Histadrut pressure, reversing an earlier decision to eliminate price support for basic commodities such as bread, milk and cooking oil. But many analysts claimed that the price index will go up at least 5 percent.

There was an immediate rush on appliance dealers who said they would con-

tinue selling at the old prices until the present stocks ran out. There were no price increases in furniture and clothing. But everything else is going up. A gallon of gasoline is now \$2.20, a 20 percent increase; bottled gas has gone up a \$1 to nearly \$5 for a container; electricity is going up 30 percent and water by 25 percent; a television set will cost \$500, a \$70 increase among other increases. Representatives of all airlines serving Israel met and decided to increase fares by 11.5 percent.

The public was not surprised by the devaluation but was angry.

Farmers were angry over the price increase in water and

electricity rates, saying that it will be impossible to market their produce under the old prices. The cost of apartments is expected to rise, leaving young couples without hope of buying a decent home.

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