

**JEWISH NEWS BRIEFS**

**NEW YORK** -- Yosef Tekoah, president of the David Ben Gurion University of the Negev and former Israeli Ambassador to the U.N., was among the first donors of the three day Magen David Adom blood drive which took place at the University in Beersheba.

**NEW YORK** -- Over 1,000 day school students from all over the United States participated in the educational project, Lanu Ha'aretz, organized by the Torah Education Department of the American Section of the World Zionist Organization. The purpose of this project is to instill in the student a love of the land of Israel, a central tenet of Judaism.

**NEW YORK** -- More than 200 youths from across the United States will attend the Annual ZOA Masada Mid-Winter Conference, to be held Friday-Monday, December 26-29, at Valley Forge, Pennsylvania.

**SAN JOSE, CALIFORNIA** -- Interested students of any discipline or background are cordially invited to investigate the new Jewish Studies Program, now accepting students for the spring semester at San Jose State University. Contact Dr. Robert E. Levinson in the SJSU History Department at 277-2611 or 277-2595.

**NEW YORK (WNS)** -- Uzi Bloch, the American representative of Histadrut, has called for "an alliance of fighters of freedom" to combat the attack on the world's democracies which he sees during the coming years.

**WASHINGTON (WNS)** -- The Federal Reserve Board has told all banks under its jurisdiction not to participate "even passively" with the requirements of the Arab boycott in any banking processing including the issuing of letters of credit.

**JERUSALEM (WNS)** -- An announcement in Cairo by French President Valery Giscard d'Estaing and Egyptian President Anwar Sadat that France will help Egypt set up an arms industry which by 1980 will be capable of manufacturing or assembling the most advanced weaponry, has caused concern among Israeli officials. They said French support will enable Sadat to maintain the war option and cannot be seen as a contribution to peace in the Middle East.

**JERUSALEM (WNS)** -- With about 70,000 Israelis leaving during the past four years the yordim rate (emigrants) is coming perilously close to matching the aliya figure, according to a Ministry of Finance report.

**JERUSALEM (WNS)** -- The Knesset has received a report that Israeli workers produce only half of what American workers produce and from one-third to two-thirds of workers in Holland, France, Sweden or Switzerland. Labor Minister Moshe Baram said that productivity has hardly increased in years.

**NEW YORK (WNS)** -- The first meeting of the National Aliya Council concluded with the decision to set up five committees to deal with the problems of aliya from the United States.

**UNITED NATIONS (WUP)** -- Without mincing any words, U.S. Ambassador Daniel Patrick Moynihan confronted the full General Assembly on its closing day last week and charged it with having committed "acts" which the United States "regard as abominations."

**JERUSALEM:** The "Eshel Prize," the first of its kind in Israel, was awarded in Jerusalem last month to two social workers for excellence and originality in work with the aged, Mrs. Greta Fisher, Director of Social Services at the Hadassah Hospital in Jerusalem and Mrs. Hanna Yashinsky, a social worker at the Shmuel Harofeh Government Hospital in Beer Yaacov.

**NEW YORK (JTA)** -- Israel is expecting a "positive movement" on its request that the Red Magen David Society in Israel be admitted into the League of Red Cross Societies when the issue comes up next April at the diplomatic conference on Reaffirmation of Humanitarian Law in Geneva.

**MULTI-BILLION ISRAELI BUDGET**

**JERUSALEM (WNS)** -- Finance Minister Yehoshua Rabinowitz has submitted to the Cabinet a multi-billion austerity budget for the 1976-77 fiscal year which is expected to be debated heavily within the Cabinet and the country as a whole.

The draft budget, strongly backed by Premier Yitzhak Rabin and the Bank of Israel which helped shape it, marks the beginning of a three-to-four year effort to improve Israel's strained economy by drastic cuts in government expenditures, increased income from taxes and an invigorated export industry. Dubbed the New Economic Program (NEP), the budget foresees higher prices, new taxes, reduced services, lower living standards and a sharp increase in unemployment.

The Ministry of Finance expects unemployment which totals 37,000 this year to soar to 60,000 next year if the budget is adopted, and go up to 64,000 in 1977 and then level off to about 56,000 in 1978. The Ministry hopes to cushion the impact of unemployment by transferring about 100,000 workers from public service industries to production over the next four years and by introducing new incentives for foreign investors thus creating new jobs. The government also proposes to drastically reduce its subsidies for basic food products and public transportation with the price of bread, for example, going up about 60 percent.

The budget which exceeds the current one by IL 21 billion, earmarks IL 25.25 billion for defense. The Education Ministry is to get IL 3.16 billion, the Health Ministry IL 1 billion and all other ministries under a billion. The various Cabinet ministers are expected to put up a last ditch fight for their budget needs. The Histadrut has attacked the new budget as placing the heaviest burden on wage earners.

One part of the proposed NEP that has already gone into effect is the announcement that tax collection procedures will be tightened to ensure that the government is receiving all the taxes due it.

The Income Tax Commission has summoned 2200 persons for questioning. The persons were selected on the basis of their high living standards and includes those who own expensive cars, a pleasure boat or expensive homes, persons who travel abroad frequently and those who are generally "known for their high standard of living." The tax commission believes there are tens of thousands of persons who fit that category.



**RABBI BERNARD SEGAL, RIGHT, AFTER 23 YEARS AS EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT OF UNITED SYNAGOGUE OF AMERICA, WITH HIS WIFE AND ARTHUR LEVINE, PRESIDENT OF THE CONSERVATIVE MOVEMENT IN JUDAISM, AT BANQUET HONORING THE RETIRING RABBI.**



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