

JEWISH NEWS BRIEFS

JERUSALEM (WNS) -- A four-hour strike by government employees silenced radio and television and closed down other government offices.

WASHINGTON (WNS) -- Senior officials of the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) have estimated that Israel has 10 to 20 nuclear weapons "ready and available for use," according to Arthur Kranish, editor of the newsletter, "Science Trends."

WASHINGTON (WNS) -- The Senate Appropriations Committee has approved a \$5.3 billion foreign and military aid program for the current fiscal year which includes a 25 percent increment to cover a period between the end of the fiscal year on June 30 and the beginning of the new fiscal year October 1. The measure adopted by a voice vote would provide Israel with an additional \$440 million for the transitional period.

NEW YORK (WNS) -- Dr. Yevgeny Levich, the former Soviet physicist who emigrated to Israel in April 1975, said here that the conditions of his parents still in Moscow is serious and he is seeking "continued support and increased pressure from scientists across the United States to help my mother and father and other Jews leave the Soviet Union."

AMSTERDAM (WNS) -- After months of denials, the Iraqi Embassy has informed the family of Leon Aaronson, a Dutch-born Jew, that he was hanged in Baghdad last November.

JERUSALEM (WNS) -- Israel has made it clear that it wants as much trade and cooperation as possible with the European Common Market regardless of political differences with some members of the European Economic Community.

SAVANNAH, GA. (WNS) -- Savannah's new police chief is David Epstein, a Jew, who was formerly chief of police in Iowa City, Iowa.

LONDON (WNS) -- Prime Minister Harold Wilson, who surprised England by resigning as Prime Minister, may be asked to become president of the Labor Friends of Israel, a group of more than 100 Labor Members of Parliament.

NEW YORK (WNS) -- Kalman Sultanik, executive vice-president of the World Confederation of the United Zionists, has urged that elections for the forthcoming World Zionist Congress be postponed to allow Jewish communities throughout the world to concentrate on opposing the intentions of the Arabs to seek the expulsion of Israel from the United Nations next fall.

NEW YORK (WNS) -- Chaim Herzog, Irish-born, Israel's Ambassador to the United Nations, was among the persons in the official reviewing stand as some 100,000 persons marched up Fifth Avenue in New York City's 214th annual St. Patrick's Day Parade.

NEW YORK (WNS) -- The Spanish government plans to establish diplomatic relations with Israel soon, according to a delegation of the World Sephardi Federation, who had an audience with King Juan Carlos I in Madrid.

JERUSALEM (WNS) -- A United Jewish Appeal study mission was told of the concern that the Jewish population of the Galilee may remain a minority because the Jewish Agency lacks the funds to provide the necessary industrial plants and educational facilities.

WASHINGTON (WNS) -- A bill denying major tax benefits to any American company that cooperates with the Arab boycott of Israel by discriminating against American firms black-listed by the Arabs is being submitted to the Senate by a bi-partisan coalition of 11 Senators led by Sen. Abraham Ribicoff (D, Conn.).

WASHINGTON (WNS) -- President Ford has claimed that he had "assurances" that Soviet Jewish emigration would have exceeded the high mark of 35,000 in 1973 had Congress not adopted the Jackson-Vanik Amendment to the Trade Act.

JERUSALEM (WNS) -- The Israeli government has announced another devaluation of the Pound.

ARAB YOUTHS DEMONSTRATE IN WEST BANK

JERUSALEM (WNS) -- Nearly two weeks of violent demonstrations by Arab youths has left the West Bank quiet but tense with curfews imposed on Ramallah, El Bireh and Chalcul.

In one incident three Arab youths were wounded, when they attacked a car full of Israeli soldiers on the Jerusalem-Jericho road near Azaria. One of the youths, an 11-year old boy was in critical condition. The incident was the latest in violent demonstrations by high school and college age youths on the West Bank and East Jerusalem over Jewish prayers on the Temple Mount and Jewish settlement on the West Bank. Arab youths threw stones at Israeli troops and there were frequent clashes.

The Mayors and town councils of Nablus and Ramallah have resigned as a gesture of support for the demonstrators. In Hebron, the largest city in Judea a protest strike virtually paralyzed the city. Schools have been shut down in many towns.

Defense Minister Shimon Peres, who has visited all the troubled areas in an effort to calm the situation, has also

warned that the Israeli government will not tolerate lawlessness from Jews as well as Arabs. He said in a television interview that the authorities "will not hesitate for a moment" to use whatever means are necessary to restore order on the West Bank "on behalf of all residents, Arabs and Jews." Peres was responding to a statement by Rabbi Moshe Levinger, leader of Kiryat Arba, the

Orthodox Jewish settlement established adjacent to Hebron, who ordered his community to "shoot to kill" if they were stoned or otherwise endangered by Arabs.

Some saw the unrest as an attempt by supporters of the Palestine Liberation Organization and other nationalistic groups to prevent the upcoming municipal elections on the West Bank. But Peres stressed the elections will be held as scheduled.

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