

JEWISH NEWS BRIEFS

JERUSALEM (WNS) -- Alex Haley, the author of the international best seller, "Roots," told a packed auditorium at Hebrew University that he found a parallel between the plight of Jews in history and that of Black Africans who were taken into slavery. "Both have proven that by courage and perseverance they can surmount whatever difficulties they may encounter," he said.

WASHINGTON (WNS) -- The 12 members of the Hanafi Moslem sect, who seized three Washington buildings including the international headquarters of B'nai B'rith last March and took 134 hostages, received long prison sentences in District of Columbia Superior Court.

JERUSALEM (WNS) -- Meyer Lansky, the 76-year-old Miami, Fla., reputed underworld figure, has been barred by Israel from coming here as a tourist. Lansky wanted to visit Israel for a few weeks on a tour organized by his local B'nai B'rith lodge.

TEL AVIV (WNS) -- Israel has complained that the Egyptians have 10,000 more troops in their limited forces zone in the Sinai than allowed under the 1975 Israeli - Egyptian agreement.

NEW YORK (WNS) -- A suit seeking \$518,786 in damages from the State of Israel, the Israel Student Organization in the United States and Canada and three former ISO officials was filed in New York State Supreme Court by Yariv Ben Eliezer, the grandson of the late David Ben Gurion.

JERUSALEM (WNS) -- Israel is offering to work with Jordan to prevent the spread of cholera on the West Bank.

FRAUENBERG, FRANCE (WNS) -- Nearly all of the residents of this small city in Alsace joined their mayor and local priest in a special ceremony at the Jewish cemetery to protest the recent desecration of the local Jewish cemetery.

WASHINGTON (WNS) -- Rep. Jack Kemp (R. NY) is preparing a bill to have the Post Office issue a 13-cent stamp "honoring Jews persecuted and killed by the Nazis and the Soviet Union." He said the design would be determined by the U.S. Postal Service.

JERUSALEM (WNS) -- The Jewish National Fund has planted a grove in memory of the victims of last March's earthquake in Rumania in the International Women's Forest in the Galilee.

JERUSALEM (WNS) -- Alex Haley, the author of the best-selling "Roots" struck some new roots in Israel when he planted a tree in a Jewish National Fund forest outside Jerusalem. Haley was here to receive an honorary degree from Hebrew University.

JERUSALEM (WNS) -- Israel will ask the United States for \$2.3 billion in military and economic aid for the fiscal year beginning October 1 it was learned here.

JERUSALEM (WNS) -- The 300 members of the United Jewish Appeal Prime Minister's Mission to Israel pledged a goal of \$700 million for the 1978 UJA campaign, a 25 percent increase over this year.

TEL AVIV (WNS) -- The government has given the go ahead to a special planning group to study the long-debated proposal for a Mediterranean - to - Dead Sea tunnel to generate electric power.

JERUSALEM (WNS) -- President Ephraim Katzir has pardoned Yehpshua Benzion, former director of the Israel - British Bank, who has served two years of a 12-year sentence for embezzlement.

UNITED NATIONS (WUP) -- Geulah Cohen, the Irgun-Lechi heroine during Israel's underground struggle against the British, will be among the delegates appointed by Prime Minister Menachem Begin to serve in the Israeli delegation during the 32nd session of the General Assembly which opens on Tuesday, September 20.

LAS VEGAS ISRAELITE

WESTERN ARMS FLOW INTO MIDEAST

LONDON (WNS) -- The International Institute for Strategic Studies in its just released "The Military Balance 1977-1978," reports that Western arms continue to flow into the Middle East.

The report shows that Israel made six separate arms deals with the United States for 125 medium tanks, guns, self-propelled guns, Sidewinder air-to-air missiles, 7000 armored personnel carriers and 200 TOW anti-tank mis-

siles. Egypt is buying from France unspecified quantities of surface-to-air missiles and two Agosta-class submarines. Syria is buying 2000 trucks from Austria, 2000 Milan anti-tank guided weapons and a quantity of helicopters from France and six helicopters from Italy. Jordan will receive 14 batteries of Hawk missiles from the U.S. as well as 100 Vulcan anti-aircraft guns. Saudi Arabia will receive from the U.S.

2000 Sidewinder missiles, six batteries of Hawk anti-aircraft missiles and 400 Maverick missiles. The report puts Israel's defense budget at \$4.27 billion in 1976 or 35.3 percent of the Gross National Product. The report noted that Israel is listed as a primary arms supplier to five Latin American countries -- Chile, Ecua-

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dor, Guatemala, Honduras and Mexico. Egypt's defense budget was estimated at \$4.36 or 37 percent of the GNP; Saudi Arabia's budget was \$7.53 billion. Israel was reported to have 3000 medium tanks and 549 combat aircraft. Syria has 2600 tanks while Egypt whose forces have been dwindling has 1930 tanks.

WASHINGTON -- Curt Leviant's two-part short story, "Ladies and Gentlemen, the Original Music of the Hebrew Alphabet," which appeared in the April and June, 1977, issues of "The National Jewish Monthly," has been selected for inclusion in the 1978 edition of the O. Henry Prize stories.

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