

**JEWISH NEWS BRIEFS**

NEW YORK (WNS) -- Pravda, the official organ of the Soviet Communist Party, has strongly attacked the People's Republic of China for "flirting with Zionism" and "teaming up with Israel on anti - Sovietism." The article, released by Tass, the Soviet News Agency, predicts that following the establishment of diplomatic relations with the United States, China will take steps toward "normalization of relations with Israel."

NEW YORK (WNS) -- The Hebrew University of Jerusalem and the Weizman Institute of Science at Rehovot will share a \$1,500,000 grant from the Charles H. Revson Foundation of New York to promote higher education and scientific research in Israel. The four - year grant will be used at Hebrew University to establish 12 Charles H. Revson Fellowships for postdoctoral lecturers and tenured faculty appointments for a small number of outstanding professors. Weizmann Institute will establish seven new Career Development Chairs for young scientists who have completed doctoral and post doctoral studies.

GENEVA (WNS) -- The United Nations Human Rights Commission voted 19 - 3 with eight abstentions to send a telegram to Israel expressing "deep concern about the systematic torture practice by Israel against Palestinian detainees, as reflected once again in recent international reports." This ignored a State Department report denying systematic torture in Israel. The U.S. group also expressed "grave concern about policies of repression, and collective punishment by the Israeli occupation forces against the Palestinian people in Palestine and in the Arab occupied territories." The United States, Canada and Australia voted against the telegram.

LOS ANGELES (WNS) -- The Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations held its first meeting in California recently at the invitation of the Los Angeles Jewish Federation Council. Theodore Mann, chairman of the Presidents Conference, said the meeting was "a major step forward in our efforts to bring West Coast Jewish communities into our deliberations and our policy - making process."

JERUSALEM (WNS) -- A number of West Bank leaders have cabled protests to Israeli and world leaders protesting the action by the military government in barring Nablus Mayor Bassam Shakah from going abroad to raise funds for his municipality. He had angered authorities by trying to participate in a protest press conference and pray - in in Hebron against new praying arrangements at the Tomb of Machpela.

LONDON (WNS) -- Sir Israel Brodie, Chief Rabbi of Britain and the Commonwealth from 1948 to 1965, died Feb. 13 at the age of 83. The present Chief Rabbi Dr. Immanuel Jakobovits, interrupted a visit to the United States to deliver a eulogy at the graveside Feb. 14. Brodie, Britain's sixth Chief Rabbi and the first who didn't die in office, was given the title Chief Rabbi Emeritus in retirement.

OTTAWA (WNS) -- Don Jamieson, Canada's Secretary of State for External Affairs, declared Feb. 14 that "it is unreasonable to lean on Israel to make concessions just because it takes a little longer to make peace." Speaking to the seventh annual conference of the Canada - Israel Committee, Jamieson stressed that he believes that the Israeli people are totally committed to achieving peace. "But we must recognize that Israel is not ready to grasp an illusion of peace without the accompanying security because doing otherwise it might be forced to fight for its own life," he said.

NEW YORK -- In a major demonstration of support for adoption of the Equal Rights Amendment, the 90th Annual Convention of the Central Conference of American Rabbis (CCAR) will be held next month in Phoenix, Arizona, a state widely considered to be among the most intractable by proponents of the ERA Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. The convention is set for Monday, March 26 through Thursday, March 29, at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Phoenix.

**ISRAEL WARMLY WELCOMES ALL JEWS WISHING TO LEAVE RUSSIA, IRAN**

NEW YORK -- Based on the record - high levels of Soviet Jewish emigration at the end of 1978, Leon Dulzin, Chairman of the Jewish Agency Executive, predicts a minimum of 35,000 immigrants to Israel in 1979, including a large number of Jews from Iran. "There is great uncertainty regarding Iranian Jewry," Dulzin said. "The people might face danger. It is difficult to foresee the

future, but Israel is ready to absorb them.

Approximately 8,000 Jews have already left Iran for Israel, entering as temporary residents; another 5,000 are believed to be temporarily living in other countries. That leaves an estimated 65,000 people in the Iranian Jewish community," said Dulzin.

"Regarding Jews in the Soviet Union," Dulzin added, "4,200 exited for Vienna in December, and the trend continued into January. The real basis of our optimism, however, is the record number of requests by Soviet Jews for

affidavits for Israeli passports.

"During the last few years, some 6,000 affidavits have been requested annually. In the last three months of 1978, 14,000 were requested. During January alone, we received requests for 20,000 affidavits."

Dulzin said that a new wave of anti-Semitism in the Soviet Union may be influencing Jews to apply for exit visas, but he also believes "the Soviets want an accommodation with the Jackson-Vanik Amendment to get more favorable U.S. trade concessions."



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