

JEWISH NEWS BRIEFS

WASHINGTON (WNS) -- President Carter received the Synagogue Council of America's (SCA) first International Hyman Rights Award for his "pursuit of freedom of all people." Rabbi Arthur Lelyvelt, SCA president, noted particularly Carter's efforts for Soviet Jewish "Prisoners of Conscience." Carter said that "we have espoused the cause of human rights for persons to leave the Soviet Union to escape persecution, to reunite families, to be able to speak without fear or punishment."

TEL AVIV (WNS) -- Premier Menachem Begin and Egyptian President Anwar Sadat will have another summit meeting probably in December, in Haifa, the scene of their last meeting in September.

NEW YORK (WNS) -- Burton Levinson, chairman of the National Conference on Soviet Jewry (NCSJ), said the NCSJ is greatly alarmed by reports that Soviet authorities are instituting new and unreasonable restrictions on Jews who want to emigrate. For the first time, Soviet Jews are being challenged on whether there is "sufficient kinship" between them and the Israeli families who have sent them invitations to immigrate. Levinson said that while immigration figures are high now, this new development may mean additional restrictions against Jews.

WASHINGTON (WNS) -- The Department of Justice has declared that discussions by American Black leaders with the Palestine Liberation Organization is not a "prosecutable" offense in violation of the Logan Act. Fourteen Republican House members had asked Attorney General Benjamin Civiletti to rule whether Jesse Jackson, Joseph Lowery and Walter Fauntroy had violated the Act, which bars private U.S. citizens from attempting to influence foreign governments.

MEXICO CITY (WNS) -- The Socialist Workers Party has announced that it and other left-wing parties will introduce a bill in the Chamber of Deputies to suspend Mexican oil sales to Israel. Mexico became Israel's major supplier of oil after the Islamic regime of Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini cut off oil shipments from Iran to Israel.

NEW CANTOR FOR NER TAMID

Ordinarily, the appointment of a Synagogue Cantor is not news. But when the new Cantor is a doctor of psychology, the founder of a successful psychology clinic in Winter Park, Florida, that's news!

Dr. Steven Kaplan, a clinical psychologist, recently left his professional practice to join Congregation Ner Tamid as Cantor and Executive Director, it was announced by Michael Cherry, Ner Tamid Board President, and Rabbi Stephen E. Weisberg.

Dr. Kaplan, an alumnus of the Kinnet and Bialik Hebrew Day Schools in Brooklyn, N.Y., received his PhD in Clinical Psychology at City University of New York in 1976. That year, he completed his certification program in psychotherapy at the Adler Institute, New York.

He is a member of the Society of Psychophysiological Research; The American Society of Psychosomatic Dentistry and Medicine; The American Association of Social Psychiatry; the Inter-



DR. KAPLAN

national Association of Social Psychiatry; the North American Society of Adlerian Psychiatry; the International Society for Professional Hypnosis; and the American Hypnosis Association.

Dr. Steven Kaplan has served both Ashkenazic and Sefardic Congregations in New York. He has served as Cantor at Congregation Ohev Shalom (Conservative) in Orlando, Florida. He has also taught a city-wide course in HAZZANUT (The Cantorial Art), sponsored by Congregation Ohev Shalom, the

Congregation of Liberal Judaism, and Temple Israel of Orlando, Florida.

At Congregation Ner Tamid, Dr. Kaplan will serve as Cantor as well as Executive Director. In addition, he will oversee the Hebrew and Religious Schools and reformulate their curricula. He intends to form an adult as well as a junior choir for Congregation Ner Tamid, and to extend the music program in general.

With the Congregation's membership at an all-time high of 253 families, Dr. Kaplan views his arrival in Las Vegas optimistically: "I've

always wanted to serve a Jewish community as a Cantor. And I believe that I can help significantly in the growth of the Congregation. Rabbi Weisberg and I plan to build a Temple, and soon."

CIVILIAN KILLED

TEL AVIV (WNS) -- A man was killed Nov. 1 when a bomb exploded in an office building near the central bus station here. Police, firemen and first aid teams were close by when the blast occurred because they had been rushed to the nearby courthouse on a false alarm.

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