

JEWISH NEWS BRIEFS

NEW YORK (WNS) -- Philip Klutznick, president of the World Jewish Congress, who has been nominated by President Carter to be Secretary of Commerce, announced here that at a meeting of the WJCongress Executive he had formally taken a leave of absence from his post as WJCongress president during his government service.

LONDON (WNS) -- A best-selling novel in the Soviet Union, "Just Before the End", portrays Rasputin, the infamous "holy man" who had enormous influence during the closing days of Czarism, as a lackey of the Jews and of the "dark forces" of Zionism. The novel reportedly has created a stir in Soviet Literary circles and fits precisely into the recent tenor of anti-Zionist propaganda in the Soviet Union, observers here reported.

WASH. (WNS) -- Rep. Stephen Solarz (D. NY) said he had introduced a bill to make destruction of a house of worship, and its religious articles, a federal crime punishable by a \$10,000 fine, five years in jail, or both. His bill would amend present federal civil rights laws, which already protect homes and multiple dwellings from cross-burnings but which leave to local law enforcement officials prosecution for church and synagogue arson attacks. The proposed federal penalties would be in addition to any imposed by local courts for violation of state arson and vandalism laws.

JERUSALEM (WNS) -- Ephraim Eldar, the Israel Ambassador to Portugal, who was injured in a gun attack on him two weeks ago, is now out of the hospital and recuperating at his Lisbon home. Eldar was operated on for injuries on his arm and leg, and the treatment was apparently successful. He will have no lasting impairments from the injuries. A Portuguese security man was killed in the attack outside Israel's Embassy and Eldar's Portuguese driver was wounded.

OTTAWA (WNS) -- A members resolution urging the Soviet Union to release all Prisoners of Conscience and particularly jailed dissidents Anatoly Scharansky and Ida Nudel was passed by the Canadian Parliament.



AVITAL SCHARANSKY, WIFE OF AN IMPRISONED RUSSIAN JEWISH REFUSENIK, SPEAKS WITH RABBI WILLIAM BERKOWITZ ABOUT HER RECENT BOOK --- NEXT YEAR IN JERUSALEM.

JERUSALEM (WNS) -- A contribution of 25 hours of work to the Treasury has been made by Youth Aliya teachers at Kiryat Shemona as their part in efforts to strengthen Israel's struggling economy. The teachers said they raised the contribution despite their relatively low salaries.

NEW YORK CITY -- Hebrew Day Schools around the country are about to begin a Brochos Bees competition in which students will compete based upon their knowledge of the appropriate blessings (brochos) for different kinds of foods. The standard reference for the competition is a new edition to "A Guide To Blessings," by Mosad Eliezer Hoffner, published by NCSY, the youth movement of the Orthodox Union.

NEW YORK, N.Y. -- The International Council of Jewish Women (ICJW) has denounced the growing campaign of anti-Semitism in the Soviet Union. The ICJW -- at its mid-term meeting in Jerusalem -- condemned anti-Jewish attacks in the media, the denial of university seats to Jewish students, and the continuing lack of opportunities for the study of Jewish culture and history. Mrs. Eleanor Marvin, President of ICJW, which has more than one million members in 31 countries, also pledged organizational support for Jewish prisoners of conscience, such as Ida Nudel, and other long-term refuseniks. The United States affiliate of ICJW is the National Council of Jewish Women.

JERUSALEM (WNS) -- A two-stage evacuation of Elon Moreh was ordered by the Cabinet. The Cabinet announced that 30 acres of land seized from Arab owners should be evacuated, one day before the 30-day limit set by the Supreme Court when it ruled that the land had been taken illegally. The Cabinet said the land would be returned to its owners and they would be offered financial compensation for the time it was used without their consent.

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