

# JEWISH NEWS BRIEFS

**JERUSALEM (WNS)** -- About 13,570 immigrants arrived in Israel during the first seven months of 1980, a drop of 35 percent compared to the same period of 1979, Rafael Korlowitz, head of the Jewish Agency immigration and absorption department, reported to the World Zionist Organization executive.

**NEW YORK (WNS)** -- Jewish emigration from the Soviet Union "took an Olympic leave downwards" in July, plummeting to a year's low of 1205, it was reported here by the Student Struggle for Soviet Jewry and the Union of Councils for Soviet Jews. This was more than 30 percent below the June exit figure and 28 percent below the 1979 monthly average. About 900 of the Jewish emigrants in July or 75 percent, did not go to Israel.

**JERUSALEM (WNS)** -- The Supreme Court gave the Interior Ministry 30 days to explain why it has refused to grant a tourist visa to Meyer Lansky. Interior Minister Yosef Burg first granted the 80-year-old Lansky a one-month visa but then reversed himself. Lansky was in Israel 10 years ago but was deported after several months on the request of the U.S. government because of his reputed association with organized crime in the U.S. His lawyer told the court that Lansky is "an old Jew suffering from cancer and other serious ailments" who "would like with all his heart to visit Israel before his death."

**JERUSALEM (WNS)** -- Five people were injured when a bomb exploded in Canada Park near the Jerusalem - Tel Aviv highway. The Palestine Liberation Organization claimed responsibility. The bomb was planted inside a tree trunk in the park which is one of the most popular resorts in the area.

**JERUSALEM (WNS)** -- The Cabinet approved the appointment of Minister-Without-Portfolio Moshe Nissim of the Liberal Party wing of Likud as Justice Minister in place of Shmuel Tamir of the Democratic Movement. Tamir resigned as a minister because the DM now only has three MKs in the Knesset. Deputy Premier Yigael Yadin, Binyamin Halevy and himself.

**NEW YORK (WNS)** -- The National Conference on Soviet Jewry has expressed concern about the fate of Raphael Adzhishvili, a 49-year-old Soviet Jew from Tbilisi, sentenced to death for stealing factory surplus textile for resale. The NCSJ has learned that Adzhishvili's co-defendant, Mahmed Abassov, a 55-year-old Moslem from Baku, was executed Aug. 5.

**JERUSALEM (WNS)** -- Chief of Staff Gen. Rafael Eitan has warned that the delivery of a nuclear reactor to Iraq by France will speed-up the introduction of nuclear weapons into the Middle East. In an interview on Israel Radio, Eitan said nuclear weapons in the hands of Iraq "presents a threat to our existence and Israel must take that into consideration at every stage."

**NEW YORK (WNS)** -- The National Conference on Soviet Jewry reports that Grigory Geishis, 20, of Leningrad, who has been jailed since July 14 on charges of "draft evasion," has been sentenced to two years in a labor camp. He is quoted as telling the judge that he does not want to serve in the Soviet army because "I want to live as a Jew in Israel."

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**ROME (WNS)** -- An anonymous caller to an Italian news agency, claiming to be a member of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, said that the bomb blast which caused a massacre at the Bologna railroad station was an "accident" since the bomb was meant for a "Zionist school." The alleged Palestinian terrorist said, "we wish to offer our apologies to the Italian people for what had happened at the station of Bologna. The explosion was an error on the part of our transport agent. The bomb was meant for a Zionist School."

**JERUSALEM (WNS)** -- Israel has protested to Egypt over the publication of a cartoon in the Cairo newspaper Al-Gomhouriya presenting a swastika-shaped medal to Premier Menachem Begin. Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir, in delivering the protest to Egyptian Ambassador Saad Mortada, said the cartoon was "shameful, a disgrace."



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