

ADL REPORTS INCREASE IN ANTI-SEMITISM

NEW YORK (WNS) -- A sharp increase in anti-Semitic incidents in 1980 was revealed in a nationwide survey conducted by the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith. The findings, made public by Nathan Perlmutter, ADL's national director, revealed 377 reported anti-Semitic incidents such as firebombings, swastika daubings, anti-Jewish graffiti and other vandalism in 1980 as against 129 in 1979. The incidents occurred in 29 states and the District of Columbia. The largest number -- 120 -- were reported in New York State with 69 of them in New York City and 39 on Long Island. New Jersey was next with 69 reported incidents; then Massachusetts with 34; California 27; Michigan, 21; Illinois

and Rhode Island, 12 each; Minnesota, 10; North Carolina, 9; Connecticut, Missouri and Virginia, 8 each; Arizona, 6; Oregon, 5; Colorado, 4; Tennessee, 3; Florida, Nebraska, Ohio and Washington, 2 each; and Alabama, Georgia, Kentucky, Maryland, Mississippi, Nevada, Pennsylvania, Texas, and Washington, D.C. each with one reported incident.

In addition Perlmutter said there were 112 anti-Semitic incidents involving bodily assaults against Jews, harassments or threats by phone or mail against Jewish institutions, their officials and private citizens. "The findings underscore once again that anti-Semitism and other forms of racial and religious bigotry remain a virulent social disease," Perlmutter said. "What is called for is greater public concern manifested through strengthened law enforcement, realistic penalties, and expanded educational programs."

ISRAELI SOLDIERS DENY REPORTS

TEL AVIV (WNS) -- A claim by the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) that Israeli soldiers mutilated the bodies of five Arab terrorists has been firmly denied by Israel. The UNIFIL report said Israeli soldiers had burned, booby-trapped and blown up the bodies of five terrorists they killed.

"We do not mutilate bodies," the Israeli army spokesman said. He said that the five terrorists were killed in a clash with an Israeli patrol when they were discovered in a cave across the Lebanese border.

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THE IMPORTANCE OF THE "PUSHKA" MY TZEDAKAH MENORAH



How early can Jewish children be taught the importance of The "Pushka" or Tzedakah, the Jewish obligation of giving?

More than 30,000 boys and girls from the ages of 8 to 12 are learning about and experiencing one of Judaism's most important values -- providing for others -- through an innovative program introduced this month in religious schools of Reform synagogues across the United States and Canada.

The "text" for the curriculum is a new 24-page activity book, "My Tzedakah Menorah," that adroitly employs the significance of Chanukah and the Jewish values symbolized by its menorah candles to teach the meaning of tzedakah -- charity and righteousness.

Although tzedakah is regarded by the Talmud as the most important Jewish duty, it is a generally neglected subject in religious schools according to Gilbert Tilles, co-chairman of the Reform Jewish Appeal, fundraising arm of Reform Judaism. To help correct this deficiency, he said, "My Tzedakah Menorah" was published by the Appeal as an educational program developed in cooperation with the Union of American Hebrew Congregations and the Hebrew Union College - Jewish Institute of Religion.

Written by Michael Schubert, the booklet makes extensive and entertaining use of rebuses, comic strips, puzzles and drawings to teach boys and girls of elementary-school age the noble and wide-ranging Jewish tradition of "doing the right thing."

Single copies of "My Tzedakah Menorah," now being used by children from the second through sixth grades, may be obtained free of charge by writing to the Reform Jewish Appeal, 838 Fifth Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10021, or calling Phyllis Baum at (212) 249-0100, extension 254.

TEL AVIV (WNS) -- A \$200 million contract has been signed between the government of Israel and the Seattle-based Boeing Co., to buy four Boeing 767s for El Al.

JERUSALEM (WNS) -- Some 10,000 people demonstrated here against the government's economic policies which they blamed for high inflation. The demonstration was organized by the Histadrut following the announcement that inflation has soared to 138 percent this year after the cost-of-living went up 11 percent in October.

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