EWISH NEWS BRIEFS

TEL AVIV (WNS) -- An Israeli soldier was slightly wounded north of Tyre when his vehicle was ambushed by terrorists, an army spokesman announced here. The attackers opened fire with light arms and Israeli troops returned the fire and launched a search for the attackers. The vehicle that was ambushed was travelling in a convoy, which has become mandatory for all Israelis travelling in Lebanon because of the increase in the number of attacks.

MONTREAL (WNS) -- The Prime Minister's office announced here that President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt will visit Ottawa January 31 and February 1 for talks with Prime Minister Pierre Elliott Trudeau and government officials. Mubarak will be the first Egyptian President to visit Canada and his talks will focus on finalizing an agreement to purchase a Canadian reactor and other bilateral matters.

TEL AVIV (WNS) -- The cost of living index rose by 5.5 percent during December, the Central Bureau of Statistics announced January 16. The increase brought the total inflationary rate during 1982 to a near record 131.5 percent -- marginally below the all - time high of 132.9 percent in 1980. The 1981 rate was 101 percent, close to the two figure rate promised by Finance Minister Yoram Aridor.

PARIS (WNS) -- For the third time in recent months, Israel has formally asked France to close the PLO office in Paris and expel its sentative, Ibrahim Suss. Ambassador Meir Ros-enne of Israel handed this request to the head of the Middle East desk at the Quai d'Orsay, Marc Bonnefous, himself a former French Ambassador to Israel. French sources said it was "highly unlikely" that the government would close the PLO office.

JERUSALEM (WNS) Thousands of demonstrators protested recently against settlements in the West Bank. The protest rally took place on the brand new partially completed town of Efrat, halfway between Bethlehem and Hebron. Peace Now activists joined forces for the first time with activists from poverty neighborhoods who charge that the government was taking money away from public housing projects and investing it in West Bank settlements.

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NEW YORK (WNS) -- The largest gathering of publishers, authors, agents and other literary notables is expected at the 11th Jerusalem International Book Fair that opens on April 25, it was announced here by the Government of Israel Trade Center. The most recent Jerusalem Book Fair in 1981 was attended by publishers from 45 countries and representatives of more than 1,200 publishing houses.

VIENNA (WNS) -- Anti - Semitism has declined preciably in Austria, especially among young people, but there has been a "dramatic drop of sympathy" for Israel, according to the results of a survey published in the January issue of the Journal Fuer Sozialforschung (Journal for Social Research).

JERUSALEM (WNS) -- The small Poalei Agudat Israel Party proposes to run in the next election in an alignment with the National Religious Party. Negotiations between the two parties have already reached an agreement - in according to informed political principle, sources.

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PARIS (WNS) -- France said here that the resumption of Franco-Israeli negotiations on cultural matters does not imply any change in France's basic position that calls for an immediate withdrawal of Israeli forces from Lebanon. The statement was issued as the Franco-Israeli cultural commission met in Jerusalem to negotiate a new cultural agreement between the two states. The commission will draw up a new two - year agteement which will provide for cultural and artistic exchanges, academic cooperation and the teaching of French and Hebrew in the two countries.

JERUSALEM (WNS) -- A Jerusalem district court has upheld the conviction of Samuel Flatto-Sharon and ordered the former independent MK to report to police on March I to begin serving a nine - month prison sentence for bribery and other violations of the law in his election campaign for the Knesset in 1977.

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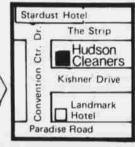
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