JEWISH NEWS BRIEFS

JERUSALEM (WNS) — Immigration to Israel increased by 22.89 percent during the first half of this year due to the large influx from Western countries, including Latin America, while aliya from the Soviet Union has come to a virtual halt. Raphael Kotlowitz, head of the Jewish Agency's immigration department, reported. He said 6,978 immigrants arrived in the first six months of 1983 compared to 5,681 in the same period last year.

TEL AVIV (WNS) - The Histadrut and the coordinating bureau of economic organizations, representing all private employers in Israel, have signed an agreement granting salaried workers a seven percent wage increase to make up for an erosion in real incomes due to the lag between cost of living increases and the actual rate of inflation. The increase of between 1,100 and 1,500 Shekels (about \$23) is to be paid with July salaries due on August 1, with the balance to make up the seven percent to follow in August.

NEW YORK (WNS) - Abba Eban, Israel's former Ambassador to the United Nations and now a Labor Party member of the Knesset, was one of five 20th century speakers recently elected to the International Platform Association's Orators' Hall of Fame. President John F. Kennedy led the 1983 list which also included Adlai Stevenson, Gen. Douglas MacArthur and William Jennings Bryan. When informed of the election to the prestigious organization, Eban quipped, "You realize I am the only one still alive.

UNITED NATIONS (WNS) — The Security Council voted here to extend the mandate of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) for three months. The vote was 13-0 with the Soviet Union and Poland abstaining as they usually do on issues involving UN forces. Israel maintains that UNIFIL has outlived its usefulness since the invasion of Lebanon in June 1982. The UNIFIL force was established in 1978.

TEL AVIV (WNS) — Herut is sponsoring a new movement known as "For Israel," billed as nonpartisan, held its founding session with a featured address by former Chief of Staff Gen. Rafael Eitan, who according to press reports, is being wooed to join Herut.

TEL AVIV (WNS) - Two Katyusha rockets were fired from Lebanese territory toward western Galilee. They caused slight damage but no casualties. It was the first time in many months that shells have fallen in western Galilee, from inside Lebanon.

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NEW YORK (WNS) - The American Jewish Committee has urged the Reagan Administration to restore to its proposed 1984 budget funds to alleviate the growing food crisis in Ethiopia due to a drought. The AJC said it had a special concern for the estimated 23,000 Jews in that country. Most of them live in the Gondar and Tigrav provinces, the areas most severely affected by the current drought.

NEW YORK (WNS) - Four Moscow Jews were arrested for holding a private prayer ser-

vice, the Student Struggle for Soviet Jewry reported here. Of the approximately one dozen persons present at the service, those arrested were Mikhair Abramov, Igor Briskman and Mikhail Rudman. The apartment's owner, Mark Feldman, was arrested when he went to the police station to ask about his friends. They were told that "Until you leave this country, you will live by our rules." All were given 15 day sentences.

BONN (WNS) - The improved relations between Bonn and Jerusalem is considered responsible for the steady increase of West German tourism to Israel which had slumped in recent years. According to Eli Noy, director of the Israel Government Tourist Office in Frankfurt, German tourists travelling to Israel this year will exceed the fewer than 110,000 who visited Israel last year, though they are not expected to reach the record 160,000 of 1980.

JERUSALEM (WNS) - Approximately 7,000 American Jewish youths have arrived in Israel since the start of the summer to tour the country. attend achaeological digs, study at yeshivas and at Hebrew University's summer course program for overseas students, and in general, to become familiar with Israel. The youths are here within the framework of the programs offered at the Israel Program Center of the American Zionist Youth Foundation.

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