

JEWISH NEWS BRIEFS

TEL AVIV (WNS) — Iberia, the Spanish national airline, flew an inaugural flight from Madrid to Ben Gurion Airport, starting a regular service between Spain and Israel for the first time. El Al is scheduled to begin regular flights to Madrid shortly. Because official diplomatic relations between Spain and Israel do not exist, despite Israeli efforts to arrange them after the fall of the Franco regime, the air service agreement was discussed and signed by the two airlines, instead of via the customary diplomatic process between two countries.

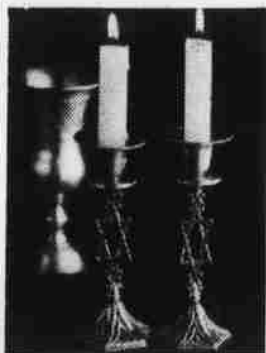
JERUSALEM (WNS) — Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir will visit Rumania in September where he is expected to hold several meetings with President Nicolae Ceausescu. Shamir was invited by Rumania's Foreign Minister. The talks are expected to focus on ways to advance the Middle East peace process. The Presidents of Lebanon and Syria have also been invited to visit Rumania in the near future.

NEW YORK — Tourism from the United States to Israel is breaking all records, according to Moshe Shoshani, Israel's new Commissioner for Tourism in North America. "We welcomed 30 percent more American visitors this May and 46 percent more in June than in the same months of 1982. Overall we expect to end 1983 with some 320,000 American tourists visiting the country, 15 percent more than last year...we have already surpassed the previous record set in 1980," Shoshani said here.

NEW YORK (WNS) — A call on American Jewry to support the observance of World Food Day, October 16, was made by the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee. The call was issued by Henry Taub, President of the JDC and Ralph Goldman, executive vice president and noted that there are now more than 300 American sponsoring agencies of World Food Day.

KINDLE THE SHABBAT CANDLES

Friday, August 26..... 6:59 P.M.
 Friday, September 2..... 6:49 P.M.
 Friday, September 16..... 6:29 P.M.
 Friday, September 23..... 6:18 P.M.



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GENEVA (WNS) — Egypt has named a new Ambassador to Israel but he does not expect to go to Tel Aviv in the near future. Ambassador-designate Omar Sirry said here that despite American pressure, the Egyptian government has no intention of sending an Ambassador to Israel as long as Israeli troops remain in Lebanon without a timetable for their withdrawal. Egypt's first Ambassador to Israel, Saad Mortada, was recalled in September, 1982, as a demonstration of Cairo's displeasure over the Israeli invasion of Lebanon.

UNITED NATIONS (WNS) — An anti-Israeli poster exhibition here was dismantled at the order of Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar, following a strong protest by Israel's Ambassador to the United Nations, Yehuda Blum, who said the posters were not only anti-Israel but also anti-Semitic. The exhibition, located in the public lobby of the UN headquarters, consisted of pro-Palestinian posters sponsored by the Secretariat of the UN International Conference on the Question of Palestine.

LONDON (WNS) — British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher praised Shlomo Agrov, the former Israeli Ambassador to London, as "a true citizen of the free world who cherishes freedom and justice and is utterly opposed to those who assault them." She spoke at a special dinner in London's Grosvenor House Hotel, only 200 yards from the spot where, 13 months ago, Agrov was shot by an Arab terrorist. His life was saved but he has since been almost totally paralyzed.

TEL AVIV (WNS) — The World Union of Progressive Judaism dedicated its second communal settlement in Israel when Kibbutz Lotan became, officially, the eighth settlement in the Arava valley region of the Negev. The new kibbutz of the Reform Movement has an initial membership of 50, a third of them immigrants from the U.S. and the rest native-born Israelis. Lotan will grow dates and such winter crops as onions, tomatoes and garlic.

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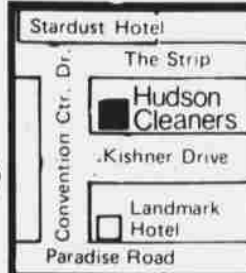
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