

# JEWISH NEWS BRIEFS

TEL AVIV (WNS) — Fire gutted the basement of the Haaretz newspaper's editorial offices and printing presses, destroying most of the papers newsprint stocks stored in the basement. Police and fire fighters said the blaze appeared to have been set by an arsonist. Haaretz management said most of the damage was due to the large amount of water poured onto the blaze. A similar fire was set by arsonists at the Haaretz plant in 1976.

TEL AVIV (WNS) — An Israel army patrol inadvertently killed one Israeli civilian and wounded another in the Gaza Strip on February 8, apparently mistaking them for terrorists. A soldier was also wounded, reportedly from a ricocheting bullet. The shooting occurred near Beth Lahiya in the northern end of the Gaza Strip. The two civilians were inspectors for the Israel Nature Preserves Authority. An investigation of the incident is underway.

JERUSALEM (WNS) — Asher Wiener, director-general of the Construction and Housing Ministry, said here that construction activities will continue in Judaea and Samaria, although cuts in the ministry's budget might slow down the pace of activity. He said that deliberations on budget cuts have not yet been concluded, but that whatever the outcome, construction will not be interrupted.

CHICAGO (WNS) — An Israel Arts Festival, a series of cultural and art events, is being held here through June, it was announced by the Consulate General of Israel. The festival consists of more than 10 events, including a major art exhibition at the Public Library Cultural Center, a film week, two photographic exhibitions, a concert of Israeli contemporary music and presentations by prominent Israeli poets and writers.

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 Friday, March 9.....5:25 P.M.  
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BONN (WNS) — There are only about 33,000 Jews living in West Germany and West Berlin and a large proportion of them are elderly. But the problem of intermarriage has become a major concern of the Jewish community, according to the Juedischer Pressedienst, a publication of the Central Council of Jews in West Germany. The issue has been discussed by the Council and at a recent seminar for youths in Stuttgart which drew about 120 participants. According to official statistics, two thirds of the Jews in Germany who married last year were wed to a non Jewish spouse.

TEL AVIV (WNS) — Rabbi Ovadia Yosef, the former Sephardic Chief Rabbi of Israel, is organizing a new political party to participate in the next Knesset elections. Aguda Israel Party circles have expressed concern that the new faction may cut deeply into their own ultra-Orthodox constituency. Yosef contends that the Aguda has failed to give Sephardim fair representation. The Aguda holds four Knesset seats and those four are all Ashkenazim.

JERUSALEM (WNS) — The budget of the Jewish Agency for the coming fiscal year will total \$467 million, if proposals by treasurer Akiva Levinsky are approved by the Agency Board of Governors meeting which began on February 19. Agency chairman Leon Dulzin gave the budget proposal breakdown as follows: \$360 million for the regular Agency budget, \$48 million for project renewal; and \$59 million for the World Zionist Organization.

TEL AVIV (WNS) — The cost of living index rose by 14.9 percent in January, the highest increase ever for that month and several points above what the treasury had expected. The announcement by the Central Bureau of Statistics drew an immediate response from Histadrut Secretary General Yeruham Meshel, who predicted that if the index continues to rise at its present rate, inflation in 1984 will reach 429 percent. The COL index has risen by 208 percent over the past 12 months.

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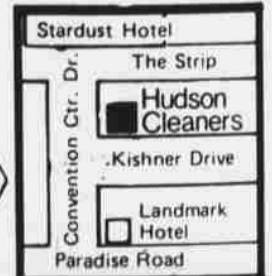
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