JEWISH NEWS BRIEFS

VIENNA (WNS) - Israeli Premier Shimon Peres will visit Rumania, the only Eastern Bloc country that maintains relations with the Jewish State, in early February. This was reported here by Rumanian Chief Rabbi Moses Rosen and confirmed in Israel. Rumanian President Nicolae Ceausescu invited Peres to visit Bucharest last December, but Peres replied at the time he could not go due to Israel's economic crisis.

TEL AVIV (WNS) - Given the ratio of vehicles to highway miles, Israel is the most heavily travelled country in the world, according to Haim Corfu, the Minister of Transport. There are 820,000 vehicles in Israel and two out of every 10 Israelis own a car, Corfu said. He reported that road accidents declined by five percent in 1984; injuries due to traffic accidents were down by six percent and fatalities by 10 percent. Corfu said that 43 percent of Israelis who apply for drivers licenses fail to pass their road tests.

JERUSALEM (WNS) - Israel's version of the "Oscar" has gone to the locally produced movie "Beyond the Walls," a story of Jews and Arabs in prison. Uri Barabash was cited as best director. and the two principal performers, Arnon Zadok and Mohammad Bekri shared the best actor award. The film itself was a box office hit. Israel's "Oscar" was instituted 10 years ago.

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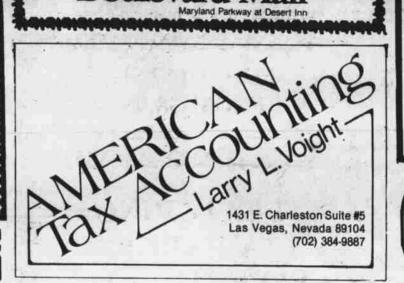
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NEW YORK (WNS) - Boris Gelfand, a Soviet Jewish emigre, is one of 40 winners in the prestigious 44th annual Westinghouse Science Talent search. The 17-year-old Bronx resident is a junior at the Bronx High School of Science. His mathematics project earned him a place in the final competition in Washington, D.C., this month. Four years ago, he emigrated with his parents from Bobruisk near Minsk, which is in the western region of the Soviet Union.

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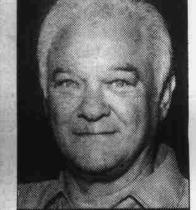
MEXICO CITY (WNS) - The oldest and most important Jewish newspaper in Mexico, Der Weg (El Camino), has ceased publication because of the difficulty in finding a replacement for its editor, Chaim Lazdeiski, who is emigrating to Israel. The paper was founded in January 1940 by the late Moises Rosenberg and appeared two or three times a week until 1976 when its then publisher, Eliezer Rochman, died. It subsequently became a weekly and appeared every Saturday under Lazdeiski's editorship. He also acted as the Mexico correspondent of the Jewish Telegraphic Agency. Only the Yiddish weekly, Di Shtime, continues publication in Mexico City.

ATHENS (WNS) - Mordechai Drori, Director General of Israel's Foreign Ministry, made a oneday visit here for talks with Theodoros Pangalos. Undersecretary of Foreign Affairs in charge of relations with the European Economic Community (EEC). An Israel Embassy spokesman said the discussions will focus on Israel's relations with the EEC and Israel's position with respect to the pending admission of Spain and Portugal to the European Common Market.

TEL AVIV (WNS) - Isarel's police force, using 1984 as a base, has forecast a 40 percent increase in crime by the end of this decade and plans to beef up its manpower and equipment. Based on that prediction, the police say they will need another 4,500 men, 650 more vehicles and 250 more motorcycles during the next 5-6 years.

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