

# Politicians Protest



In a "first" in American legislative history, 14 elected officials, including a Congressman, were arrested as they staged a sitdown in front of the Soviet UN Mission. The action was part of Operation Redemption, a series of mass peaceful arrests at USSR facilities in New York, sponsored by the Student Struggle for Soviet Jewry and Long Island Committee for Soviet Jewry. Since January, over 335 have been arrested, including 145 rabbis. Among the legislators removed by the police were Rep. Major Owens of New York and New Jersey Assembly Speaker Alan Karcher. (Photo by Student Struggle For Soviet Jewry, 210 West 91st Street, New York, N.Y. 10024. (212) 799-8900.)

## Ben Gurion Airport One Of Safest In The World

TEL AVIV (WNS) — Improvements at Ben Gurion Airport in Lod, near Tel Aviv, make it one of the safest and most modern airports in the world, according to Arieh Grozbord, chairman of the Israel Airports Authority.

A major advance was the replacement of the old control tower, dating back nearly 50 years, when there was virtually no commercial air traffic, by a new 164-foot high tower containing the newest and most sophisticated equipment. In the old tower, the equipment was 30 years old. Now, a long range radar, a

computer terminal and computerized communications systems enable air traffic controllers to track aircraft at a distance of 165 miles — about 20 minutes flying time from the airport — and reducing the distance separating them from 9.9 to 4.9 miles while maintaining some margin of safety. This means more aircraft can land within a given time frame.

The only problem that remains unsolved is the constant noise of arriving and departing jets which has residents of the densely populated area

around the airport up in arms. Night operations have been restricted because of the noise problem but complaints persist. Aviation experts say Israel must soon make a long delayed decision to build a new international airport far from populated areas if it is to cope with the expected increase in air traffic in the next century.

## Peres Sends July Fourth Message To Reagan

JERUSALEM (WNS) — In a 4th of July message to President Reagan, Premier Shimon Peres drew parallels between the release of the TWA hostages and the release of the Entebbe hostages nine years ago.

In his message, Peres said Israel joined with the U.S., in a sigh of relief over the return

of the American hostages from Beirut. He said the two events, although they had taken place within a time span of nine years, and separated by a distance of thousands of kilometers, indicated the joint goal and determination to stand firm against terrorism. Israelis from all walks of life join you and the families of the

released American hostages in a sigh of relief on the safe return of the American hostages, wrote Peres. He added, though, that the sign of relief was shadowed by the mourning over the brutal murder of an innocent passenger.

Peres concluded the letter, noting the personal contacts with Reagan, saying they are among the more pleasant experiences in his term in office.

## Herzog Ends State Visit To Ireland

TEL AVIV (WNS) — President Chaim Herzog, who returned from a five-day state visit to Ireland, the country of his birth, said his reception there was an exceptionally warm demonstration for a "local boy" who has become a chief of State.

But the attitude of the Irish, he said, was perplexing in some ways. They are far more concerned by the minor disputes the IDF and its ally, the South Lebanon Army (SLA), have had with Irish soldiers serving in the United National Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) than they are with the current hijack-hostage drama still in crisis stage in Beirut, he reported. He said the Jewish community in Ireland had expressed dismay over the clashes between

UNIFIL Irish troops and the SLA and amazement that a non-Israeli element such as the SLA could dictate relations between Israel and other countries.

With respect to the political aspects of his visit, Herzog said that he and Ireland's leaders each made clear their differing positions on Middle East issues. But there was also a large degree of harmony which would lead to concrete agreements in the fields of agricultural, technolo-

gical and commercial relations between the two countries, Herzog said.

According to observers here, one concrete result of Herzog's visit will be Ireland's agreement to waive visas for visiting Israelis. But there were no indications that either country will soon open an embassy in the other. At present, Israel's diplomatic relations with Ireland are handled by its Ambassador in London. There is no Irish Embassy in Tel Aviv.

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