

## JEWISH NEWS BRIEFS

WASHINGTON (WNS) — Nine more Soviet Jewry activists were convicted of demonstrating too close to the Soviet Embassy here. The nine were among a group of 42 Hebrew school teachers and others who had themselves arrested at a protest on the eve of the Geneva summit between President Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev last November.

NEW YORK (WNS) — The National Conference on Soviet Jewry (NCSJ) has confirmed that Isai and Grigory Goldstein of Tbilisi have been given permission to leave the Soviet Union. They are expected to go to Israel. The Goldsteins were among the founders of the present-day repatriation movement among Soviet Jews.

NEW YORK (WNS) — William Belzberg, well-known financier and industrialist, has been elected National Chairman of State of Israel Bonds, the organization which markets Israel Government securities for the Nation's economic development. The new chairman is a founder of the Yeshiva University of Los Angeles and the Simon Wiesenthal Center for Holocaust Studies.

JERUSALEM (WNS) — The Knesset House Committee decided unanimously that MKs will cast electronic ballots, rather than raising their hands, when a vote is called for. MKs will have a button next to their seat which they will press for a no or a yes. One problem that has not yet been worked out is how to prevent an MK from pressing the button several times, and thus register several votes.

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Friday, March 14..... 5:29 P.M.  
Friday, March 21..... 5:35 P.M.



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JERUSALEM (WMS) — Eliahu Essas, the Soviet Jewish aliya activist who became an Orthodox Jew while still in the USSR, spoke critically of the way Russian Jews have been absorbed in Israel. According to the 40-year-old Essas, too much stress has been placed on material benefits and not enough on the "spiritual" needs of the immigrants. He claimed this contributed to the high dropout rate among Soviet olim.

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BRUSSELS (WNS) — A Soviet Jewish merchant seaman who jumped ship in Antwerp two months ago has asked Belgium for political asylum. Didzis Rosenberg, who has a family in the Soviet Union, deserted from the Russian freighter "Engineer Netchiporenki" in December. The Belgian authorities have refused to disclose his whereabouts despite protests from the Soviet Embassy here that they were violating international law and human rights.

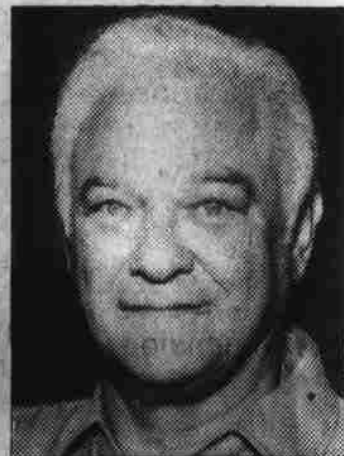
NEW YORK (WNS) — Michael A. Pelavin, of Flint, Michigan, was elected Chairman of the National Jewish Community Relations Advisory Council during the NJCRAC'S Annual Plenary Session business meeting, held at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel in New York City. The NJCRAC is the national coordinating body in the field of Jewish community relations, comprised of 11 national and 113 local Jewish community relations agencies.

CARACAS (WNS) — The President of Venezuela has appointed Paulina Gamus as the nation's Minister of Culture, the first time in the country's history a Jew has achieved a Cabinet-level post. The appointment is engendering particular enthusiasm within the Jewish community, because it represents a further example of the growing participation of Jews in Latin American public life.

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