

Shamir Calls Peres-Shevardnadze Meeting An Encouraging Step

TEL AVIV (WNS) — Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir appears to agree with Premier Shimon Peres that Peres' meeting with Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze in New York began a process that could lead to normal relations between Israel and the Soviet Union.

Shamir called the meetings an encouraging step toward renewed contacts between Israeli and Soviet representatives and said it was in Israel's interests to have normal relations with the Soviet Union. He spoke to reporters at Ben Gurion Airport before his departure for the U.S.

Shamir who will change jobs with Peres on October 14 under the Labor-Likud rotation of power agreement, will attend the 41st session of the United Nations General Assembly.

He arrived in New York for a hectic round of talks with 30 foreign ministers and Secretary of State George Shultz

in addition to an address before the General Assembly. Shamir said the agenda for his week-long visit includes meetings with representatives of four Soviet-bloc countries,

among them the Polish Foreign Minister, to discuss renewed diplomatic ties between Poland and Israel. Poland and Israel are set to establish interest sections and exchange representatives in mid-October, Shamir said.

In a meeting scheduled with the Egyptian Foreign Minister, Shamir said he expects to further discuss the subjects decided on at the summit meeting in Alexandria between Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres and Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, and the

Taba question. He said he will confer with some African and Asian countries which do not have diplomatic relations with Israel and intimated that some of these countries are showing quiet interest in resuming such ties.

Shamir's address to the UN as well as his meetings with representatives of various countries will cover the gamut of official policies of the unity government, he said. He pointed out that time constraints would prevent him from meeting with any Jewish organizations.

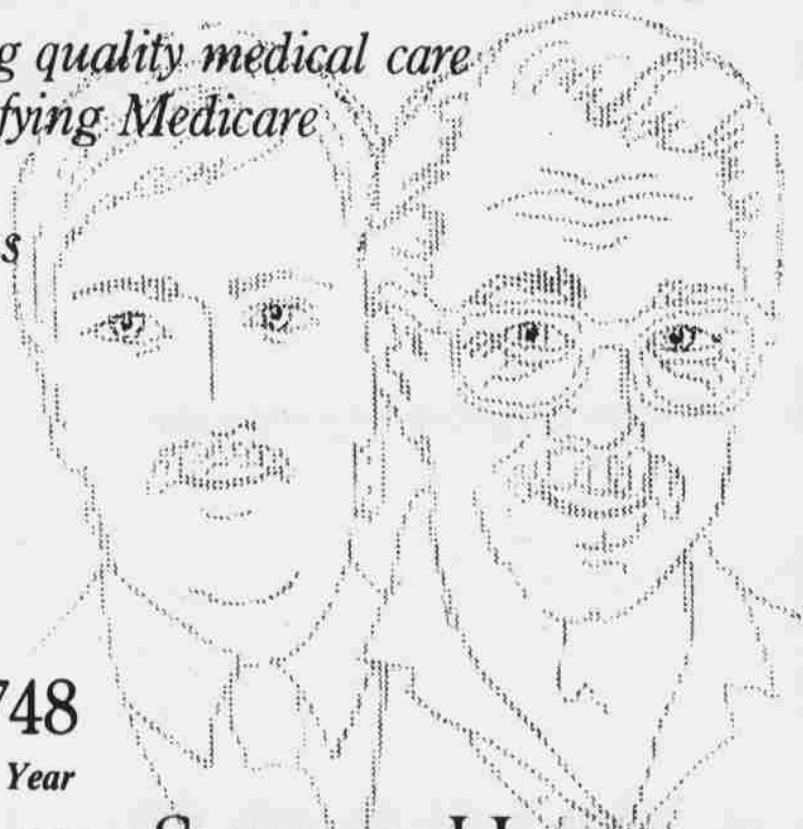
3000 Jewish Holocaust Survivors Meet



More than 3,000 Jewish Holocaust survivors and their families from across the U.S. gathered at Liberty Island "to thank America for providing a home and haven" 40 years ago. Secretary of the Army John O. Marsh Jr. addressed the participants, the U.S. Army Band and Choir performed, and a honor guard displayed the flats of 11 Army units that liberated the Nazi concentration camps. The ceremonies were sponsored by the American Gathering and Federation of Jewish Holocaust Survivors and by HIAS, which helped to resettle most of the survivors.

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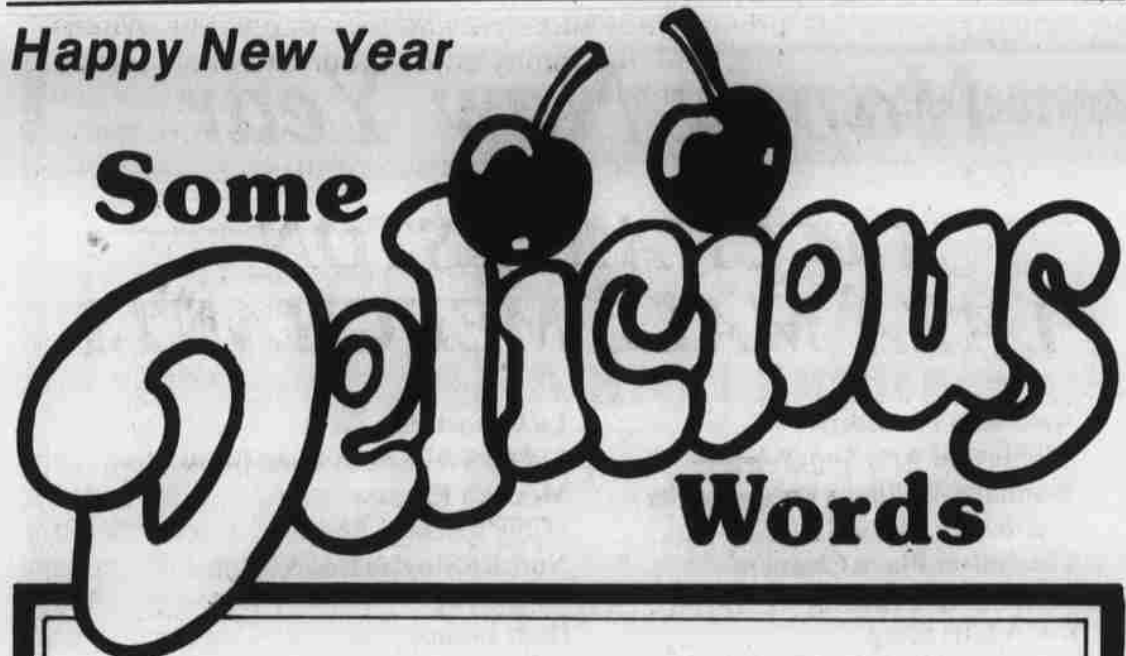
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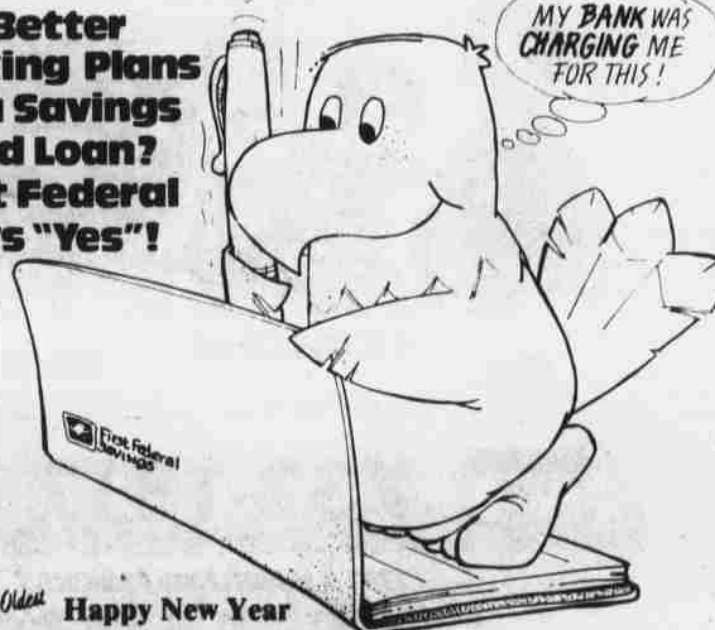
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