

World Gathering Of Jewish Students In Israel

WUJS (The World Union of Jewish Students) announced recently that a "World Gathering of Jewish Students" will take place in Israel between December 28-31, 1986. The Gathering, based in Jerusalem, centers around the theme "Creating Commitment to a Jewish Future." Scheduled speakers include Anatoly Shcharansky, Shimon Peres, Yitzhak Shamir, Martin Gilbert, Marek Halter, Yitzhak Greenberg and Shlomo Riskin. In addition to the speakers, workshops, mini conferences and special events are planned as students will meet, discuss and learn about contemporary Jewish issues. Students from 33 countries around the world are expected to attend this conference, especially planned for the winter break from school.

The price of \$699 includes round trip airfare and registration for the Gathering; a 4-day hotel and meal supplement is available for an extra \$100. All tickets can be open return. More information can be obtained from the University Service Department, AZYF, 515 Park Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10022, Tel. (212) 751-6070, attention Susan Silverman.

Spiritual Thought For The Week

One who turns to idleness, indeed, endangers his life.

Soviet Overtures To Israel Reported

TEL AVIV (JTA) — The Soviet Union appears to be making overtures toward Israel in the course of quiet contacts at senior diplomatic levels which have been going on for some time, according to an article in Haaretz by Akiva Eldar.

At meetings in recent weeks, the Soviets seemed interested in a trade-off whereby they would renew discussions on the establishment of Consular relations with Israel and on the problem of Jewish emigration in exchange for Israel's agreement to Soviet participation in the Middle East political process, including an international conference for Arab-Israeli peace, Haaretz said.

The contacts began early in October after then Premier Shimon Peres met with Soviet

Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze in New York. The USSR reportedly is reassessing its Middle East policy, and, according to reports from Israeli Ambassadors in several European capitals, Soviet diplomats have

expressed regret over breaking relations with Israel in 1967.

They have also indicated it was a mistake for Moscow to rely solely on Syria with respect to its interest in Middle East developments. According to Haaretz, the USSR is aware of Israel's concerns.

In all their discussions, Soviet officials have called attention to television programs and theatrical presentations in the Soviet Union devoted to Jewish themes as a sign of their willingness to re-examine Soviet attitudes toward Israel, Haaretz reported.



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