

JEWISH NEWS BRIEFS

TEL AVIV (JTA) — Ariel Sharon, the outspoken Herut hardliner, is embroiled in another angry war of words with Foreign Minister Shimon Peres. He has also been criticized by Mayor Teddy Kollek of Jerusalem for demonstratively moving into an apartment in the Old City's Moslem quarter.

Sharon, who was defense minister during the war in Lebanon and is presently minister of commerce and industry, accused Peres of creating a "world-wide panic" by his constant warnings of the demographic dangers to Israel by its continued rule over 1.5 million Arabs in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

TEL AVIV (JTA) — Prompt apologies by Polish officials and the news media averted a threatened boycott by Israeli and other Jewish groups of ceremonies in Warsaw next April marking the 45th anniversary of the Warsaw Ghetto uprising.

The apologies were for an item published in Trybuna Ludu, the official organ of the Polish Communist Party, that contained anti-Israel overtones. The item, transmitted abroad by PAP, the Polish news agency, claimed that the Polish committee organizing the ceremonies were concerned over "the current dangerous revisionist and neo-Nazi trends in the Federal Republic of Germany as well as the possible consequences of Israel's policy of expansion."

NEW YORK (JTA) — U.S. aid to Israel, as well as the America-Israel Free Trade Agreement, will not be affected in fiscal year 1988 by the budget package being prepared by Congress, according to Sen. Bob Packwood (R-Ore.).

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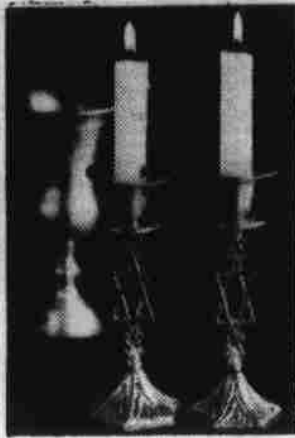
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TORONTO (JTA) — A hearing on war crimes charges against Imre Finta, the first Canadian citizen to face prosecution in Canada for crimes committed on foreign soil, has been postponed until Jan. 13.

The Hungarian-born Finta appeared briefly in federal court here Dec. 18, when the postponement was announced. He was arrested Dec. 9 in Hamilton, Ontario, and is free on \$100,000 (Canadian) bail.

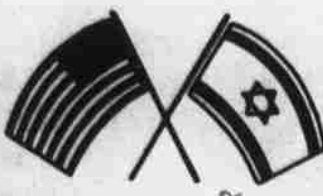
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NEW YORK (JTA) — New York Police has assigned a detective from the Bias Crimes Unit to the investigation of the murder of a 39-year-old Orthodox Jewish postal worker in the Borough Park section of Brooklyn, N.Y.

Police announced the assignment following an afternoon rally in which 300 Hasidic Jews gathered in front of the offices of the Council of Jewish Organizations in Borough Park to voice their concern that the attack on Eli Wald was anti-Semitic.

NEW YORK (JTA) — "Leaders of the riots" in Gaza, Judaea and Samaria should be ousted as a means to restore tranquility to the administered territories, Yuval Neeman, chairman of the ultra-nationalist Tehiya Party, said here.

The Knesset member also remarked that Israel must impose severe punishments on residents of the territories found guilty of crimes related to the riots.

BRIDGETOWN, Barbados (JTA) — Sabbath eve services were held for the first time in more than 100 years in the synagogue of Congregation Nidhei Israel here, the World Jewish Congress reported.

They marked the opening of the four-day biennial conference of the Commonwealth Jewish Council and the reconsecration of what is possibly the oldest Jewish house of worship in the Western hemisphere.

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