

JEWISH NEWS BRIEFS

TEL AVIV (JTA) — Israel has extended for one month the visas of the Soviet consular delegation here.

A further extension awaits an expected favorable response from Moscow to Israel's request to send a similar delegation to the Soviet Union, Maariv reported.

Israel has been urging such reciprocity ever since the Soviet delegation arrived here last June. The visas for the Soviet personnel were to expire on Jan. 31.

ATLANTA (JTA) — More than 200 mathematicians meeting here recently petitioned top Soviet authorities to expedite the emigration of Soviet mathematicians, some of whom are Jewish refuseniks.

Moved by the plight of Soviet colleagues who are barred from participating in scientific exchanges such as theirs, petitioners at the Jan. 5-9 Joint Mathematical Meetings singled out 14 Soviet mathematicians. All have been refused exit visas for more than six years and have had their careers stalled as a result of applying to leave.

TEL AVIV (JTA) — Israel's inflation rate for 1987 was 16.1 percent, the lowest figure in 15 years, the Central Bureau of Statistics reported.

The figures were released after the bureau reported that the cost-of-living index rose 1.3 percent in December.

The comparatively low figure was welcomed by all sectors of the economy -- though Finance Minister Moshe Nissim said he would only be happy when he learned that 1.3 percent was the annual, rather than the monthly, figure.

KINDLE THE SHABBAT CANDLES

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 Friday, February 19..... 5:08 P.M.
 Friday, February 26..... 5:15 P.M.
 Friday, March 4..... 5:20 P.M.



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JERUSALEM (JTA) — The Hadassah-Hebrew University Medical Center here has not treated Iranian leader the Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, despite what a Kuwaiti newspaper recently reported. However, Dr. Shaul Feldman, head of the center's neurology department, has disclosed that "tens" of Iranians had been secretly treated in the medical center wing jokingly called "The Persian Private Medical Service" as well as in other Israeli hospitals.

NEW YORK (JTA) — Former prisoner of conscience Paritsky of Kharkov, the Ukraine, his wife Polina and their daughter Anna were promised an exit visa to Israel by local authorities, the Cincinnati Council for Soviet Jews and the Student Struggle for Soviet Jewry reported.

The Cincinnati council spoke with Alexander Paritsky, 49. He has sought to emigrate for 11 years, but had been refused because he allegedly possessed state secrets due to his work on the development of ultrasonic instruments for the measurement of distances between atomic particles.

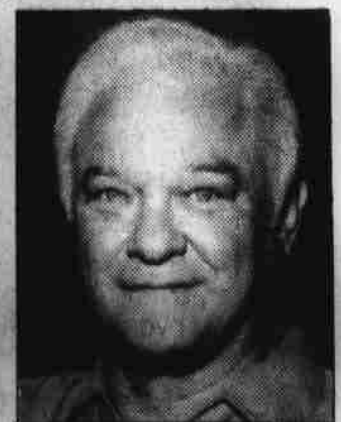
His daughter, Dorina, 21, emigrated from the Soviet Union last October.

MONTREAL (JTA) — Raoul Wallenberg, whom the Soviet authorities claim died 40 years ago, is alive and still in prison, according to Irwin Cotler, a McGill University law professor who left for Moscow recently, with the intention of raising the issue of Wallenberg's fate with Kremlin leaders.

Cotler said at a news conference before his departure that he has confidential information from a "highly placed Swedish diplomat" that as recently as October 1987, Wallenberg was "alive and incarcerated in a prison not far from Moscow." If alive, he would be 76.

The Soviets insist he died of a heart attack in 1947.

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