

### JEWISH NEWS BRIEFS

GENEVA (JTA) — A professional visit to Israel by 180 Swiss army reserve officers was cancelled because of the disturbances in the Israeli-administered territories, the Swiss news media reported.

There was no official confirmation but the daily La Tribune de Geneve reported that the trip was abandoned owing to "discreet pressure" from the Foreign Office and Defense Ministry.

Both ministries denied they had applied any pressure. The Foreign Office admitted, however, that it had asked the officers not to wear their uniforms while in Israel and not to visit the West Bank or the Golan Heights.

UNITED NATIONS (JTA) — Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar said that the United States had failed to respond to a U.N. proposal to bring the issue of the closing the Palestine Liberation Organization's U.N. observer mission here to arbitration.

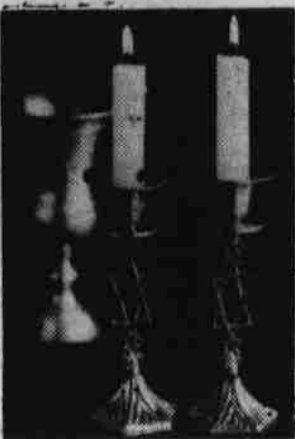
Perez de Cuellar said in a report to the General Assembly that his legal adviser, Carl-August Fleischhaver, requested the United States to name an arbitrator, but the American government ignored his request.

TEL AVIV (JTA) — An Israeli Cabinet minister visiting South Africa has reportedly violated the government's ban against any contact with officials of the South African government.

Avraham Shapira, a minister-without-portfolio representing the National Religious Party, had a three-hour talk with South African Minister of Home Affairs and Communications J.C.G. Botha. It took place during a flight from Durban to Cape Town, Maariv reported.

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Friday, March 18..... 5:33 P.M.  
Friday, March 25..... 5:39 P.M.  
Friday, April 1..... 5:44 P.M.  
Friday, April 8..... 5:50 P.M.



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TEL AVIV (JTA) — The national annual average for rain already has been exceeded by 5 percent due to abundant precipitation this winter. Rains have added about 2.5 inches a day to the level of Lake Tiberias, Israel's main water reservoir.

But the water authority will have to maintain a 10 percent cutback in water usage for the next 10 years to compensate for the "overdraft in Israel's water bank" because of previous drought years, Agriculture Minister Aryeh Nahamkin said.

TEL AVIV (JTA) — Alexei Magarik, the last official prisoner of Zion to be released from Soviet prison, arrived in Israel recently with his wife, Natasha, their son, Haim, and his cello.

The 29-year-old musicologist and cellist was arrested in March 1986 for teaching Hebrew since 1976 and sentenced to three years in prison on charges of drug trafficking.

The sentence was based on six grams of hashish that searchers said they had found in his apartment. Magarik claimed the searchers had planted the substance.

GENEVA (JTA) Soviet human rights policy is far from perfect even in this era of glasnost, the U.S. ambassador to the United Nations Human Rights Commission said here.

The Cuban-born envoy, Armando Valladares, said the United States believes that the changes in the Soviet Union in general have been "more superficial and cosmetic than fundamental." He estimated that at the current rate of emigration, the 375,000 Jews waiting to leave will have to wait 46 years to do so.

NEW YORK (JTA) — A private group that serves disabled Israeli military personnel and their families has formed an American support group, Friends of Israel Disabled War Veterans, Beit Halochem, and has opened an office here.

The tax-exempt organization will seek to raise \$15 million over the next five years, according to Sy Colen, its executive director.

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