

JEWISH NEWS BRIEFS

NEW YORK (JTA) — Two weeks ago, a small Beechcraft private plane owned by a New Jersey Jewish businessman landed twice in 48 hours on Cuban soil.

The first time, it unloaded a small interfaith delegation of American clergy who had come to assess the needs of religious communities in Cuba. The second time the plane touched down, it arrived with six cases of kosher wine, 20 boxes of shmura matza and enough gefilte fish to feed two community seders held at the Great Synagogue of Havana.

"I called it the Mitzvah plane," explained Rabbi Arthur Schneier, president of the Appeal of Conscience Foundation, which arranged the delegation's visit.

JERUSALEM (JTA) — Neighbors of a 15-year-old Jewish youth here who was stabbed by an Arab have vowed to permit no Arab to enter their Orthodox Jewish neighborhood except on legitimate business.

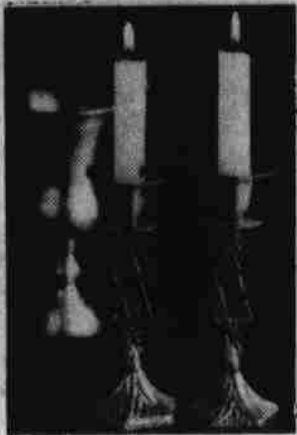
The victim was reported to be "improving" at Bikur Holim Hospital, where he underwent surgery. He was stabbed twice in the stomach in the shop where he worked, but managed to grab the knife and wound his assailant. A 24-year-old Arab suspect was later arrested at a nearby gasoline station.

MONTREAL (JTA) — About 200 Jewish university students demonstrated in front of The Montreal Gazette morning newspaper, protesting what they said was biased coverage of the unrest in Israel's administered territories.

The demonstration was organized by Tagar, the North American Jewish Student Movement.

KINDLE THE SHABBAT CANDLES

Friday, April 8..... 6:50 P.M.
Friday, April 15..... 6:56 P.M.
Friday, April 22..... 7:02 P.M.
Friday, April 29..... 7:07 P.M.



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WASHINGTON (JTA) — The Senate Judicial Committee last week approved a "hate crimes" bill that would impose criminal penalties for damage to religious property that exceeds \$10,000.

The bill passed the House of Representatives last year and is expected to reach the Senate floor after the Easter recess. It is sponsored by Rep. Dan Glickman (D.Kan.) and Sen. Howard Metzenbaum (D-Ohio).

NEW YORK (JTA) — The World Sephardi Federation has adopted plans to establish Sephardi House, a cultural and educational center, in Jerusalem.

The federation's board of governors decided that the new center would be created to promote knowledge and pride in Sephardi heritage and culture, enhance tolerance among Jews, promote economic growth and stability for Sephardim and advance the cause of Israeli-Arab peace.

The world population of Sephardi Jews — who originate from around the Mediterranean — is about 1.5 million. Sephardim from Argentina, Brazil, Canada, France, Israel, Mexico, Switzerland, Turkey and the United States attended the board meeting.



PARIS (JTA) — A French-language daily news bulletin based on the worldwide services of the Jewish Telegraphic Agency was launched here recently.

The four-page publication, titled "Jour J," (The Jewish Day) and subtitled "Jewish Telegraphic Letter," will appear five days a week. It is owned by a private company and edited by veteran journalist Samuel Minsk.

WASHINGTON (JTA) — Richard Murphy, assistant secretary of state for Near Eastern and South Asian affairs, ruled out any cut in U.S. aid to Israel as a prod to cease its "iron fist" policy in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

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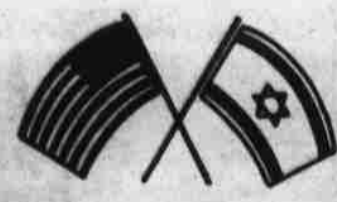
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