

JEWISH NEWS BRIEFS

TEL AVIV (JTA) — Menachem Savidor, a former speaker of the Knesset and a member of its Likud faction, died of a heart attack at Ichilov Hospital here at the age of 70.

Savidor entered political life in 1977 when Likud unseated the Labor Party after 30 years of governing Israel. He was elected speaker in 1981 and was also, for a time, director general of the Transport Ministry and of Israel Railways.

He was forced out of Likud in 1984 after he supported an opposition call for a secret ballot, which led to the breakup of the Likud-led coalition.

Savidor was born in Russia and came to Palestine in 1940, traveling via China and Japan.

NEW YORK (JTA) — West Germany has initiated criminal proceedings against former Nazi Boleslavs Maikovskis, according to Brooklyn District Attorney Elizabeth Holtzman and Menachem Rosensaft, founder of the International Network of Children of Jewish Holocaust Survivors.

Holtzman and Rosensaft met in Washington for about a half-hour with West German Ambassador Jurgen Rufus. They were assured that the West Germans were serious about investigating Maikovskis' war record.

WASHINGTON (JTA) — Saudi Arabia is considering asking the United States next year to sell it \$5 billion to \$8 billion worth of weapons, including F/A-18 fighter planes, Capitol Hill sources said.

A fight with staunchly pro-Israel members of Congress would almost certainly ensue, possibly similar to the 1981 battle over the proposed sale of AWACS surveillance planes to the Saudis, which Congress ultimately approved.

Lawmakers were outraged this spring that Saudi Arabia bought Chinese CSS-2 ground-to-ground missiles capable of reaching Israel, without promptly informing the Reagan administration.

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MONTREAL (JTA) — Joseph Joffre died at Maimonides Hospital here at the age of 113. He was possibly the oldest living Jew and one of the oldest men in the world.

He succumbed to what were described as natural causes. "He was lucid until the very last moment," said Minny Greenblatt, the youngest of his 15 children.

"I console myself with the fact that he died with dignity and lived a full life," she said.



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NEW YORK (JTA) — A promise to legalize the teaching of Hebrew in the Soviet Union and the establishment of a Jewish cultural center in Moscow appear to be the prime fruits of talks held in Moscow between Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze and Jewish leaders.

Participants in the extraordinary two-hour discussion, which reportedly covered all substantive issues of concern to Soviet Jewry, included Edgar Bronfman and Israel Singer, president and secretary-general respectively of the World Jewish Congress; Simcha Dinitz, chairman of the World Zionist Organization-Jewish Agency Executive; and Mendel Kaplan, chairman of the Jewish Agency Board of Governors.

MOSCOW (JTA) — Hebrew teachers and other Jewish activists face a serious dilemma, despite the more liberal policies of Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev.

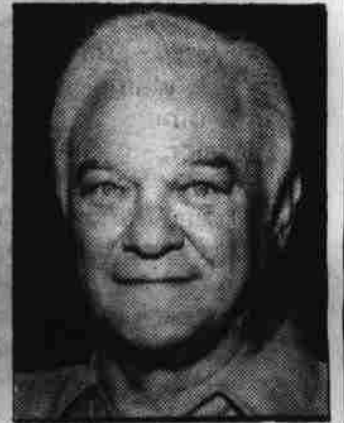
At present, they are not bothered by the Soviet authorities. But they live in constant fear of persecution, harassment and even imprisonment, because Hebrew teaching is not recognized as an occupation in the USSR.

Consequently, those who practice it are considered jobless and unwilling to work. That is a serious offense under Soviet law, punishable by long prison terms, Mikhail Chienov, a veteran Hebrew teacher, explained to the Jewish Telegraphic Agency here.

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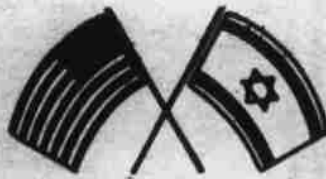
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