

# NEWS DIGEST

your quick guide to news from around the world

## Weapons stash found in Brooklyn apartment

**1** NEW YORK — Thirty people were taken into custody for questioning today after police said an investigation of possible child abuse led to the discovery of an arsenal in an apartment house.

Police said they found assault rifles, shotguns, submachine guns and thousands of rounds of ammunition in three adjoining buildings in the Crown Heights section of Brooklyn. They also found black powder, which Deputy Inspector William Allee said could be a component for making explosives.

Many of the weapons were found in a secret compartment behind a closet, Allee said.

Police were looking at information that the suspects were members of a group called the Provisional Party of Communists, said Deputy Inspector Michael Collins.

The Brooklyn group has no ties to the national communist party, according to Terrie Albano, a Communist Party U.S.A. spokeswoman.

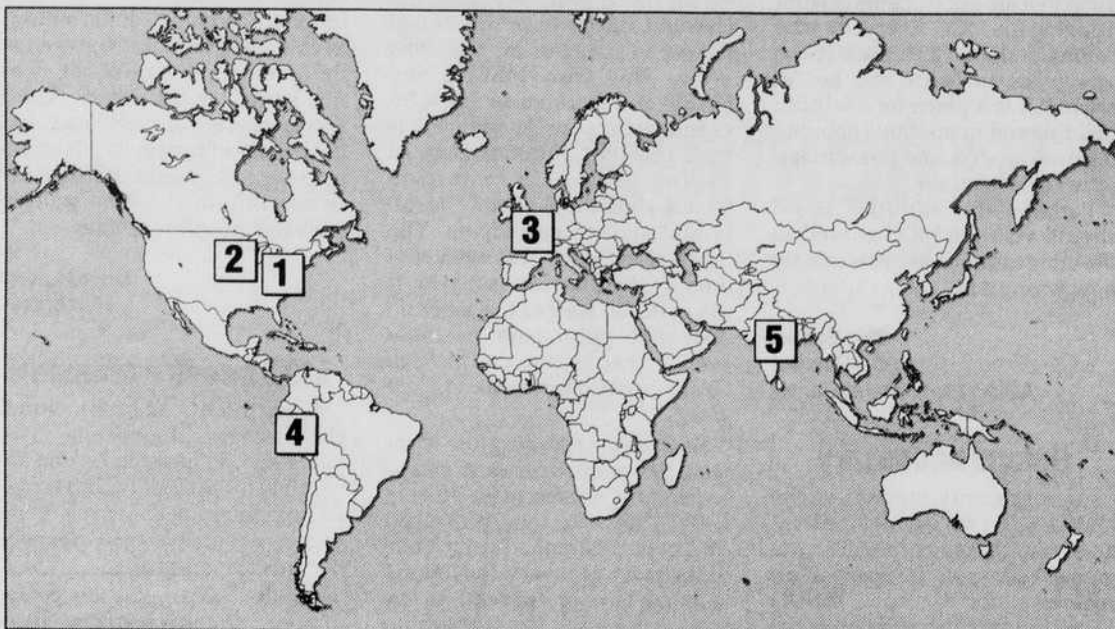
Police and social workers entered a four-story brownstone in the Crown Heights section Monday evening after first being barred as they sought to investigate a complaint of child abuse that had been lodged with the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children.

Allee said a search was begun when people inside said there were no children.

After weapons were discovered, the search was extended to the two adjoining buildings, where a girl and two boys were found, along with more weapons, police said.

Allee said the children's mother, who was not immediately identified, was charged with endangering the welfare of a minor and assault. He said the children were in good condition.

A few other suspects were expected to face charges of weapon possession, police said.



## Kevoorkian friend assists in suicide

**2** IONIA, Mich. — An ally of Dr. Jack Kevoorkian, herself terminally ill with cancer, was charged Tuesday with assisting the suicide of a multiple-sclerosis sufferer.

Janet Good's lawyer said she's unlikely to be alive for trial.

"No prosecutor with any ounce of humanity would have indicted Janet Good," said Michael Schwartz.

A grand jury indicted Good, 73, on charges of assisting the suicide of Loretta Peabody, conspiring to assist suicide and practicing medicine without a license. Kevoorkian faces identical charges in his first legal test outside the Detroit area. The charges carry a maximum of 18 years in prison.

Authorities seized a videotape showing Peabody discussing suicide with Kevoorkian, who later acknowledged she was among the 45 people he has helped to die since 1990.

Prosecutor Raymond Voet said he may drop the charges if evidence shows Good may not live long.

"Under no circumstances do I want to martyr somebody," he said.

## Swiss banks fail to find victims' assets

**3** ZURICH, Switzerland — After nine months of researching old records, a Swiss bank investigator said Tuesday he has found only \$8,800 belonging to the heirs of Holocaust victims.

The World Jewish Congress, which has been campaigning for Swiss banks to open their records and find what it claimed would be \$7 billion in such assets, called the initial results "pathetic."

Hanspeter Haeni, the banks' ombudsman, said the figures "may seem disappointing at first glance," but added that his research showed that two previous attempts to return Jewish assets — in the late 1940s and in 1962 — were largely successful.

The assets were part of \$32 million identified by the banks last January as unclaimed and possibly belonging to victims of the Nazi regime.

The Jewish victims whose assets were recovered included three people killed by the Nazis and two people in Romania who lost all they owned during World War II because of discriminatory legislation, Haeni said.

## Hundreds injured in Peruvian earthquake

**4** LIMA, Peru — A powerful earthquake rocked southern Peru Tuesday, killing at least 15 people, injuring as many as 700 and causing many buildings to crumble, civil defense officials said.

Hardest hit by the magnitude-6.4 noon quake was the tourist city of Nazca, where four people were killed and 380 injured, civil defense spokeswoman Lena Montes said.

The Peruvian Geophysical Institute said the quake was centered in the Pacific Ocean about 83 miles west of Nazca, which is 235 miles southeast of Lima.

The quake lasted about a minute and was felt in Lima — where high-tension cables fell across a busy avenue — and as far away as Tacna, 600 miles southeast of the capital.

Five people were killed in the mining town of Acari, southeast of Nazca, and four people died and 200 were injured in the small town of Palpa, northwest of Nazca, Montes said. Two others died and 120 were hurt in Chincha, farther to the north.

## Planes collide over India killing up to 351

**5** CHARKHI DADRI, India — A Saudi jumbo jet climbing from New Delhi's airport collided with a Kazak plane coming in for landing Tuesday, creating twin fireballs that turned the sky red as dawn and scattered the bodies of up to 351 people over farmland below.

If the death toll is confirmed, the crash would be the third-deadliest in aviation history.

Rescue vehicles tried to navigate the area's poor roads, arriving at the crash site after the first curious villagers.

The Saudi Arabia-bound Saudia jetliner with 312 passengers and crew members had been in the air for only seven minutes when it collided with a Kazakhstan Airlines Ilyushin-76 cargo plane, which was on a landing approach, aviation officials said.

Seventeen foreigners were on board the Saudi jetliner, including two Americans and a Briton, Press Trust of India news agency reported.

The plane, arriving from Shymkent in the former Soviet republic of Kazakhstan, was carrying 39 people, 28 Kazak passengers and an 11-member Russian crew.

All aboard the two planes were believed killed. There were no reports that anyone on the ground died.

The American pilot of a C-141 Air Force transport plane who was bringing in supplies for the U.S. Embassy in New Delhi witnessed the crash's fiery aftermath from 20,000 feet.

"We noticed out of our right-hand (side of the plane) a large cloud lit up with an orange glow from within the clouds," the 30-year-old captain told reporters in a conference call from the Indian capital.

"The glow intensity of the cloud became dimmer, and the two fireballs descended and became fireballs on the ground," said the pilot, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

— The Associated Press

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