

VPRS-NEA-85-022

PREX 7. 00:5/000

8/11/85

JPRS-NEA-85-022  
11 February 1985

ISRAEL

#### BRIEFS

EDB DISCOVERED IN GROUNDWATER--In samplings of groundwater in different parts of the country, traces of a pesticide that is thought to be carcinogenic, ethylene dibromide, used for ridding the soil of pests and for the fumigation of fodder seeds and fruits after the harvest, were discovered. This pesticide is very widely used in Israel. One hundred and fifty samplings of groundwater were analyzed in Israel in order to uncover traces of the pesticide, after the U.S. Federal Food Administration notified the Israeli Ministry of Health that the substance, upon penetration and reaching groundwater, is likely to become a cancer-causing agent. In the United States, use of this substance, which is an effective pesticide, was prohibited some time ago. As a result of this information and the presence of traces of EDB in groundwater, the directors-general of the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Agriculture in Israel have decided to prohibit use of this substance until March 1985; during this time mapping of areas in which restricted conditions will be set for the use of the pesticide will be conducted. A panel of experts will designate the areas where use of this substance will be absolutely prohibited, those regions where use will be permitted without restriction, and those regions where use of the substance will be subject to inspection and supervision, as a safeguard against the possible presence of the pesticide in the groundwater. The areas will be classified according to the level of the groundwater and the usual types of crops in the region. [Text] [Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 12 Nov 84 p 12] 12799

EARTHQUAKES IN JORDAN VALLEY--A series of earthquakes struck Israel the night before last and yesterday morning. The tremors were mild and no damage was reported. The epicenter of the earthquakes was the (Nahal Tirza) area in the Jordan Valley, however they were also felt in Ma'ale Efrayim, Hod Hasharon, Ru'ananna, and other areas. It was announced from the Department of Seismology of the Institute for Oil and Geophysical Research of the Ministry of Energy and Infrastructure that the tremors registered between 3.8 and 4.3 on the Richter scale. The director of the department, Dr Avi Shapira, also announced that in a damage survey that was conducted, no damage resulting from the earthquake was uncovered. [Text] [Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 6 Nov 84 p 16] 12799

CSO: 4423/5