STATE DEPT. COMMENT UNJUSTIFIED

The Israeli Foreign the statement by the State Department com-Ministry charged that heads of Egypt, Syria ment without awaiting the State Department's and Libya barring ne- clarification from Is-comment equating De-fense Minister Moshe with Israel was unjusti- try, but it repeated its

JERUSALEM (WNS) -- Arab territories" with Dayan's talk of a fied, Dayan's state-comment even after permanent Israelire- ments were not official Dayan's and the Minis-

explained, just "thought fragments."

But not only did the gime in the occupied policy, and as he later try's clarification, the Israeli spokesman said.

Religion 700 Expensive?

By RABBI SAMUEL SILVER

Are synagogues expensive to join? Many people think so, and what is needed is a better public relations effort to convey to the public the truth about congregational life.

I re-discovered this recently in Miami, Florida when I went on a talk show and was given rude treatment by the moderator of the program, a young woman who said she was Jewish and proceeded to lambast organized religion.

She said beautiful synagogues were unnecessary; people could pray under a tree. She complained that many could not "afford" to join a synagogue. She ventilated her protests against building funds and used such words as "travesty" and "barbarian" in referring to various religious practices. She spoke about "rabbis in Cadillacs."

I stood my ground. I told her that every synagogue in America will allow people to join and even get holyday admittance if they can't pay the average dues. I said that "the beauty of holiness" warrants beautiful synagogues and religious schools. I said that anything worthwhile needs to be "organized." I said anyone can "afford" to join a shul. I said few rabbis have big cars and that those who do have well earned them.

Then the hostess took phone calls, and more listeners repeated the stories about how expensive affiliation was. I stood my ground and said that these were canards often repeated

and that they were especially deplorable since almost every temple today has a deficit.

A better public relations endeavor is indicated for synagogues.

JERUSALEM (WNS) -- Premier Golda Meir told a press luncheon she was opposed to civil marriage in Israel because it would split the nation. She also said application halacha (religious law) should be "laced with mercy." As she spoke several hundred hundred members of the Public Committee for Civil Marriage In Israel demonstrated in front of the Knesset.

Rabbi Shlomo Goren, Chief Rabbi of Tel Aviv and former Chief Chaplain of Israel's armed forces, said that halacha could be applied to the problems of modern Israel without any deviations from the law. He deplored the fact that the present generation lacked the scholarship and courage to make innovation necessary and blamed the situation mainly on holocaust.

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