

# ATHLETIC CENTER AT TEL AVIV U. IN MEMORY OF ELEVEN SLAIN AT MUNICH

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- More than 800 leaders of the Greater Washington community met to launch a nationwide campaign to raise funds for an Olympic Memorial Center for Physical Education to be built on the campus of Tel Aviv University in Israel. The launching took place at a dinner at the Washington Hilton Hotel.

The campaign, sponsored by the American Friends of Tel Aviv University, seeks to provide funds for a \$4,000,000 Center dedicated to the memory of the eleven Israeli athletes slain in Munich. The Center will be the only indoor athletic facility serving the students of Tel Aviv University and the people of the Greater Tel Aviv area, where one third of the country's population resides.

Tel Aviv University is Israel's fastest growing institution of higher learning. It has more than 15,000 students, 1,200 of them from the United States. It has a faculty of 2,200, more than forty research institutes, and offers graduate and undergraduate degrees in many fields.

Principal participants in the dinner included Lorne Greene, star of "Bonanza", who served as Master of Ceremonies; Arthur Ashe, winner of the 1968 U.S. Open tennis title, who last week won the World Championship Tennis Tournament held in Rome; Milton Polinger, Chairman of the Washington Chapter of the American Friends of Tel Aviv University; Abe Pollin, President of the Baltimore Bullets basketball team and Co-Chairman of the Washington Chapter of the American Friends; George Allen, Head Coach and General Manager of the Washington Redskins; Dick Schaap, noted NBC sportscaster, who is Chairman of the Olympian Memorial Sponsoring Committee; General Mordechai Gur, Defense and Armed Forces Attache of the Israel Embassy; Mrs. George Wasserman, Chairman of the Women's Committee for the dinner; Bob Consi-

dine, famous journalist and writer, and Samuel M. Solomon, National Executive Vice President of the American Friends.

In his address at the dinner, Lorne Greene traced the history of the Olympic Games from ancient times when they were used as a substitute for hostility and war between the city-states of ancient Greece. Their renewal in modern days was intended to create friendship and understanding between nations, he pointed out, although too often they have fallen short of that goal.

Paying tribute to the State of Israel and to its athletes who fell at Munich, Mr. Greene concluded his address with a reading of A. E. Housman's famous poem "To An Athlete Dying Young".

General Gur underlined the importance of security to the State of Israel, but pointed out that "security means not only safe borders, but living a better life, and the education of your young people is the key to that objective."

"That is why we place so high a premium on education, particularly higher education," he said. "In this field, Tel Aviv University, our fastest growing university, plays a most constructive and crucial role."

Mr. Polinger cited the importance of the Olympian Memorial Center to the students of Tel Aviv University and the people of Tel Aviv but added that "the tragic event which it commemorates is indelibly imprinted in all our minds and hearts."

He pointed out that it was highly fitting that the Center be built at Tel Aviv University. "It is a university dedicated to the ideal of improved education, the ideal of service to humanity -- the very opposite of the mindless brutality which received such horrifying expression in Munich," he said.

Mr. Pollin outlined plans for the Olympian Memorial Center. He reported that there will be a basketball arena seating 3,000, an Olympic-size swimming pool, and facilities for gymnastics and other indoor sports. He said: "The Center will serve young men and women of the University and the city, and will truly be an appropriate memorial to Israel's fallen athletes."

Mr. Ashe called upon his audience to look forward to the day when people will turn their backs on violence and destruction, and learn to live together in peace and harmony. "It is in that spirit," he said, "that I am proud to be associated with the effort in behalf of the Olympian Memorial Center."

Mr. Schaap recalled the strong sense of shock which he felt at the times of the events in Munich. "I decided to take off my jacket and tie and join other people to get this project under way," he said. Mr. Schaap was instru-

mental in interesting many sports personalities in the Center.

Mrs. Wasserman paid tribute to the women of the community who played so important a role in assuring the success of the dinner at the Washington Hilton. "From the very first," she said, "this has been a team project. We have embarked on a task of historic impact, and I am sure we will see it through."

The invocation at the dinner was offered by Rabbi Henry Segal of Congregation B'nai Israel of Washington, and the national anthems of the United States and Israel were sung by Cantor Jacob Friedman of the same congregation.

NEW YORK--The University of Rochester has pledged that it will no longer begin the fall semester on any Jewish holiday, following a successful intervention by the American Jewish Congress.

JERUSALEM (WNS)--Deputy Premier and Education Minister Yigal Allon is pressing for legislation to extend compulsory free education for an additional two years.



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