

GOLDA'S 2ND WEEK IN U.S. HECTIC, PRODUCTIVE

NEW YORK (WNS) -- Israeli Premier Golda Meir's second week in the United States was extremely hectic and productive, meeting with Jewish leaders and speaking to Jewish audiences.

At a press briefing after Mrs. Meir addressed a closed-door meeting of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish organizations, an Israeli spokesman said the Premier told the Jewish leaders that her talks with President Nixon were "serious, frank and productive." She said the talks included continuing economic assistance and loans to Israel and the purchase of armaments; the chance for a Mideast settlement and the attitude of the Arab states.

In response to questions by the Jewish leaders concerning Arab terrorism, she was reported to have said that Israel is preventing terrorist acts against itself by conducting actions against Arab terrorist bases where Japanese and Europeans are also trained.

The spokesman said Mrs. Meir expressed satisfaction that new Soviet immigrants continue to come, although not in the desired amount. The main problems, she said, are the adjustment of newcomers to a new society and the housing shortage. She criticized the Soviet education tax. She was also reported to have said her visit with Pope Paul IV in the Vatican in February did not solve all the problems between Israel and the Vatican, but that it was an important step and that she hoped the dialogue with the Vatican would continue.

In other matters, Mrs. Meir said the present world energy crisis posed a severe problem and that oil states such as Libya and Saudi Arabia were accumulating money which could help them control the economies of other countries. Earlier on CBS-TV "Face the Nation," she said she saw no progress by any of the Arab countries moving toward some kind of peace with Israel. She termed the downing of the Libyan airliner a terrible tragedy, condemned the execution of the two Americans and one Belgian diplomat, and urged the world community to take steps to rout terrorist activities. She noted that terrorism which began as a problem for Jews, has now become a world problem.

Later addressing a United Jewish Appeal fund dinner, part of its national campaign to raise \$505 million for 1973, Mrs. Meir told the 3000 guests that she hoped "a real peace, a lasting peace", will come to the Middle East so that Israeli and Arab children "will have a better world." She said she also hoped the Arabs will understand they cannot destroy Israel, even though they commit sporadic murder, and that they will understand they are only destroying themselves. "We once again offer our hand" to Israel's neighbors for peace, Mrs. Meir said. Israel, she said, had fought three wars, but they were not fought for territories nor to gain at the expense of the Arabs. Mrs. Meir said that some people believe that Jews could remain Jews only so long as they are oppressed and tortured by others, but the example of the American Jews proved them wrong. Israel without American Jews has no meaning, she said, and American Jews without Israel have no meaning.

In an address to some 900 persons at Brandeis university where she was awarded an honorary doctor of law degree, Mrs. Meir again reaffirmed Israel's wish for peace. She said Israel's most notable achievement was not military but the creation of a country. Israel had to fight she said, because it was a "very sad and tragic necessity, and thank God we could win the wars."

Later the same day, Mrs. Meir addressed a rally of 5000 at Madison Square Garden's Felt Forum, sponsored by the New York Committee for Israel's 25th Anniversary.

In her last public appearance here, Mrs. Meir received an honorary degree of Doctor of Humane letters from Yeshiva University. Addressing an emotion packed gathering of 2000, she urged Jewish youth to come to Israel and help develop it.

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