

WHOLE WORLD, INCLUDING POPE, ASKS SYRIA RELEASE POW LIST

NEW YORK (WNS) -- Efforts are increasing to organize world public opinion in order to exert pressure on Syria to release the names of Israeli prisoners of war it holds and to allow the Red Cross to visit them.

The B'nai B'rith's Anti-Defamation League has organized an Ad Hoc Humanitarian Law Committee made up of judges and lawyers which has sent a petition to the United Nations Human Rights Commission asking it to take "appropriate action" to end Syria's violation of the Geneva Conventions on prisoners. The petition noted that "except for the Syrian authorities themselves nothing is known of the status of the said POWs."

Representatives of the Catholic, Protestant and Greek Orthodox communities, at a meeting called by the American Jewish Committee, agreed that concerted pressure must be put on Syria by interreligious groups. Both the ADL and AJ Committee meetings were addressed by parents of Israeli soldiers missing on the Syrian front who stressed that they did not know whether their sons were alive or dead.

One parent said they feared the worst because of Syria's past record in which Israeli POWs returned from captivity "broken in body and spirit" after torture. An official

organization of relatives of Israelis missing on the Syrian front is sending parents to various countries to explain their plight.

Rep. Edward Koch (D. NY), a member of the ADL's special committee said the efforts behind the scenes of the United States to get Syria to comply had apparently failed. He said he will recommend that the U.S. or some other country take Syria before the World Court on the issue.

Meanwhile in Jerusalem it was announced that the Pope had interceded with Syria on behalf of the POWs and with Egypt on the unburied Israeli dead in the Sinai.

In Brussels plans were announced for a "World Conference for the Liberation of Israeli Prisoners in Syria" to be presided over by French writer Simone de Beauvoir. Some 30 prominent international intellectuals are expected to attend.

In Tel Aviv, Israel's Ambassador to the United Nations Yosef Tekoah said he would make a major effort when he returns to the UN to rally world opinion to force the Syrian regime to observe international law on the POW issue.

SYRIAN ATTACK KILLS US SETTLER

TEL AVIV (WNS)-- Mrs. Esther Ben David, a 26-year-old mother of three, was killed when the Syrians blasted Ramat Magshimim, a religious cooperative on the Golan Heights and other Golan settlements. Mrs. Ben David, formerly of Queens, N.Y. and a graduate of Yeshiva University, was racing to a bomb shelter with a two-year old child when she was felled by

an exploding shell. The child was snatched from her arms and taken to the shelter unharmed.

Mrs. Ben David, who came to Israel from N. York two years ago, was buried on the Mt. of Olives in Jerusalem.

During the same attack, a 32-year-old Druze policeman, Fuad Abdallah, the father of five children, was killed when his jeep was hit by Syrian artillery while he was on his way to visit relatives on the Golan Heights.

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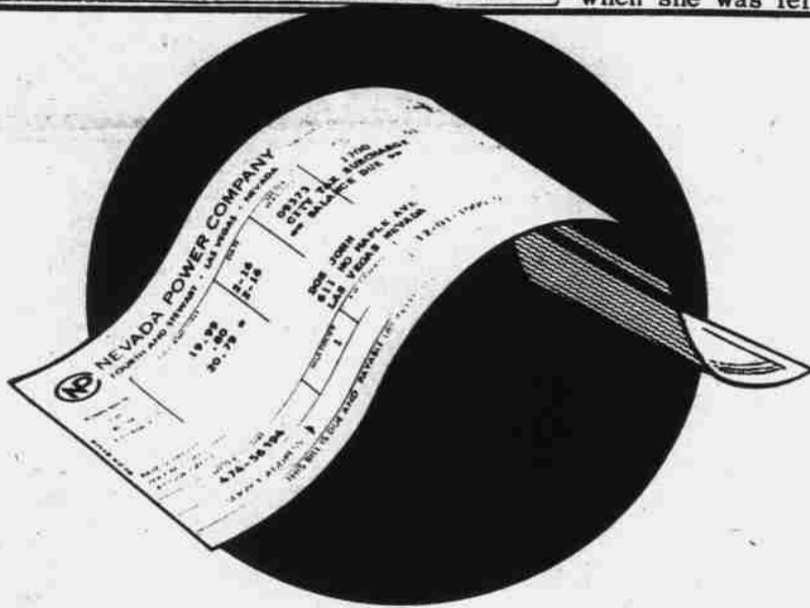
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