

PRES. FORD CLARIFIES 60,000 VISAS

WASHINGTON (WNS) -- In what was called a clarifying statement, President Ford has stated that the Soviet Union has not pledged to allow a specific number of Jews and others to emigrate annually.

The President's statement, issued by White House Press Secretary Ron Nessen, also stressed that Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger in his letter to Sen. Henry M. Jackson (D. Wash.) which was part of the trade-emigration agreement worked out between the White House and Congress, had not used any number. "Rather it (the letter) sets forth the principles to be applied in handling applications and visas of those wishing to emigrate."

Jackson said later that the 60,000 per annum figure he had used in connection with future emigration from the USSR was "a minimum standard of initial" emigration expected from the USSR. "With the Soviet assurances conveyed by Secretary Kissinger to me to end harassment and intimidation to those seeking to emigrate, and with the number of visas rising to correspond to the number of applicants, I believe that more than 60,000 persons will emigrate each year," Jackson said.

He repeated that the 60,000 figure was to be a "benchmark" so that Congress could determine Soviet compliance. Meanwhile Kissinger is in Moscow where he is expected to clarify for the Russians the letters he exchanged with Jackson on the trade-emigration issue.

Meanwhile in Jerusalem a well-placed source was quoted as saying that the 60,000 figure was given Israel by Kissinger. "We were given to understand by the Secretary of State during his visit that 60,000 is the number of Soviet Jews involved annually," the source said.

"The Soviet authorities are also aware of this figure." Israeli Premier Yitzhak Rabin told the semi-annual Board of Trustees Study Mission of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations that Jewish immigration from the Soviet Union is "the greatest challenge of our time." He said it would be a challenge for both Israel and American Jewry. In New York, Israeli Ambassador Simcha Dinitz told the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations that the agreement was of "revolutionary importance."

He said Israel needs large scale immigration of Jews to exist.

BROOKLINE, MASS. -- The Israeli physician, during an emergency, joins the Defense Forces, leaving the civilian population without medical or surgical care - thus creating an immediate need for trained volunteers to supply these fundamental civilian services. Threat of missiles creates the potential for large numbers of Israeli civilian casualties.

BROOKLINE, MASS. -- The American Physicians Fellowship has been selected as the sole coordinator in the United States and Canada of the emergency volunteer surgical, medical and paramedical program to Israel. The selection was made by the Israel Medical Association with the approval of the Israeli government (the Health, Labor and Defense Ministries.)

WASHINGTON (WNS) -- A working model of an electronic fence warning system, developed by Israel Aircraft Industries, was displayed to military and industrial security specialists at the American Society for Industrial Security Seminar. One of the main features of the fence, which is now in use in Israel, is that the exact location of an intrusion is pinpointed on a master control panel.



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