

**RABIN TELLS CONGRESS ISRAEL WILL MEET ANY ARAB GOVT. LEADER FOR PEACE TALKS**

WASHINGTON (WNS). -- The driving goal of Israel's policy is that "however difficult the road, however hard the challenge and however complex the process, Israel will strive with all its being to contribute to the peace of the world by pressing ahead with its efforts for peace with the Arab countries," Premier Yitzhak Rabin told a joint session of Congress.

Rabin, the first Israeli Premier to address Congress, also said, "I today declare I am ready to meet with any Arab head of a government at any time and any place for the purpose of peace talks."

But he stressed that the central issue in the Middle East controversy was not territory or the Palestinians but the refusal of the Arab countries to recognize the existence of Israel. Rabin said Israel was ready to negotiate the Palestinian issue "within the geographical and political context of peace with Jordan" which would include Palestinians in the Jordanian delegation. He added that Israel is ready to "give up much and compromise much on territory" in negotiations whose aims are peace and reconciliation.

Recalling that when Egyptian President Anwar Sadat addressed Congress last October he "wisely declared" that there is no substitute for person-to-person talks, Rabin said, "I wish that he would direct these words to me as well as to you, the Congress of the United States. I would then know that the work of true peace - making has finally begun."

Rabin said that the American war for independence in 1776 and Israel's War of Independence in 1948 "were both battles of liberation" that became revolutions because of "the human vision that fired them." He said the "vision and essence of Zionism" is "the principle that the Jewish people should preserve its integrity and restore its national existence in its own homeland, despite the holocaust of history." He said the core of the Arab-Israeli conflict "is the refusal of the Arab countries to reconcile themselves to the right of existence of one, small, viable, sovereign, Jewish State in the land of our people's birth; by Jewish

**ORTHODOX CONCERNED OVER YOUNG JEWS**

WASH. (WNS) -- Concern over the alienation from the organized Jewish community of young intellectual Jews, including those who are Orthodox, was expressed by Rabbi Fabian Schonfeld, president of the Rabbinical Council of America, the largest Orthodox rabbinic body in the Western hemisphere. Speaking to some

500 rabbis at the Rabbinical Council's Bicentennial Torah Convocation here, Rabbi Schonfeld called upon young Jewish intellectuals, particularly those who are Orthodox "to assume their rightful positions of leadership within the mainstream of Jewish community life." He noted there are "inordinately large numbers of richly

endowed intellectuals" and "we cannot afford the luxury of having such intellectually gifted young people uninvolved in the front ranks of Jewish life."

At another session, Rabbi Walter Wurzburger, the organization's first vice president, attacked secular and Reform Jewish leaders for allegedly falsifying the Jewish religious position on abortion. He said while the Orthodox group had no quarrel with anyone who supports abortion they must not put a Jewish label on their position. Rabbi Wurzburger declared that "while Judaism makes a distinction between potential and actual life and in some instances regards abortion as morally necessary, the removal of all curbs on abortion is regarded as religiously reprehensible and socially destructive." He also claimed that "it is particularly reprehensible for Jewish groups to promote abortion in light of the fact that the Jews have not yet replaced the Holocaust losses and in light of the fact that Israel needs more population."

State I mean an independent, democratic society, secular in the equality of all its citizens Jew and non-Jew alike, before the law and founded upon historic Jewish values."

Later in a speech followed by questions and answers at the National Press Club, Rabin said Israel was "willing to take all risks" for real peace but it is "going to stand firm against illusions of a so-called peace." He said that after Israel concluded the Sinai agreement with Egypt it hoped that other countries would follow the diplomatic process. "But we find at least one country -- I mean Syria -- decided to do the opposite." He said "the extreme position of Syria, using the terrorist organization called PLO -- backed by a major power -- not only blocks the prospects of peace but undermines all that has been agreed upon by the international community for nearly seven years."

Only two hours after Rabin made his remarks about Syria, the State Department said it "recognizes the constructive role the government of Syria is playing" in Lebanon. Department spokesman John Trattner made this comment when asked about a report from Damascus that the U.S. had approved the entry of the Palestine Liberation Army into Lebanon. Trattner had no direct comment but the U.S. position on Lebanon had always been that the fighting should end "and a political accommodation acceptable to all Lebanese" be worked out.



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