

WASHINGTON DATELINE

BY TRUDE B. FELDMAN

ISRAELITE'S WHITE HOUSE CORRESPONDENT

Arthur Goldberg Honored

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- President Jimmy Carter, in a white House Rose Garden ceremony last week, presented the Presidential Medal of Freedom to Arthur J. Goldberg.

With Goldberg's family beaming with pride, and Secretary of State Cyrus R. Vance at his side, the President described his Ambassador-At-Large as a "truly great American" and as a man who has devoted his life to "humanitarian pursuits in the widest possible range."

"As an attorney, Arthur Goldberg became an expert in labor relations, learning how to understand people, to mediate, to negotiate," Carter stated. "He became Secretary of Labor and performed so superbly that his interests were retained in that field and expanded into others. As a United States Supreme Court Justice, he participated in notable decisions that helped to shape the attitude of our Nation toward basic civil rights, basic human rights."

Regarding Arthur Goldberg's role as U.S. representative to the United Nations and U.S. representative in the Security Council of the U.N. from 1965 to 1968, Carter remarked that Goldberg brought a "standard of performance that was an inspiration to others."

The President added that perhaps one of the most difficult international disputes ever witnessed in modern history is in the Middle East. He praised Goldberg for providing the basis for a permanent peace in that area, noting that United Nations Resolution 242 is now a "standard phrase, a pat series of letters and numbers that people speak about as an unshakeable basis for ultimate agreement in the Mideast."

The Presidential Medal of Freedom, the highest award given to a civilian, cites: "During an eminent career of almost 50 years, Arthur Goldberg has shown his deep commitment to individual human dignity, to peace and to the cause of human rights. As a practicing attorney, and counsel for the labor movement, a legal scholar, educator, and public servant, he has displayed an extraordinary capacity to bring people together, to mediate differences, and to help solve the pressing problems of our age. By combining idealism and vision with wisdom and common sense, he has served his country well."

The President, assisted by Goldberg's wife,

Dorothy, fastened the colorful ribbon-holding the medal - around the Ambassador's neck. Then, Carter told the invited guests: "Goldberg has exemplified, in his personal and public life, principles committed to basic human rights, to legal, diplomatic and political justice, a sensitivity about the needs of those who have been deprived of the blessings of a modern society. He is a man whose personal principles have never deviated from the highest possible standard, and who has let those principles affect the attitude and reputation of an entire nation."

Ambassador Goldberg, who will be 70 on August 8th, was truly moved with the honor bestowed upon him. He said, "To serve our beloved country is its own reward. But to receive acknowledgement of that service by this

award, particularly at your hands, Mr. President, is, I fear, more than I merit."

In responding to the President, Goldberg paid particular tribute to the Administration's human rights program, stating, "You have put respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms high on the international agenda. This respect will not be achieved overnight, as you well know, but it cannot be denied, for it represents ultimate truth."

The timing of the award was especially significant because, only a few days earlier, Egypt's President Sadat had attacked Goldberg and his role as U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations during the Six - Day War, calling him "a Zionist."

RELIGIOUS LEADERS MEET WITH CARTER

NEW YORK (WNS) -- Following a meeting at the White House between President Carter and his aides and a group of 30 national Jewish and Christian leaders, during which they expressed their support for the foreign aid package before Congress, similar meetings are scheduled to take place in the near future.

According to Rabbi Marc Tanenbaum, national interreligious affairs director of the American Jewish Committee, the planned meetings will be held over the next few weeks and may also include, in

addition to the President, National Security Advisor Zbigniew Brzezinski. Religious leaders are also planning to meet with majority and minority leaders

in both houses of Congress, to help assure the passage of a maximum foreign aid bill. Tanenbaum said.

He said the dialogue between reli-

gious leaders and the White House may be the first of its kind on a sustained basis in the area of foreign aid and human rights.

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