

WARNING OF SYRIA TAKEOVER IN LEBANON

JERUSALEM -- The head of the largest American Jewish volunteer organization expressed concern that the Syrians might launch a genocidal war against the Christians in Lebanon while Prime Minister Begin is attending the summit meeting with President Sadat and President Carter at Camp David.

Bernice S. Tannenbaum, national president of Hadassah, the largest Zionist organization in the world, warned that Syria might take advantage of Israel's pre-occupation with peace negotiations and step up operations in Lebanon that would lead to an eventual takeover and to conver-

sion of Lebanon to a Palestinian state.

Mrs. Tannenbaum, in preparation for Hadassah's 64th annual National Convention to meet in Israel September 19 - 25, said: "It is tragic to see the only pluralistic, democratic Arab state fighting for survival. We urge President Carter -- in concert with France and the Vatican -- to persuade Syria to halt its unremitting campaign against the Christians, and to support the forces of moderation in Lebanon so that a viable government can be set up and Syria can withdraw some of its 35,000 troops.

"Lebanon today is a country occupied by Syria and the Palestinians," Mrs. Tannenbaum said, "it is time that the time that the country be given back to its own people."

Regarding the summit meeting at Camp David, Mrs. Tannenbaum commended President Carter for undertaking "the delicate role of mediator" between President Sadat and Prime Minister Begin.

"We hope that President Carter will be able to persuade both men to build on the areas of agreement which do exist. This first step could be the example and

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the basis for future accords with the other confrontation states."

She continued, "In the light of Mr. Sadat's recent statements, once more threatening implementation of the war option, we urge that he consider and reaffirm the following: 'that Israel's flexibility must be matched by Egypt' and

that 'Israel's viability is in the American national interest.'

"Israel has gone on record with fundamental, major concessions," she said. "It has expressed its willingness to discuss the sovereignty of the administered territories after a five-year period, to consider an offer of

PAGE SEVENTEEN territorial compromise, and to accept U.N. Resolution 242 as a basis for discussion with all parties, including Jordan. At this point, Egypt still insists upon the same demand of 'not one inch' that the world has heard repeated for years.

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