

Debate on Olympics

An interesting debate is taking place in some sectors of Jewish and political life. The dispute centers about the question of the Olympics which are set for Moscow in 1980.

Russia persecutes dissenters and Jews. Russia won't let Jews live as Jews or leave as Jews.

This is in contradiction to their own constitution and to the Helsinki agreements.

Question: Should Jews send up protests to Washington and to the Olympic officials urging our nation to withdraw from the 1980 contests as a way of registering revulsion against the crimes perpetrated by the Soviets?

The controversy is dramatized in a recent bulletin of Temple Sinai of Dade County, North Miami Beach, Florida, where Rabbi Ralph Kingsley, the spiritual leader, has been urging protests. When you go to shul there on a Shabbos you see a plea to sign petitions as part of that protest.

Rabbi Kingsley, a leader of the American Jewish Congress, wrote to one of his senators, Lawton Chiles, for aid in the matter.

Sen. Chiles sent back a demurrer, in which he stated: "I would not support a call for removing the Olympics from Moscow in 1980."

"It seems to me," added the U.S. Senator, "that a request on our part for removing the games from the Soviet Union would, in itself, represent a political act. While I recognize that other countries have increasingly been injecting politics into the Olympics, I see no justification for our doing the same. Further, what better way to draw the attention of the entire world to the nature of the Soviet government than by having the world press covering the Olympic games?"

Rabbi Kingsley sharply disagreed, chiding Chiles: "The Senator misses the point," he wrote, "as does President Carter who also favors U.S. participation in the Moscow Olympics. The world will not become aware of the nature of the Soviet Government. To the contrary. As in Berlin (back in the 30's), everything will be roses. The media has a way of glamorizing that will make life in Moscow seem idyllic. No! A political act is called for. The games should be moved. The USSR should not believe that there can be 'business as usual' while they continue to violate the human rights of their citizens. Keep those letters going, especially to the Olympic Committee, the White House and Sen. Chiles."

What, dear reader, is your view in this contretemps?

JERUSALEM (WNS) -- The Jewish Agency Executive was told to expect a heavy influx of Jews from Iran.

NEW YORK (WNS) -- UMB Bank and Trust Co., a subsidiary of Israel's United Mizrahi Bank, has found it is able to cope with some of the problems caused by its following Orthodox religious principles. The bank is closed on Jewish holidays, Moshe Krausz, UMB's president said. However, it has managed to grow from \$5 million in assets to almost \$30 million.

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