

U.S., ISRAEL CLASH OVER SETTLEMENTS

WASH. (WNS) -- The United States and Israel have publicly clashed over the Israeli Cabinet's decision to approve a new Jewish settlement near Nablus on the West Bank. State Department spokesman Hodding Carter said that the U.S. "deeply regrets" the Israeli decision. "The point most disturbing," Carter said is that the "establishment of new settlements is harmful to the peace process." He added "it is particularly regrettable at this time with negotiations just beginning" among the U.S., Israel and Egypt "to establish a new relationship" for the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Carter said the decision "is bound to have a negative effect on the participants." But, Carter said, the U.S. would not take any steps to prevent future settlements "other than diplomatic steps

between friends." But in addressing the Herut party convention in Jerusalem, Israeli Premier Menachem Begin defended the Jewish settlements on the West Bank as a "right." He declared to the cheering approval of the 3000 Herut delegates that "settlement is a right and a duty. We have and will continue to fulfill that right and duty." Referring to warnings that Israel's settlement policies will undermine Egyptian President Anwar Sadat when he is being attacked by the other Arab states, Begin said, "we do not need any one to preach to us about the delicate position of President Sadat vis-a-vis the Arab world. We certainly appreciate his courage and are ready to help him as much as we can, as I am sure, he is ready to help us. But no one has yet helped his friends by committing suicide and this we will not do."

Defense Minister Ezer Weizman, who addressed the convention after it had moved to Tel Aviv, said he favored set-

tlements in all parts of the Gaza Strip and the West Bank "to live up to Zionist ideals," not just for security reasons. Weizman said that although he opposed expropriation of the privately-owned Arab land for settlement purposes he would carry out the decision of the Cabinet. Weizman said it was the United States that was causing the most difficult problem in the autonomy negotiations. "I often tell my American friends that while Sadat agreed to recognize Israel and we agreed to make considerable territorial compromises, the Americans are still talking about the 1967 frontiers with minor adjustments, just as they did years ago, as if nothing new had happened," Weizman declared.

PUT STRONGER PRESSURE ON USSR

WASH. (WNS) -- The National Conference on Soviet Jewry (NCSJ) ended its three-day annual policy conference here with a call for continued pres-

sure on the Soviet Union to ease emigration restrictions on Jews, including the maintenance of the Jackson-Vanik Amendment. But the NCSJ indicated that it might support present moves to ease the Jackson-Vanik restrictions on providing the USSR with United States trade benefits if certain minimum conditions on emigration were met.

The NCSJ, which encompasses 38 American Jewish national organizations, said it recognizes that emigration has increased this year with some 4000 Soviet Jews leaving each month. "We regard this as an important development which offers hope that there may be a turning point in Soviet policy," the NCSJ statement said.

Sen. John Heinz (R. Pa.) told the convention that when President Carter meets Soviet President Leonid Brezhnev in Vienna he "must make it clear" that "American stands fully behind its policy on human rights and specifically that Mr. Brezhnev allow a larger number of Jews to emigrate."

DISCUSS EMBASSY MOVE IN CANADA

WASH. (WNS) -- The State Department refused to say whether it has been discussing with the Canadian government Prime Minister Joe Clark's proposal to move the Canadian Embassy in Israel from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem. A reporter raised the question following reports that the Clark government was under pressure from Washington, the Arab states and the Canadian community not to make the change. "I won't be able to go into such matters," Department spokesman Hodding Carter said. "The Canadian government is

very aware of our position." Flora MacDonald, Canada's Minister of State for External Affairs, has said that while the government intends to move the Embassy it will take into consideration the views of the United States and the Arab states. Meanwhile, Theodore Mann, chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, who was leading a delegation of the Presidents Conference to Israel, said that it would be "very improper" for the Carter Administration to pressure Canada.



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