

WEST GERMANY

(Continued from Page 1)

congratulations to his opposite number in Germany, Willy Brandt, chairman of the Social Democratic Party. Other Israelis sent cables to German officials to West German Ambassador Klaus Schuets in Israel. Likud MK Yosef Tamir, chairman of the Israel-Germany Association, said he hoped the decision would result in improved relations between Germany and Israel.

In the United States, the Simon Wiesenthal Center for Holocaust Studies at Yeshiva University of Los Angeles sent a cable to Schmidt lauding the Bundestag's vote "on behalf of justice and morality."

Richard Maass, president of the American Jewish Committee, stressed that "This action indicated recognition by the Bundestag of the moral and ethical imperatives from such legislation, transcending the purely legal considerations." Maass noted that the AJ Committee had voiced its support of abolishing the statute twice personally to Schmidt and to members of the Bundestag. "We believe that this historic action by the Bundestag will make it possible to accelerate cooperative efforts in areas of mutual concern," Maass said. Justin Finger, national civil rights director of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, said the vote was partly due to world public opinion. He said there are thousands of war criminals still at large and urged West Germany "to actively seek out and bring to the court of law those surviving Nazi war criminals."

The American Jewish Congress welcomed the Bundestag decision as a "fitting recognition" that no Nazi war criminal may escape accountability for his actions." In Geneva, Philip Klutznick, president of the World Jewish Congress, sent a telegram to Bundestag President Richard Stuecklen welcoming the decision "for its moral and political significance, as recognizing the principle that crimes of such enormity can never be subject to statutory limitations and a warning for the future."

In Paris, meanwhile, Nazi-hunter Serge Klarsfeld said the Bundestag vote will enable West Germany to begin criminal proceedings against Nazi war criminals who have so far evaded prosecution. He said most of these are in West Germany but others are in hiding in Latin America or in Arab countries. He said that heading the list is Dr. Josef Mengele, the Auschwitz physical responsible for mass murders and inhumane experiments who is believed to be in Paraguay.

URGE U.S. REDUCE PERSIAN OIL NEED

NEW YORK (WNS) -- President Carter was urged by 12 Jewish groups to increase efforts to reduce American Dependency "on unstable Persian Gulf oil sources." A letter, signed by the heads of the 12 organizations, was delivered to the White House. It recommended increasing conservation efforts in the United States, accelerating the use of alternative sources of energy, and increased exploration for oil outside the countries in the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), especially in the Western Hemisphere.

The joint letter was drafted after a meeting of the leaders of the organizations called by the American Jewish Committee, at which the organizations agreed to make energy a top priority matter.

All of the groups, except ZOA, are members of the National Jewish Community Relations Advisory which endorses the recommendations made in the letter. The three-page letter stressed that "the unconscionable OPEC price rise underscores our belief that the U.S. vulnerability to the OPEC cartel is a threat not only to national security, but to the

and economic stability." In addition to their recommendations, the Jewish organizations declared that "the maintenance of an independent U.S. foreign policy, and world political

single most effective response to OPEC... would be cooperative efforts by all oil consuming nations."

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