

LEAD STORY

(Continued from Page 1)

sumably when Evron meets with the U.S. President.

In an effort to alleviate the concern of both Israelis and American Jews, Vice President Walter Mondale told Israeli television that the U.S. policy toward the PLO "remains unchanged." He said the U.S. has said "repeatedly, and I repeat again today, that we will have no contacts with them unless they accept UN Resolution 242 and acknowledge the right of a permanent State of Israel." Mondale said reports on President Carter's statement comparing the Palestinian issue with the American civil rights movements were misleading.

Carter's statement was strongly condemned by Jewish and Black groups in the U.S. Mondale said Carter had discussed with reporters provisions of the Camp David agreements which included a call for negotiations allowing some Palestinians to return to the West Bank and Gaza Strip. "He (Carter) said that the right to return could have an enormously important and satisfying effect on reducing tensions in the area, even though many, in fact did not return," Mondale explained, adding: "And he likened it to the civil rights stage when people were urging the elimination of discrimination, for example, to attend a certain college even though they may not have any intention of going to the school. In other words, the right was the important fact." Mondale reportedly made the same point in telephone calls to American Jewish leaders.

Meanwhile, Pinhas Yurman, director of the public opinion polls division of the Israel Information Center, a government-operated agency, said the national consensus in Israel rejects any negotiations with the PLO. He was reacting to President Carter's statement in an interview August 1 which he said, "Survey results brought to my attention support a 'generous settlement' with the Palestinians." Yurman said Carter's statement was astonishing.

"As a person who regularly follows local opinion polls I know of no poll whose interviewees were asked about a generous settlement with the Palestinians." He said that a poll taken among Jews in Israeli cities last February found 81 percent expressing "firm opposition to the PLO's participation in the political negotiations aimed at bringing about a settlement between Israel and its neighbors."

RULE ON ECONOMICAL POLICY

JERUSALEM (WNS) -- The government coalition easily defeated four opposition motions of no-confidence over the government's economic policy by a vote of 58 - 48 in the Knesset. The motions were introduced by the Labor Alignment, Sheli, Shai and the Communist Party.

They charged that the government has taken a series of economic measures that produced a crisis atmosphere, that it has mismanaged the fight against inflation and that it is acting indecisively. The opposition was chiefly aimed at Finance Minister Simcha Ehrlich, who has urged the elimination of costly price subsidies for basic goods and services but was overruled by Premier Menachem Begin and the Cabinet majority because they feared the devastating effects of the resulting price increases.

Ehrlich told the Knesset that there was no alternative to reducing price supports but said the

government is doing so gradually in order to prevent unemployment and unnecessary shocks to the economy. Immediately after the vote, Ehrlich announced the dismissal of his Deputy Finance Minister, Yeheskel Flomin, who was the most outspoken critic of the Cabinet's decision within the Liberal Party to which both of them belong. Flomin took an "extended leave" after the Cabinet decision was announced.

Earlier, the Central Committee of the Li-

beral Party gave the government 90 days to accept the party's stringent guidelines, for stemming Israel's record inflation or face the resignation of Ehrlich and the three other Liberal Party Cabinet members. The Central Committee by a 86-49 vote rejected a resolution by the party's young guard calling for the immediate resignation of the four ministers from the Likud Cabinet.

ASPEN INSTITUTE CANCELS GRANT

NEW YORK (WNS)

-- The Aspen Institute for Humanistic Studies, which invites academicians, government leaders and business magnates to seminars on public affairs, has rejected the remainder of its annual grant for this year from the East-West Foundation, charging that the Foundation, has tried to inject anti-Israel bias into the funding of the Aspen's Middle East studies program.

The East-West Foundation was established by the Fluor Corporation of Irvine, Calif. The firm, a construction and engineering consortium, has contracts with Saudi Arabia said to run into the billions of dollars. The Foundation's annual grant of \$6,000,000 accounts for about 80 percent of the Aspen Institute's financing for its Mid-east program.

In July, the Institute's board of trustees, headed by Robert Anderson, chairman of the Atlantic Richfield Company, adopted a resolution declaring the independence of its academic programs and sent a copy to John Fluor, chairman of the Fluor Corp., who is also the board chairman of the East-West Foundation. According to Aspen officials, Fluor refused

to accept it.

According to Aspen officials, the Foundation had threatened to cancel its grant unless Aspen withdrew an invitation to Israelis to participate in a seminar about the Arab world. Menachem Milson, a professor of Arab literature at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem, had been invited to participate in a seminar on "The Arab World in Transition" being conducted by the Institute's Middle East Center.

ISRAELITE ADS PAY

RABBIS ARGUE OVER TISHA B'AV PRAYER

JERUSALEM (WNS) -- Israel's two chief rabbis have split over whether to continue referring to Jerusalem as being "despoiled and empty" in a prayer said for Tisha B'Av, the fast day commemorating the destruction of the Temple.

Ashkenazi Chief Rabbi Shlomo Goren issued an amended Nahem prayer, a prayer said in the afternoon service of Tisha B'Av, which omits the words "desolate / despoiled"

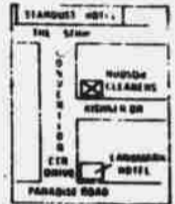
and refers to the recent year of rebuilding Jerusalem while praying for the rebuilding of the Temple.

Sephardi Chief Rabbi Ovarid Yosef ordered that the prayer not be changed since he said the city was still desolate because the Temple had not been rebuilt.

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