

SEN. KENNEDY SUPPORTS ISRAEL

Senator Edward M. Kennedy told an American Jewish Congress dinner that American support for Israel "is not an act of charity -- it is an act of national security." Asserting that "America must never barter the safety or future of Israel for a barrel of oil," the Massachusetts Democrat declared: "Our bonds with Israel are deeply rooted in moral commitment and common values. And they are founded on a realistic view of America's own security interests." The dinner, marking the 35th anniversary of the Congress' Commission on Law and Social Action, also honored three former directors of the Commission -- Will Maslow, Leo Pfeffer and Joseph B. Robinson. They were cited for "creative leadership and illustrious achievement in pioneering the use of law for the advancement of full

equality in a free society." Senator Kennedy received the organization's Stephen Wise Award for "distinguished contributions to the cause of social justice at home and human dignity around the world." A similar award was presented to Vice President Mondale last November. In his address, Senator Kennedy told the audience of Jewish leaders and government officials: "It is a fundamental fact that Israel deploys the most powerful armed forces in the Middle East. It is a fundamental fact that Israel has protected American interests in the past, and that Israel will do so in the future. It is not always easy for Americans to understand the special burden on the people of Israel. We do not have to live in a sea of hostility and fear. But the people of Israel do. We do not have to live our lives surrounded by nations

pledged to destroy us. But the people of Israel do. "Peace is all that Israel asks." Senator Kennedy continued: "In Argentina, in Syria and other Arab countries, anti-Semitism has been condoned by governments. It has been made into a weapon against the State of Israel. Indeed, Israel is the ultimate target at which all the attacks on the Jewish people are now aimed. "In the years ahead, I will stand, as I have always stood, with Israel, our surest ally and our closest friend in the Middle East."

ISRAEL HAS THE SHEKEL NOW

JERUSALEM (WNS) -- Israel has a new currency. It is the Shekel, named for the silver coin of the Bible that was last used some 2000 years ago. Israelis must trade in the Pound, which has been Israel's official currency since the State was founded, at the rate of IL 10 for a Shekel over the next few months.

The Shekel will be pegged at 3.80 - \$1. Bank notes presently in circulation will be translated into Shekels with no change in appearance.

The government in announcing the new currency, also announced tough new measures to crack down on tax evasion. Arnon Gafni, Governor of the Bank of Israel, told reporters that the government had been preparing for the currency switch for more than two years

to 29.1 in 1978 and 27.8 in 1977. The Northeast and North-central states represent 69.8 percent of the Jewish population. Jews make up 2.7 percent of the total U.S. population.

AJC BLASTS CARTER

NEW YORK -- The American Jewish Congress said today it was "not satisfied" by President Carter's admission of error in voting for an anti-Israel resolution in the UN Security Council Saturday. Howard M. Squadron, president of the American Jewish Congress, declared in a statement: "By voting for the Security Council Resolution recently the Carter Administration has betrayed its commitments to Israel and has caused a disservice to our country's own interest."

"We note that President Carter yesterday admitted error in voting for the Security Council resolution insofar as it pertained to Jerusalem. But there are many other aspects of this resolution which contradict earlier U.S. positions and which undermine the Camp David process. "We are not satisfied with the Administration's confession of error, limited as it is to the resolution's references to Jerusalem." In his statement, Mr. Squadron said: The Camp David accords call for

negotiations between the parties to determine the future of the West Bank. This Security Council Resolution preempts that process by identifying the West Bank as 'Palestinian territory.' "Our Government has never before taken this position. This Resolution calls for the dismantling of all settlements in the West Bank. "This Resolution attempts to foreclose those negotiations by describing Jerusalem as part of the occupied territories and by characterizing any Israeli presence in East Jerusalem as illegal.

AMERICAN JEWS MOVE TO SUNBELT

NEW YORK (WNS) -- American Jews are continuing to move from the Northeast to the Sunbelt, the South and Western parts of the country, according to the 1980 edition of the American Jewish Year Book. The book, published jointly by the American Jewish Committee and the Jewish Publication Society of America, is edited by Milton Himmelfarb and David Singer.

The Jewish population in the United States is estimated at 5,860,900, a modest increase over the previous year's figure of 5,780,960. The South and West have 30.2 percent of the population as compared



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