

BEGIN LAUDS JABOTINSKY

NEW YORK (WNS) -- Israeli Premier Menachem Begin declared here that without Ze'ev Jabotinsky, the Zionist Revisionist leader who was his mentor, "without his vision, without his thought and his suffering, without his fight, the State of Israel would not have come into being." Begin told the more than 2000 persons at a dinner at the Waldorf Astoria Hotel commemorating the 100th anniversary of Jabotinsky's birth that the Revisionist leader was his "spiritual father." He declared: "Our whole generation, and all the generations to come, owe a debt of gratitude to him, who led us and them from bondage to liberty."

The speech by the Israeli Premier was conspicuous for avoiding any reference to current political events. It was devoted to Jabotinsky, who Begin said, "we owe him our ultimate salvation, when with the last vestige of our national strength we rose and fought and won in the unequal struggle of the few against the many, of the weak against the strong."

The Centennial Dinner was sponsored by the Jabotinsky Foundation, a non profit organization dedicated to perpetuating the ideological and literary legacy of Jabotinsky. A few hours before the dinner, Begin presented the Jabotinsky Centennial Medal to 100 distinguished American Jews and non-Jews who are friends of Israel. Among those receiving the award were: The Rev. Billy Graham; Sens. Henry Jackson (D. Wash.), Jacob Javits (R. NY) and Daniel Moynihan (D. NY); Secretary of Commerce Philip M. Klutznick, Dr. Edward Teller, writers Leon Uris and Eli Wiesel; Danny Kaye, retired Admiral Elmo R. Zumwalt, former Chief of Naval Operations, and the Rev. Jerry Falwell, leader of the Moral Majority movement.

One of the scheduled recipients, Sen. Frank Church (D. Idaho), turned down the award because Falwell was being honored. "Mr. Falwell has attempted to distort the American political process by imposing his views and morality as a political litmus test of a man's moral fitness to hold office," Church said in a telegram to Mordechai Hacohen,

chairman of the dinner committee. "I have great respect for the integrity of the American political process and also for the rights, beliefs and prayers of the American citizens." Church, a liberal Democrat who was defeated Nov. 4, was a particular target of rightwing groups like Moral Majority. "Our political and religious freedoms are cornerstones of our system and should not be undermined," Church said. "Israel's security and America's freedom are inextricably bound together" and "I shall continue to fight for both."

While Begin was honoring Jabotinsky some 70 members and supporters of the Jewish Defense League demonstrated outside the hotel against the Camp David accords. A few blocks away pro-Palestinian demonstrators shouted slogans against Israel's control of the West Bank.

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Israel and the Christian Conclusions

BY ROBERT E. SEGAL

Now that the American right wing of Protestantism has put its heavy brand on the 1980 elections, a Protestant voice less shrill is about to be heard. This is the National Council of Churches. Its current mission is to publish a new policy statement on the Middle East. That important paper has been two years in construction.

For the next few months, Moral Majority and Christian Voice must take a back seat after having done their electronic best to convince the electorate that the United States has always been and must forever remain a pristine Christian nation, loyal to Christian candidates. The sober, more thoughtful segment of Christianity, the National Council of Churches, will have much to say about self-determination for Palestinian Arabs, about the PLO, and about the Church Council's views on the future of the State of Israel.

Prayerfully and under fierce pressure from a host of Christian Arabs, the National Council of Churches now recalls that the Middle East is where the Church was born. Statesmen in the Church Council are obliged to take a more active role in trying to resolve Middle East quarreling characterized by a 30-year-war between Jews and Arabs. The terrain the good churchmen look out upon is loaded with time bombs caked with blood. Howling across this region, rich in history, is the cry of the Palestine Liberation Organization, sworn to annihilate the State of Israel. What shall the responsible wing of Protestantism say?

One key spokesman for this group -- Rev. Allan Brockway, associate director for Christian-Jewish Relations of the World Council of Churches -- has observed that in the process of enunciating a new Middle East policy, "the vitality and validity of Christianity is at

stake.

The real test for Christianity, in this venture, he says "lies, not in its specific answer to the question, 'What do you say Israel is?' (but rather in whether Christian leaders will face the existential question): 'How may we support Israel -- people, land and state?'"

The Church Council debates reveal that it is difficult for many Christians to comprehend the Jewish concept of the Jewish people -- the intertwining of culture, faith, and longing for rebirth of homeland with security and peace for a viable State of Israel. Among Christians, these Protestant statesmen themselves conclude, there is an absence of historic memory and a misreading of contemporary political reality.

It was not only the pressure of Christian Arabs that made the task of the Church Council difficult. Andrew Young, an ordained minister of the United Churches of Christ, had, in the view of some Council people unfriendly to Israel, been forced by Jews to resign as Washington's man in the UN. This invalid conclusion had brought some Christians in the Third World into the Church Council forum as advocates of a hard line against Israel.

Jewish community relations units are greatly shocked to note now that the pronouncement by the Church Council calls for the recognition of the PLO as the legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. Folks in the Jewish camp are chagrined at this Protestant yield to the strong pressure of Arab rejectionist states. The decision calls for a policy threatening the future of the Jewish state.

Alas, for that previously referred - to "absence of historic memory!" How can we convince Arab-leaning Church Council policy drafters to bone up on the history of Palestine under the British mandate? Have they forgotten that at the last meeting of the League of Nations, Britain announced that it had established the Kingdom of Transjordan, the Palestine state? Can not the accurate voice be heard, reminding the Council policy drafters that the State of Israel today occupies only 20 per cent of what honest cartographers know as Palestine?

In actuality, there are now two Palestinian states: One ruled by King Hussein, grandson of Transjordan's King Abdullah, is named Jordan. The second, a truncated slice of land designated for Jews by the Palestine Resolution of November, 1947, bears the name, Israel.

True enough, the Church Council statement prays for an end to Middle East violence, urges recognition by the Arab states and Palestinian Arabs of the State of Israel with secure, defined and recognized borders, and calls for solutions to problems of displaced Jews as well as Arabs displaced by the 1948 conflict.

But lacking is a bugle call to get on with the work begun at Camp David. Sadly absent, too, is Protestant realization that as long as any Palestinian Arabs continue to uphold Article 20 of the Palestinian National Covenant (denying the right of Jews to defend themselves), there can be no lasting peace.

NEW YORK (WNS) -- Robert Ratner, president of the United Nations Association of the United States of America (UNA), said that his organization is not asking the United States to reverse the rejection of the "Program of Action" adopted at the world conference of the United Nations Decade for Women in Copenhagen last July. The U.S. voted against the program because it included sections equating Zionism with racism and support for the Palestine Liberation Organization.

JERUSALEM (WNS) -- On the eve of the seventh anniversary of the death of Israel's first Premier, David Ben Gurion, the Knesset devoted a special session to his memory. Knesset Speaker Yitzhak Beremann praised Ben Gurion as the man who radiated confidence in time of doubt, knew when to declare independence, and introduced the statehood to a new country composed of people from many origins. "Ben Gurion did not follow doctrines blindly," Beremann said.

TEL AVIV (WNS) -- Two Arab terrorists were killed in a skirmish with Israeli forces while attempting to infiltrate Israel from south Lebanon. A military spokesman said the terrorists were intercepted near Misgav Am, the kibbutz that was attacked by terrorists last April. There were no Israeli casualties.

HAPPY Hanukkah

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