

3 JEWS AMONG FORMER HOSTAGES

NEW YORK (WNS) -- Rabbi Joel Schwartzman, a U.S. Air Force chaplain, has gone to Wiesbaden, Germany, to provide spiritual comfort to the three Jews among the 52 American hostages released after 444 days of captivity in Iran. The National Welfare Board here said Schwartzman, who is stationed at the Ramstein Air Force Base, flew to Wiesbaden to meet the returnees when they landed early Jan. 21. The Jewish returnees are Barry Rosen, 36, of Brooklyn, N.Y.; Jerry Plotkin, 45, of Sherman Oaks, Calif., and Malcolm Kalp, 42, of Fairfax, Va. The rabbi joined a Protestant minister and a Catholic priest in an ecumenical service for all the returnees and conducted Friday night services for Rosen, Plotkin and Kalp and for Jewish military personnel stationed at Wiesbaden.

Schwartzman described his meeting with the three Jewish returnees in a telephone call to Rabbi Joseph Messing, director of the Jewish Welfare Board's Armed Forces, Veteran Services and Jewish Chaplaincy commissions. The rabbi's first act was to give the three men the JWB's prayer book and Bible, a necklace with a Star of David and the JWB's chaplaincy badge which also bears a Star of David. "All three men are wearing the JWB necklace and Rosen is proudly wearing the chaplaincy badge," Schwartzman said.

Rosen, who was Press Attache at the U.S.

Embassy in Teheran when it was seized by student revolutionaries Nov. 4, 1979, had served with the Peace Corps in Iran in the 1960s. The Iranian militants had referred to him as "a famous spy and plotter."

Plotkin, a businessman on his first trip outside of the U.S., arrived in Teheran in October, 1979, seeking business opportunities and chanced to be in the U.S. Embassy when it was seized. He was born in New York and has lived in California for the past 18 years.

Kalp's duties at the Embassy are unknown. The militants accused him of being a CIA agent. He had served in Vietnam. He told his brother by telephone after landing at Wiesbaden that because of repeated attempts to escape, he was beaten by his captors, kept in solitary confinement for five months and denied mail from home.

Many of the former hostages suffered maltreatment at the hands of the Iranians but none apparently was singled out because of his Jewish origin. Schwartzman, a Reform rabbi from Cincinnati is one of 55 Jewish chaplains stationed at U.S. military, naval and air bases all over the world, the JWB said.

irresponsible elements in the Mideast, such as Libya's (Col. Muammar) Qaddafi, whom President (Anwar) Sadat of Egypt pronounced mentally unbalanced, and the leaders of Iraq who went to war against Iran for glory," Peres told the 500 delegates attending the seventh plenary assembly of the World Jewish Congress.

He noted that an oil shortage may develop in the USSR within five years. "Russia's strategy is focussed upon the Persian Gulf which contains no less than half of the world's oil deposits," Peres said. "The Soviets will surely exploit every social and economic difference, every ethnic clash within the Arab world to pave a better path on the road to Soviet control of the region."

Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir urged the "voices of conscience" in West Germany to block the government's proposed sale of arms to Saudi Arabia. "German weapons being used once more to

endanger the lives of Jews, this time in their own State, is unconscionable," he told the WJC delegates. Rejecting the idea that Saudi Arabia is a "moderate" Arab country, Shamir declared Israel regards it as "among Israel's staunchest enemies." He noted that the Saudis have called for a holy war against Israel, denounced the Camp David agreements and continue to finance terrorism by the Palestine Liberation Organization.

NUKE PLANT

UNITED NATIONS (WNS) -- A resolution asking Israel to "admit all its nuclear facilities to inspection by the International Atomic Energy Agency" was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly. The resolution also urged all countries "to take all necessary measures to prevent the transfer of fissionable material and nuclear technology to Israel which could be used for nuclear weapons."

PERES WARNS OF THREATS

JERUSALEM (WNS) -- Shimon Peres, chairman of the Labor Party warned here that

the two major threats to the Middle East are nuclear capability "in the hands of the most irresponsible elements in the Middle East" and the prospect of an oil shortage in the Soviet Union that could propel it toward further aggression in the region.

"Within five to 10 years, a nuclear capability will be in the hands of the most

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