

LETTERS

Dear Editor:

A few years ago, when we moved to Costa Rica (bag, baggage, pets grandmother, teenagers and all), I promised to write you about our adventures. But I have been so busy living, I haven't had time!

However, today, while listening to the news . . . gloom, unemployment, energy crises, wars . . . it occurred to me your readers might enjoy the Saga of the Birds. So, here I am, pen in hand.

Just like Columbus, we have "discovered" South America. We are now in Colombia (a democratic republic, known for its respect of human rights) where, for the first time in many years, we can walk the streets with little fear, while enjoying a cost of living among the lowest in this hemisphere.

It all began when we found a lovely, old cocanut plantation on the Caribbean Sea. And, to complete its unique setting, when we looked away from the Sea we saw, towering over everything, 19,000 feet high and snow-capped the

year 'round, majestic Mount Columbus. We knew instantly . . . we were home!

It may be hard to believe . . . hundreds of waving, green palms, blue sky and sea, pounding surf, golden sand, snow-capped (and skiable) peaks . . . but it is all here, on the Pan American Highway near Santa Marta, the oldest (456 years) city is all of the Americas.

So, we have a new love: our beach and home in Colombia. We have found something excitingly different,

and being human, have to pass it on. (We are retired Navy, who dared to dream, and are making it come true. At times difficult but never boring!) If you share an interest in our part of the world, feel free to write us, via air mail, at P.O. Box 5222, Santa Marta, Colombia, South America. It may take a while, but we promise to answer each and every letter.

Now, from beautiful Santa Marta, we wish you salud (health), dinero (wealth) and much amor (love)!

JUANITA BIRD
(Mrs. Lewis Bird)

NEW YORK (WNS) -- The NBC-TV series "Holocaust," will be shown in Argentina Dec. 19 on a leading TV channel and during prime time, it was announced here by Rabbi Arthur Schneier, president of the Appeal of Conscience Foundation and spiritual leader of the Park East synagogue. He said the decision was officially conveyed to him by the Argentine Charge d'Affaires, Minister Gustavo Figueroa.

NO- TO PLO CONTROL

NEW YORK -- Israel's Consul-General in New York today assailed proposals to give the PLO control over the West Bank and Gaza, saying that such a settlement would not end the chaos in Lebanon, would undermine progress in the autonomy talks, and would hinder all Middle East peace efforts.

Ambassador Naph-tali Lavie declared also that the failure of the Recent Arab League Summit at Fez proved that "the most radical states

continue to dictate policy in every Arab forum" and that the Camp David process "remains the sole basis for a genuine Middle East peace."

Ambassador Lavie made his remarks at a news conference sponsored by the American Jewish Committee and held at AJC national headquarters here.

Discussing the PLO and the civil war in Lebanon Ambassador Lavie said: "The PLO has since its expulsion from Jordan 11 years ago thrown Lebanon into

a devastating civil war. No resolution of this problem is to be found as some have suggested, in Judea and Samaria or the Gaza District.

"Any attempt to end the nightmare of strife and destruction wrought by the PLO through a settlement involving those territories would be inimical to the spirit of Camp David and to its goal of autonomy for the Palestinian Arab residents of the area."

Explaining his views further, Ambassador Lavie pointed to the PLO's "admitted aim of controlling the West Bank and Gaza as a

steppingstone to the conquest of Israel," and added "A 'PLO solution in these areas would serve also to discourage Jordan from entering the peace process."

A "more realistic and constructive approach" to the Lebanese situation, continued Ambassador Lavie, would be "the encouragement of a comprehensive arrangement between parties to the conflict in Lebanon itself -- an arrangement aimed at restoring Lebanese sovereignty and re-asserting the central authority of the Lebanese government."

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