

**JEWISH LEADERS PRAISE BEGIN**

NEW YORK (WNS) -- American Jewish leaders praised the sharply worded attack by Premier Menachem Begin of the Reagan Administration's suspension of the memorandum of understanding on strategic cooperation. At the same time however others called on both the U.S. and Israel to stop the war of words and still other Jewish leaders chastized the Reagan Administration for suspending the memorandum.

In a telegram to Begin, Howard Squadron chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations said after reading the Premier's statement: "Yasher Koach (all strength to you). I was particularly pleased by your remarks about the American Jewish community." This was a reference to Begin's remark that "no one will frighten the great and free Jewish community of the U.S. No one will succeed in cowering them with anti-Semitic propaganda. They will stand by our side..."

Rabbi Alexander Schindler, president of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, said that Israel's response to the suspension of the cooperation accord "was fully justified. It was wrong of our government to impose sanctions against our friends and ally Israel that can only give aid and comfort to Syria and its master the Soviet Union."

Henry Siegman, executive director of the American Jewish Congress said he agreed with Secretary of State Alexander Haig's statement in a television interview that despite heightened tempers the basic strategic interests of the U.S. and Israel remain close. "What is needed now is a muting of confrontational rhetoric on both sides, and a reassertion of the fundamental relationship and mutuality that characterize the special relationship between the two countries," Siegman said.

Maxwell Greenberg, national chairman of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith said that instead of suspending the cooperation accord "we should be directing our attention to con-

tinued Syrian rejectionism and Israeli fears about Syrian missiles and troops in Lebanon. Let us remember who is blocking Middle East peace and who is taking the major risks for the Middle East peace."

Meanwhile, the American Jewish Committee appealed to both the U.S. and Israel to heal the sharp differences between them. Bertram Gold executive vice president of the AJCommittee said in a statement issued here that "it is less important now to assess blame for the present disarray than to get the governments back to positive, trusting discussion. Gold added "We can understand our government's disappointment over Israel's Golan Heights action. We can also understand the anger and anguish that prompted Prime Minister Menachem Begin to issue his criticism of a series of American actions that have raised serious questions within Israel."

Meanwhile, Jack Spitzer president of B'nai B'rith termed

the suspension of the agreement on strategic cooperation "short sighted" a step that "can only weaken America's -- and the West's -- position in the Middle East."

Ivan Novick president of the Zionist Organization of America said: "Will the Administration's decision gain respect from the Arabs, or more disdain? Will it influence the Arab states to become moderate and move in the direction of the Camp David peace process? How will this decision serve basic American interests?"

Rabbi Sol Roth, president of the Rabbinical Council of America, said: "Because in international pressure we believe our government overreacted without giving sufficient consideration to the issues

involved," Harold Jacobs, president of the National Council of Young Israel said that the Reagan Administration's "unwarranted unilateral cancellation" of the strategic cooperation accord "proves that it never represented a sincere commitment on America's part to Israel's security."

At the same time, The Americans for Progressive Israel-Hashomer Hatzair which reflects the views of Mapam, stated: "While stressing the importance of the Heights to the security of the State of Israel the act of annexation "far from increasing the security of the region actually jeopardized possibilities for a negotiated settlement of the status of the area."

**RABBI SILVER ELECTED PRES. OF DELRAY CLERGY ASSN.**

For the first time a rabbi will head the Delray Beach Clergy Association.

The newly-elected president is Rabbi Samuel Silver, spiritual leader of Temple Sinai, which as yet does not own its own sanctuary; the congregation worships each Friday night at At. Paul's Episcopal Church.

Rabbi Silver succeeds Dr. Andrew Hall of the First Baptist Church.

A native of Wilmington, Delaware, Dr. Sil-

ver is emeritus rabbi of Temple Sinai, Stamford, Conn. His career includes four years as an infantry chaplain in World War II, posts at the University of Maryland, College Park, Md., the Euclid Avenue Temple, Cleveland, Ohio, and editor of the official organ of the national Reform Jewish center, the Union of American Hebrew Congregations. Rabbi Samuel Silver often writes articles for the LAS VEGAS ISRAELITE.

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