

JEW, CHRISTIANS BLAST PRAYER AMENDMENT

WASH. (WNS) -- A broad representation of Jewish organizations joined with Christian groups and the American Civil Liberties Union to denounce President Reagan's proposal for a Constitutional amendment to permit voluntary prayers in the public schools. Opponents of the proposal cited, at a press conference here, the need to keep intact the constitutional separation of church and state. They argued that prayers cannot be voluntary when they are mandated by a school system because a child opposed to participation would be subject to criticism from schoolmates or compelled by peer pressures to join in whatever ceremony was held.

Marc Pearl, Washington representative of the American Jewish Congress, said at the Capitol Hill press conference that the Jewish community, "in particular, is acutely aware of government-imposed religion," adding that it was for that reason "that many of our ancestors fled from Europe."

The press conference met an hour after President Reagan, in a national prayer day ceremony held in the White House Rose Garden, announced his support for a Constitutional amendment to permit voluntary prayer in public schools. However, he gave no details of the bill his Administration plans to submit to the Congress. He told some 100 religious leaders at the ceremony that "no one will ever convince me that a moment of voluntary prayer will harm a child or threaten a school or state but I think it can strengthen our faith in a Creator who alone

has the power to bless America." Speakers at the press conference also included Gary Ross of the Seventh Day Adventists; Maryh Cooper of the National Council of Churches; John Baker general counsel of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs; Charles Bergstrom of the Lutheran Council; David Landau, ACLU legislative counsel; Jane Harvey of the United Methodist Church; and the Rev. R. G. Puckett, executive director of Americans United for Separation of Church and State.

The Jewish organizations which signed the statement opposing the proposed amendment were the American Jewish Congress; the National

Jewish Community Relations Advisory Council; the Synagogue Council of America; and the National Coalition for Public Education and Religious Liberty (PEARL). Representatives of the National Council of Jewish Women (NCJW) and B'nai B'rith Women attended the press conference. Both Dorothy Binstock, B'nai B'rith Women president, and Shirley Leviton, NCJW president, issued statements criticizing President Reagan for the amendment proposal.

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W. GERMANY STOPS TANK SALES

BONN (WNS) -- Chancellor Helmut Schmidt has dropped plans to sell Saudi Arabia West Germany's most advanced tank, the Leopard II, but has not excluded the sale of other sophisticated arms to the Saudis, according to a report in the daily Die Welt. The newspaper said Schmidt changed his mind on the tank sale because of serious political problems within his ruling Social Democratic Party. (SPD).

The government recently adopted new guidelines for the sale of arms abroad. They removed the long self-imposed ban against weapons sales to countries in areas of tension, such as the Middle East. Future decisions on arms exports by West Germany will be made on the basis of the country's "vital" political and security interests.

It is widely believed that the government is prepared to examine future Saudi requests for armored vehicles of various types, including some equipped with anti-aircraft systems.

LIBERACE SIGNS DEAL WITH "DALE BURTON'S"



FLORIST DESIGNER DALE BURTON STANSBURY (RIGHT) RECENTLY ANNOUNCED THE SIGNING OF A 10-YEAR AGREEMENT WITH ENTERTAINER LIBERACE. STANSBURY HAS DESIGNED "THE LIBERACE COLLECTION" CONSISTING OF SATIN ARRANGEMENTS, STEM FLOWERS AND OTHER BOUTIQUE ITEMS WITH THE LIBERACE LABEL. DALE BURTON'S FLOWER SHOP IS LOCATED AT LIBERACE PLAZA.

GOODMAN INDICTED FOR TEMPLE SHOOTING

JERUSALEM (WNS) -- The Jerusalem District Court ordered that Allan Harry Goodman, accused of opening fire at the Temple Mount last month, during which two Arabs were killed and 30 people were wounded, be held for an additional 15 days.

Goodman was originally ordered held for 15 days pending his trial when he was

arraigned at a court here shortly after the incident. Goodman, a 38-year-old bachelor from Baltimore, Md., who immigrated to Israel 14 months ago, was indicted on one count of murder and five counts of attempted murder.

The charge sheet said he intended to "liberate" the Temple Mount.

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