SEN. PERCY BACKS SHCHARANSKY CAMPAIGN



WASHINGTON —— (L-R) SEN. CHARLES H. PERCY (R. ILL.), CHAIRMAN OF THE SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE, AT A RECENT MEETING WITH MRS. AVITAL SHCHARANSKY, WIFE OF PRISONER OF CONSCIENCE, ANATOLY SHCHARANSKY, WHO BEGAN A HUNGER STRIKE ON SEPTEMBER 27 IN CHISTOPOL PRISON. JOINING THEM ARE DAVID HARRIS, NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON SOVIET JEWRY (NCSJ) WASHINGTON OFFICE DIRECTOR: AND BILL HOCH, NCSJ STAFF, MRS. SHCHARANSKY IS CURRENTLY IN THIS COUNTRY SEEKING HELP FOR HER HUSBAND WHO UNDERTOOK THE HUNGER STRIKE TO PROTEST THE SOVIET AUTHORITIES' DENIAL OF HIS CORRESPONDENCE AND VISITATION RIGHTS.

SYRIA MUST RETURN POWS

JERUSALEM (WNS)
-- Israel continues to
insist that Syria must
return Israeli soldiers
captured during the
war in Lebanon before
there can be any settlement for the evacuation of the Israel
Defense Force from
Lebanon.

Premier Menachem Begin made this clear in his meeting with Morris Draper, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern and South Asian Affairs, who is a special U.S. envoy for negotiations on Lebanon.

Syria has so far rejected all appeals by Israel for infor-

mation about the fate.
of three Israeli POWs.
Draper told Begin
and Foreign Minister
Yitzhak Shamir that
Syria has also ignored
his appeals on the
POWs and that it
also has prevented
International Red
Cross Committee representatives from
visiting the soldiers.

visiting the soldiers.

Draper was in Beirut prior to his visit to Jerusalem.

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MOVE DEFEATED TO SUSPEND ISRAEL FROM UN

UNITED NATIONS (WNS) -- Israel's credentials to the General Assembly were approved after the Assembly decided to sidetrack an Iranian proposal to suspend Israel. The approval of Israel's credentials followed the adoption of a motion by Finland not to vote on Iran's proposal by a vote of 75 - 9 with 31 abstentions. The United States, Israel and Egypt, as well as the European countries, were among the countries which supported the Finnish motion. The Soviet Union and its allies joined the Arabs in abstaining. Iran, Libya and Algeria were among the nine which opposed the motion.

The vote not to challenge Israel's credentials ended several weeks of an anti-Israeli campaign here during which the Arabs



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threatened to seek Israel's suspension from the 37th session of the Assembly. The Arab and Moslem countries succumbed to American pressure and threats that the U.S. would walk out of the Assembly and stop paying its 25 percent share of the U.N.'s \$600 million budget if Israel were suspended, and decided not to seek the denial of

Israel's credentials.
Instead the Arabs
issued a letter to the
President of the General Assembly, Imre
Hallai of Hungary,
expressing "reservation" over Israel
credentials. The reservation, the Arabs
explained, stemmed

from the fact that Israel had refused to abide by UN resolutions, its continued occupation of Arab territories and its annexation of East Jerusalem and the West Bank. They also charged Israel with committing "genocide against the Palestinians," in Lebanon.

But in a surprise

move that embarassed the Arabs, Iran de-cided to go ahead and demand that the issue of Israel's credentials be voted by the Assembly. Iran said it did not believe the U.S. would indeed retaliate against the UN if Israel were suspended. The Iranian ambassador said if the

U.S. stopped its payments to the UN, Iran and Libya would pay the full amount instead. The Assembly's decision to approve Israel's credentials along with 89 other member - states assures Israel its seat until next year's Assembly session when its credentials could be challenged once again.

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