

MUBARAK: PLO MUST RECOGNIZE ISRAEL

CAIRO (WNS) -- Consistent with his longstanding call for mutual and simultaneous recognition between Israel and the PLO, President Hosni Mubarak has called again for the PLO to recognize the existence of Israel whether or not Israel was prepared to reciprocate.

"I think the only solution for the Palestinians is for the PLO to recognize the State of Israel," Mubarak, in a joint press conference with visiting French President Francois Mitterrand said. "I don't think they would lose anything by doing so. It is not advisable for the PLO to reject

all initiatives like Israel does. That is exactly what Israel wants." He added that PLO recognition of Israel "would enable the United States to begin the dialogue with them that we have been promised."

The goal of mutual recognition was also stressed by Mitterrand, who said that "the single fact of asking the Arab states and the PLO to recognize Israel presupposes an equivalent gesture by Israel towards the Palestinians." At the same time, he suggested that Israel's declared refusal to deal with the organization should not prevent the PLO from mak-

ing a gesture to Israel. Establishing peace, he said, requires the participation of both parties to a conflict.

Mitterrand said however that he himself was not prepared to accord the PLO full diplomatic recognition by meeting with Yasir Arafat, the PLO leader, until the organization altered its objectives. "We cannot recognize an organization if it maintains as one of its objectives the destruction of a state whose existence we ourselves accept and with whom we have cordial relations at

the highest level," Mitterrand said.

WATCH RUMANIA ON EDUCATION TAX

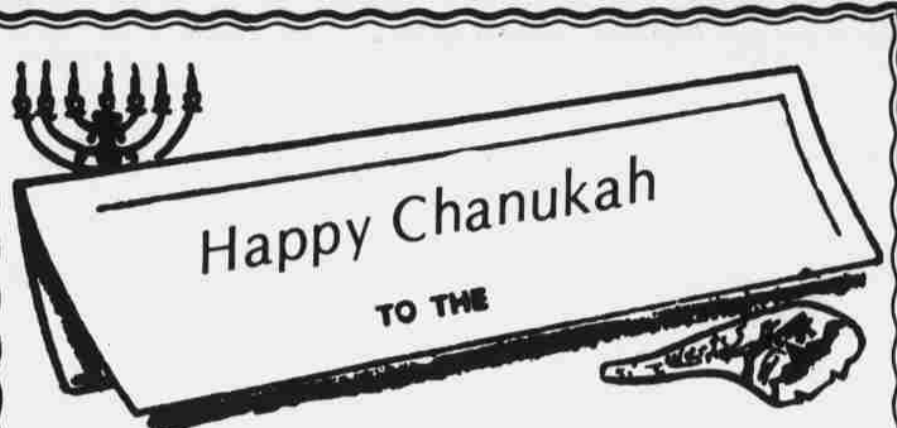
WASH. (WNS) -- The State Department said it could not confirm a report that Rabbi Moses Rosen, Chief Rabbi of Rumania, said that the education tax the Rumanian government had imposed last month on would-be emigrants does not affect Jews.

But Department spokesman John

Hughes noted that the U.S. government is keeping close contact with the Rumanian government on the issue and the problem is "essentially a serious one for United States - Rumanian relations."

Rosen said that the education tax, which

requires all emigrants to reimburse the government for the free secondary and higher education they had received, does not affect the Jews because the Rumanian government, for many decades, has made a distinction between "emigration" and "aliya."



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