

A CONVERSATION WITH BEGIN

(Continued from Page 5)

its own self - justification? Or does the nation have to be measured against an ideal to which we ascribe the words "divine" or "Jewish"?

Mr. Begin: Every nation has a right to live; therefore I never ask anybody to recognize our right to exist...We have a right to exist like France, like Britain, like the United States, like any other country. No more, but no less. We have a special role, perhaps. It is different from that of others because of our unique history. It is unique. We don't have to boast about it, but we can be proud about it in a positive way.

Rabbi Schindler: Many times I've seen tears in your eyes when you spoke. Have you ever really wept in terms of the experience of the Jewish people?

Mr. Begin: Twice, twice, yes. As a grown up man I cried twice. The first time was when the boat Altalena was destroyed because of the horrible event that happened in the history of our people, when young Jewish men and volunteers were killed by a gun used by another Jew at the command given to him...The second time when I cried was at the liberation of Jerusalem.

Rabbi Schindler: What is your vision of Israel 50 years from now? What is your dream?

Mr. Begin: There is room for another five, six million people in our country. And so, as I believe it will be. Secondly, I believe there will be peace with all our neighbors on that day.

Rabbi Schindler: Thanks to the miracle of electronics, not only the present generation of Jewish youth will hear you but future generations Im yetzer Hashem as well. What is the yerusha you bequeath to them? What is your final word to them?

Mr. Begin: Well to the young people I would say first of all, prepare yourselves to come to Israel. It's a real challenge to build up a country, ancient and new. And secondly, never forget your parental heritage. Be strong. Never lose faith. Smile and work for your people, and love your people. Because that people deserves your devotion and your love. That is my appeal.

SHOWCASE AT MAXIM



MAXIM'S TALENT SHOWCASE...THERE'S LOTS OF ACTION IN THE CLOUD NINE LOUNGE AT THE MAXIM HOTEL ON SUNDAYS WHEN NEW TALENT IS INTRODUCED FROM THE STAGE BY HOST FRANK LINK. ACTS ARE BACKED BY HOUSE BAND MAINSTREAM. THE TALENT SHOWCASE IS HELD EACH SUNDAY NIGHT FROM 8:30 P.M. UNTIL 2 A.M.

SEVERAL RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED

LOS ANGELES (WNS) -- Resolutions calling on the U.S. and Canada to raise the issue of Soviet Jewry in their contacts with the USSR, urging "an increase in every effort" which will lead to the rescue of Ethiopian Jews, and appealing for an "immediate and verifiable worldwide

freeze on the testing, production and development of all nuclear weapons" were adopted unanimously here at the 51st General Assembly of the Council of Jewish Federations last month.

Jewish leaders and activists from the United States and Ca-

nada at the Assembly also adopted a major resolution on peace in the Middle East which reaffirmed that the Camp David accords "were a major step in the right direction," that "the parties to the conflict must sit down together and negotiate their differences," and that the United States' "role as mediator is critical in solving the problems of the area."

The resolution noted that in the aftermath of the war in Lebanon, "the opportunities for peace in the Middle East have vastly improved. Israel's northern border is secure; Lebanon now has the means to re-establish its sovereignty; and the United States is now in an unprecedented leadership role."

Referring to the Camp David accords, the resolution pointed out that "the genius of the accords was that they postponed the more difficult issues to a later date and developed agreements on the more limited issues. This fosters conditions that can ultimately lead step by step to the successful ne-

gotiation of a peace agreement." It noted that "Israel's commitment to Camp David is exemplified by the return of the Sinai to Egypt and the dismantling of Jewish settlements there."

In line with that, the resolution stated that the Arab states "must negotiate with Israel and their refusal to do so is at the heart of the problem. The Fez declaration denying explicit recognition of Israel and calling for an independent Palestinian state and asserting that the PLO is the sole Palestinian representative constitutes a rejection of the principles of Camp David and the initiative of President Reagan. This blocs the participation of Jordan in the negotiations, a vital ingredient in the peace process."

The resolution, as it was presented in draft form by the resolutions committee to the business session of the Assembly, included a sentence stating: "United States advocacy of proposals on matters not yet ripe for negotiation impedes the peace process."

ISRAEL MODIFIED

(Continued from Page 5)

as security nature and that the two teams must be headed by duly appointed civilian officials. It also specified that the talks must take place in Beirut and Jerusalem, the respective capitals of the two countries.

The resolution was Israel's response to the latest terms proposed by the Lebanese government which were brought here from Beirut by U.S. special envoy Philip Habib. The compromise over the level of the talks was proposed by Premier Menachem Begin after 10 of his Cabinet ministers balked at the demands by Defense Minister Ariel Sharon and Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir that Israel adhere to its original terms. The compromise

agreed to was seen here as meeting the Lebanese halfway. Beirut, however, has already announced the appointment of a Brigadier General to head its negotiating team, which would also contain some ranking civilians. Habib suggested at his meeting here that the talks be held outside the two capitals. He was apparently reflecting the Lebanese position on venue.

Meanwhile, the PLO's Central Council, a 60-member consultative group, issued a statement in Damascus denouncing the Reagan peace initiative for Palestinian self rule because it specifically rejected a Palestinian state on the West Bank and Gaza Strip. The PLO group claimed the American position does not "satisfy the inalienable

national rights of our people." But it did not say the Reagan plan was unacceptable in its entirety as the most extreme elements of the PLO insist. The U.S. State Department reserved comment, according to latest reports from Washington, on the PLO Council's statement.

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