

JEWES ARE VULNERABLE IN LATIN AMERICA

NEW YORK -- Jacobo Kovadloff, Director of South American Affairs for the American Jewish Committee, today described Latin America as "a society in ferment, facing unprecedented challenges of social justice, freedom and violence, along with ongoing terrorism and repression."

Jews are especially vulnerable in unsettled conditions such as exist in Latin America today, Mr. Kovadloff pointed out. Often, he said, they are victims of endemic anti-Semitism and neo-racism.

Discussing "Current Political Trends in Latin America," the fourth in his series of five talks for the adult education program at the Forest Hills Jewish Center Institute for Continuing Education, Mr. Kovadloff stated that the gap between classes, the friction between developed and

undeveloped countries, and the ongoing clashes between guerrillas and armies were among the major problems facing Latin America.

"The conflict between Liberalism and Conservatism in Latin America is not simple or clear-cut," Mr. Kovadloff said. "It involves aspects of social democracies, Christian democracies, socialism and marxism, as well as the right-wing movements of neo-nazism and indigenous fascists; populism, demagogism and militarism."

The Spanish heritage, embodying absolutism, monolithic societies and civilian/military regimes, is still strong, Mr. Kovadloff stated, adding that "Pan-Americanism remains the un-attained dream."

Mr. Kovadloff's final discussion on "The Jewish Community of Latin America" is scheduled for December 16. He had pre-

viously spoken on "The Junta vs Democratic Government in Latin America," "American Foreign Policy in Latin America," and "Religion and Culture in Latin America."

Mr. Kovadloff formerly directed the AJC South American Office in Buenos Aires, his native city, from which he was forced to flee in June, 1977, as a result of anti-Semitic threats to the lives of himself and his family. He is the grandson of Russian Jewish immigrants who settled in Argentina in the late nineteenth century. His grandfather was a pioneer in the Jewish agricultural colonization program sponsored by Baron de Hirsch in Argentina.

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NEW YORK -- The American Jewish Committee welcomed the pending enactment by Congress of a five-percent increase in Federal taxes on gasoline, but urged Congress to look to other ways "to provide more job opportunities that will reach other segments of the U.S. economy."

In a statement by Maynard I. Wishner, President, the human relations agency asserted that a gasoline tax was "a small but important beginning in meeting three of our nation's primary problems" -- needed jobs in the

construction industry, improvement of U.S. transportation, and reduction in U.S. oil consumption.

Mr. Wishner also appealed for Congress to seek "additional ways to ensure our country's energy security," adding that a tax on imported oil was an efficient method of achieving this. He said:

"Such a tariff -- at \$10 a barrel, for example -- could raise 40 billion dollars in revenue, including the impact on domestic oil windfall taxes. It would encourage conservation by utilities and

industry as well as the transportation sector. Most important, the oil import tax will work to ultimately reduce the price of oil and will help stop the drain of 200-billion dollars annually from the U.S. economy and from that of other oil-producing countries.

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