

KNESSET MEMBER WELCOMES HELP FROM PRO-FALASHA ACTIVISTS

A meeting called to discuss the plight of the Ethiopian Jews in Africa degenerated into a squabble promulgated by two Jewish Agency and government bureaucrats on how to stop the vibrant American Association of Ethiopian Jews (AAEJ) from their activities. Backing the AAEJ was Knesset Member Mordechai Ben Porat.

Speaking against the AAEJ were Yehuda Dornitz, Director General for Immigration and Absorption of the Jewish Agency, and long accused by the AAEJ as being against the immigration of Ethiopian Jews to Israel.

The other was Moshe Gilboa, an Israeli bureaucrat, formerly Consul General for Israel in Chicago, a city known for its pro-Falasha supporters. Earlier this year the City Council of Chicago sponsored a strong resolution on behalf of the Ethiopian Jews which was sent to President Reagan. Gilboa was still smarting from his visit to the national meeting of the United

States Jewish Community Councils (NJCRAC), where he was publicly criticized by members of that group.

Dornitz and Gilboa insisted that the AAEJ be discredited, and that Israel recognize a less vocal and less active group as the "official organization in the United States representing the Ethiopian Jews," a New York based group which is one of the many new pro-Falasha groups springing up over the United States since the AAEJ began its intensive grass roots campaign five years ago.

Countering Dornitz and Gilboa was Knesset member, Mordechai Ben Porat, recently appointed by Prime Minister Begin to head a committee on Ethiopian Jews and other endangered Jewish communities. Ben Porat, who is familiar with the AAEJ's absorption and scholarship program in Israel, said that he is for any group that is working so tirelessly for the Ethiopian Jews.

When news of this meeting reached the United States, Professor Howard Lenhoff, immediate past president of the AAEJ, did not seem surprised. "Their reaction is typical," said Lenhoff. "Since 1956 some bureaucrats such as Gilboa have been against the immigration of Ethiopian Jews, and the Jewish Agency has done everything in its power to sabotage any significant movement of Falashas to Israel. Those bureaucrats have cushy jobs and they know it. They have brought shame to the beleaguered Jews of Ethiopia and should be removed."

Nathan Shapiro of Chicago, newly elected president of the AAEJ, joined Lenhoff in castigating Dornitz and Gilboa as being responsible for the deaths of the Ethiopian Jews in the Hell Hole refugee camps in Africa.

UJA TO HOLD CONFERENCE IN LAKE TAHOE

Serenely beautiful Lake Tahoe will again be the setting for the Third Annual Young Leadership Conference of the United Jewish Appeal Western Region, May 13-15 at the Grand Libakken Resort Hotel.

Conference Chairmen are Mark and Gail Glasser and Shamy Nolly of San Francisco and Harold Lindenthal of Oakland. Over 125 repre-

where over 3,000 have been languishing for nearly 3 years.

"Since the middle of last May," said Shapiro, "only 150 Falashas have been brought to Israel. At this rate, it will take a dozen years to clear out the refugee camps. And what about the 20,000 Falashas in Ethiopia?"

Lenhoff added, "As long as the Jewish leadership in the United States is going to sit on its hands and do nothing about expediting the rescue of Ethiopian Jews, the AAEJ will continue to speak and act, and to represent the grass roots of American Jewry until every last Falasha is in Israel."

This month Shapiro and Lenhoff will be meeting in Israel with Knesset Member Ben Porat and other Israelis concerned about the survival of the Ethiopian Jewish community.

representatives from California, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Oregon, Utah and Washington are expected to attend.

Scholar-in-Residence for the weekend will be Michael Reiner, Director of the National UJA Young Leadership Cabinet, currently "on loan" from the Institute for Leadership Development of the Jewish Agency in Jerusalem.

The UJA is the American Jewish community's major channel of funds for humanitarian assistance to the people of Israel.

AIPAC OFFICIAL BLASTS WEINBERGER FOR CONDUCTING A "VENDETTA AGAINST ISRAEL"

WASH. (WNS) -- Steven Rosen, the director of research and information for the American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC) charged that Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger is conducting a "vendetta against Israel" which has resulted in what he termed "something just short of an arms embargo." At a press conference here for Israeli and Jewish media, Rosen also charged Weinberger with creating a "tilt" in Reagan Administration policy away from Israel and toward the Arab states.

Weinberger puts every act by Israel "in the worst light," not only in his mind but also in the President's mind, Rosen charged at the press conference which was called to discuss the new AIPAC pamphlet, "Israel and the U.S. Air Force." The pamphlet argues that Israel, not any of the Arab countries, is the best site for American air bases, particularly to provide refueling and maintenance of U.S. planes protecting the Mideast and the Persian Gulf. The pamphlet is a follow-up to one issued by AIPAC last year called, "The Strategic Value of Israel."

Rosen said the only "good things" that have emerged recently are such items as foreign aid which is directed by Congress. He claimed that Administration opposition to attempts to expel Israel from the United Nations was due to the mandate by Congress. The official said the only weapons shipped to Israel in recent months have been 11 F-15 jets and 200 Sidewinder missiles. He said the Administration has held up since last May official notification to Congress of the sale of 75 F-16 jets even though they were promised to Israel in 1978 as a result of the

weapons the U.S. sold to Saudi Arabia, Egypt and Jordan.

As for Weinberger's policy toward the Arabs, it is "come pick what you want and its yours," Rosen said. He said it was "not clear what the Arabs wanted that he (Weinberger) turned down." Rosen said AIPAC is speaking out because there has been an "obsession" over the last two years over what Israel has done to strain U.S. relations with the U.S. but little has been mentioned about what Weinberger has done to strain relations with Israel. He contended that Weinberger does not know the importance of Israel to U.S. security and has thus harmed American security.

(Several hours after the conference, AIPAC issued a statement through its spokesperson, Lisa Behren, that "any personal remarks" about Weinberger were "solely" that of Rosen's. She said that AIPAC's well known differences with the Administration are that it believes that Israel "is of strategic importance to the U.S. and current U.S. policy does not take advantage of that fact. It will be false to characterize this difference of opinion as personal criticism of the Secretary of Defense. Our concern remains what it has always been -- policy, not personality."

BAR MITZVAH AT TEMPLE BETH SHOLOM

Louis Kushner, son of Mr. & Mrs. Myron Kushner, will be called to the Torah and become a Bar Mitzvah during services at Temple Beth Shalom, 1600 E. Oakey Blvd., on Saturday morning, April 9, 1983.

Rabbi Kalman Appel, spiritual leader of the Temple, will officiate and conduct the services which commence at 9:00 A.M. Cantor Simon Bergman will chant the liturgy. The parents of the Bar Mitzvah will host the congregation to a Kiddush in the Temple's Entratter Social Hall immediately after the services.



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