

Humanitarian Affairs, centered on the need for special efforts in behalf of Anatoly Shcharansky, Joseph Begun, and other dissidents who, like Yosef Mendelevich before them, are being subjected to especially harsh treatment because of their religious practices and beliefs. Mr. Abrams praised Agudath Israel's record of discreet intercession for Soviet Jews. The Agudath Israel leaders also discussed with Mr. Abrams the problem of relaxing immigration laws and regulations to allow speedier refuge in the U.S. for victims of persecution from Iran and Arab and Communist countries.

In a remarkable address quoting from the Talmud, Secretary of Education Bell, a Mormon, delivered an unusually detailed tribute to yeshivos, tracing their

development through Jewish history and their "contribution to the excellence and diversity that have made America great."

Mr. Bell reaffirmed the Administration's commitment to tuition tax credits. The Agudath Israel leaders praised the Administration's unstinting support of the tuition tax credit legislation and asked the Education Secretary to act to restore in the public schools the teaching of moral, ethical, and citizenship values, the absence of which poisons the national climate in which all citizens live.

Addressing the same subject, Senator D'Amato said, "Without the yeshiva day schools, New York City would be a jungle; those who want good, safe schools for their children, schools which teach respect

for family and country, would abandon the city and move to the suburbs."

Economic concerns expressed by the Agudath Israel group included the tilt of tax benefits away from one-income large families and toward working-spouse and childless families, worsening the financial strain on large families where home-making is a full-time job; the cuts in aid to small businessmen, and the taxing of Social Security benefits.

Vice President Bush presented Department of Housing and Urban Development awards to Agudath Israel and its subsidiary, the Southern Brooklyn Community Organization, for their creative efforts in neighborhood stabilization by private initiative and for programs which had become a model for the nation in design and efficiency. The awards were accepted by

Rabbi Sherer, Louis Glueck, President of SBCO, and Rabbi Shmuel Lefkowitz, its Executive Director.

States represented by the Agudath Israel leadership group included California, Colorado, Florida, Illinois, Massachusetts, Maryland, Michigan, Missouri, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Wisconsin. Founded in 1922, Agudath Israel of America has pioneered the representation of religious Jewish interests before Federal, state and local executive, legislative and judicial bodies. The bulk of its programs involve educational, social service and youth work among Jews throughout the country and around the world, with the goal of perpetuating classical Judaism as the dominating force in the life of the Jewish nation and individual.

**BILL TO AMEND  
LAW OF RETURN DEFEATED**

JERUSALEM (WNS) -- The Knesset, by a vote of 58 - 50, defeated a bill to amend the Law of Return to recognize converts to Judaism only persons converted according to Halacha, religious law as administered by Orthodox rabbis. The Liberal Party faction of Likud joined the Labor opposition in rejecting the measure which had the support of Premier Menachem Begin. Action on the bill, which was the source of bitter controversy for years, was pressed by the Agudat Israel Party, a member of

the coalition of Begin's government. Although Begin promised he would do all he could to ensure passage, Liberal Party MKs were released from party discipline and allowed to vote freely on the issue. According to a report, six Liberals voted with the opposition Labor Alignment to reject the measure. Six others did not vote or abstained themselves from the Knesset chamber during the balloting. Five Liberals supported the amendment as did one Labor MK.

**RESULTS OF TERRORIST  
BULLET IN PARIS**



ALBERT BLOOM, PRESIDENT OF THE AMERICAN PRESS ASSOCIATION (AJPA), EXAMINES THE RESULTS OF A TERRORIST BULLET IN THE DOOR OF THE HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL TO THE UNKNOWN JEWISH MARTYR, IN PARIS.

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Ron Harris, son of Mr. & Mrs. Henry Harris, will be called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah on Saturday, April 16, at Congregation Shaarei Tefilla. Following services, a Kiddish will be hosted by the Harris family and all are invited to attend.

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