

HERO OF RESCUE DIES AT 80

Hilel Storch, who negotiated the safe delivery during World War II of thousands of concentration camp survivors and refugees to the allied armies of liberation, died here today, just short of his eighty-first birthday.

One of the "unsung heroes" in the rescue of Jews during the War and its aftermath, as a refugee from Riga Storch arrived in Stockholm where, as the official representative of the World Jewish Congress and of the Jewish Agency, he devoted all of his time, energy and resources to the work of preserving

Jewish lives. Some of the most imaginative efforts in the final phase of the War were undertaken by him with the help of Count Folke Bernadotte and Himmler's personal physician, Felix Kersten.

His initiatives led to the liberation while the War was still being waged of several thousand concentration camp inmates and their transfer to Sweden. In subsequent efforts Hilel Storch took a crucial part in obtaining the admission to Sweden of

20,000 camp survivors, 10,000 of whom suffered from tuberculosis. At the same time he personally went surety for thousands of transmigrants before the Swedish authorities.

Throughout the post-War period, Hilel Storch gave unsparingly of himself to secure political and material support for Israel, particularly in the intensely critical period immediately preceding and following the creation of the State.

Edgar M. Bronfman, President of the WJC,

praised Storch noting that "in the darkest hours of Jewish history he sought all possible means, in every conceivable quarter, in order to save lives and alleviate suffering."

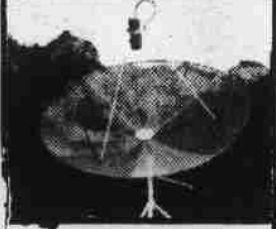
Last year, the WJC established a fund in honor of Storch's eightieth birthday to enable a comprehensive study to be undertaken of the rescue work in Sweden during and after World War II and to make possible thereby the proper historical recording of Hilel Storch's role and accomplishments during this fateful period. It invites all contributions for this purpose to be sent to the World Jewish Congress in Geneva, with the indication that they are intended for the "Hilel Storch Fund."

Learn to make whole wheat bread and how to avoid flops in breadmaking at a class on Thursday, May 26 at 7:30 P.M. Both classes will be held at the Cooperative Extension Service Conference Room, S.T.&P. Building, Suite 207, 953 East Sahara. Call Dea at 731-3130 for reservations or more information.

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D'AMATO CRITICIZES WEINBERGER

Secretary of Defense Caspar Weinberger's influence in the White House is under attack by Republican members of Congress who see him as hurting President Reagan's chances for re-election, according to Senator Alfonse D'Amato (R-NY).

In an interview published in the current issue of the Long Island Jewish World, Senator D'Amato said:

"Outrageous statements" by Secretary Weinberger on U.S. - Israeli troop relations in Lebanon were "an attempt to create animosity among the American people against Israel" and "fan the flames of bigotry and hatred...Is he taking out his personal displeasure against Israel through this reckless conduct?"

"...The Defense Secretary's 'attitude of inflexibility' in defending the Administration's proposed 10 percent increase in defense spending 'puts the President in a no-win position' with Congress and 'does a disservice to the President.'"

"...Members of Congress have launched an attempt to weaken Secretary Weinberger's 'strong influence at the White House' and 'eventually the President will recognize this. I believe he will be less of a factor as time goes by as others in the Congress and the Administration are heard more. His influence will diminish and, given his ego, he may decide to leave on his own.'"

Should Weinberger Be Dismissed?

Asked if he would recommend to President Reagan that Secretary Weinberger be dismissed, Senator D'Amato replied:

"I'd recommend to the President that he instruct Weinberger to be more flexible...Some of his public positions on the Middle East and the defense budget are counterproductive." He added:

"If Weinberger maintains his present position, he'll be a liability in the Jewish community if the President runs for re-election...The President has lost some support in the Jewish community but it is not irretrievable. The Jewish people are looking to see what the final outcome will be."

Senator D'Amato assailed Secretary Weinberger for having "publicly praised the American tank commander (in Beirut) who made a spectacle of himself. He should have seen to it that there was proper communication between Israeli ground forces and our troops in Lebanon so that there would not have developed any misunderstandings.

"Such misunderstandings could have developed tragic consequences if an American soldier had been killed or injured. That would have surely ruptured our relations with Israel," he told the Jewish weekly.

The New York Republican called this "very disturbing" and said it made him "wonder whether the Secretary of Defense has a proper balance about the situation in the Middle East."

Senator D'Amato said he believed President Reagan had "gotten the message that there has been a lack of balance in dealing with the parties in the Middle East." Recent criticism of the PLO by the President, he said, was "a very good sign. I'm delighted that the President sees that they are an obstacle to attaining a reasonable plan for peace and that they seek confrontation and hostility."

However, he added, the President's statement that the U.S. would not ship 75 F-16's to Israel until it withdrew its troops from Lebanon was sending "the wrong signal" to the Arab world regarding the American commitment to Israel. The New York Republican told the Long Island Jewish World that the F-16 decision "creates in the minds of the Arabs the impression that the U.S. is less supportive of Israel." He added:

"We are taking a very dangerous position with respect to those airplanes and it could destabilize the situation in the area instead of bringing about peace."

Senator D'Amato also said the U.S. should not "reward Jordan" after its decision not to enter peace negotiations with Israel. King Hussein's failure to come to the peace table gives Israel "an absolute right to refuse to stop the settlements. Israel should not succumb to the temptation to believe that if it stops building settlements, the attitude of Jordan will change," he told the Long Island Jewish World.