

WASHINGTON DATELINE

BY TRUDE B. FELDMAN
ISRAELITE'S WHITE HOUSE CORRESPONDENT

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activity on the West Bank.

Begin rejected charges by high U.S. officials that Israel's West Bank settlements are an obstacle to peace and illegal. And, in reply to arguments by Arab leaders that the West Bank should be turned into a Palestinian state, Begin pointed out that for 19 years -- from 1948 to 1967 -- West Bank territories were controlled by Jordan (which had seized them during the Israeli War of Independence); and that at no time during those 19 years did any Arab leader call for an independent Palestinian state in the area.

Begin insisted that only when Israel regained the territories in a war it claims it did not start, did the Arabs argue for an independent Palestinian state.

Increasingly, in the 1970's, the Arabs called for the division of Palestine between a Jewish state and an Arab state which they rejected in the 1940's. They, as well as many American officials, saw the Israeli settlements and refusal to withdraw from the West Bank as foreclosing the possibility of such a compromise peace.

Menachem Begin leaves office with Lebanon still in chaos. His critics claim that the loss of lives, the expenditure of tens of millions of dollars and the wide condemnation of Israel in the world press -- and by many statesmen -- are evidence that the 1982 Israeli incursion into Lebanon was a disaster.

Others suggest that U.S. policy makers in the White House badly misread the situation following Israel's incursion; in fact "snatched defeat out of the jaws of victory" and strengthened Syria and brought back Soviet influence into the Middle East equation.

Although the loss of lives has deeply affected Begin, he argues that the heavy losses inflicted on the Palestine Liberation Organization, the scattering of its forces, the seizure of huge amounts of PLO arms and liquidation of a PLO state within a state in Lebanon, were necessary for Israel's survival, as well as for the peace of the Free World.

As one who met with and interviewed each of the six former Israeli prime ministers, I view Menachem Begin as a gifted and principled man who single-mindedly persevered in his quest for the peace and security of his people, and who worked incessantly to reach that goal.

An earnest patriot, Begin has a feel for history, a sense of destiny, almost Biblical in its intensity. A man with a vision, he experiences a supreme sense of mission, rarely acting for the present. He has been guided by what will happen -- in the distant future -- to Israel and the Jewish people.

History may well commend Menachem Begin for that which some of his contemporaries have condemned him.

Men's Club News

By Herb Brown

The Men's Club did it again?? They had MARK ALDEN, one of the most interesting personalities we've ever had, give a graphic demonstration on how cheaters succeed on slots and other gambling devices. With live slot and poker machines, and dice, Mark demonstrated vividly how people try to "beat" the casinos. He held us spellbound for an entire evening and it was a fantastic evening. Many thanks, Mark, come back real soon. A special thanks to MANNY GORMAN for arranging this most interesting evening.

For those of you who missed Mark, we will have him back real soon so just keep tuned to this column and we will advise you. In keeping up with its dynamite social activities for the year, and our promise to you that this will be the greatest ever, Men's Club is still planning for the PLAY OF THE YEAR. NO, we won't have WAYNE NEWTON or ROBERT GOULET, or LOLA FALANA, we will have just as good talent in our own LOCAL TALENT. KEEP AN EYE ON THIS COLUMN AND SOON - A BLOCKBUSTER ANNOUNCEMENT.

Criminal Proceedings Dropped

BONN (WNS) — Criminal proceedings have been dropped against two officials of Moringen who were held responsible for allowing anti-Semitic material to appear in the town's official history. The prosecution in Hannover determined that Walter Rudolph Boedcher, could not be charged with incitement to racial discrimination or public disorder.

Ohlmer, 64, was fired from what is an honorary post as keeper of the town's records. Boedcher retains his job. He was not accused of writing anti-Semitic material but of accepting their inclusion in the official records. One passage justified the notorious Kristallnacht of 1938 as

a legitimate response by Germans to Jewish provocation in the United States and elsewhere.

Senior Year Study In Israel



Tanya Mammon of the elite Bronx High School of Science, in the El Al lounge, prior to departure for her senior year's study in Israel under the aegis of the Youth Aliyah Department of the World Zionist Organization-American Section. In a message to her American-Jewish contemporaries, she said: "I feel this year in Israel will be a memorable experience for me, and I want to take advantage of this great opportunity to obtain a deeper understanding of what it means to be a young Jewish adult, identified with her heritage, her people and her homeland that may lead to a lifetime in Israel."

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