

### Mexican President: Mexico Is A Friend And Defender Of Israel And The Jewish People

WASH. (WNS) — Mexican President Miguel de la Madrid told a delegation of American Jewish Committee (AJC) leaders that "Mexico has a permanent attitude of friendship and respect for the Jewish people" and considers itself "a friend and defender of Israel."

The President, who was here on a state visit where he met with President Reagan and other Administration

officials, met the AJC delegation shortly after he met with Reagan. He was accompanied at his meeting with the AJC by several Cabinet members and the Mexican Ambassador to the United States.

De la Madrid said that Mexico "is consistent in its historical philosophy toward the Mexican Jewish community. We in Mexico appreciate all the diverse groups that compose our society." Con-

tinuing, the Mexican leader said: "We are friends of the Jewish community in Mexico, and we deeply appreciate the culture from which they stem. Jews in Mexico are fully Mexican and are equal in every way in Mexican society."

On the Middle East, de la Madrid said that while Mexico may not agree with all of Israel's policy actions, it remains a "defender of Israel" and addresses "openly our differences." He added: "We think frankly that it is essential to take up the

question of the Palestinian people. Unless that problem of the Palestinians is resolved, conflict will be perpetuated with all the dire consequences that we know."

### European Jewish Leaders Establish Group For 'Defense Of Soviet Jewry'

PARIS (WNS) — Declaring that "Russia's Jews have entered a high risk

zone," Jewish community leaders from 10 Western European countries and Israel agreed after a two-day meeting here to establish a "European Committee for the Defense of Soviet Jewry" to counter what they said "all objective factors" show to be a "hardened" Soviet policy toward Russian Jews in recent months.

Claude Kelman, vice president of the Brussels Conference on Soviet Jewry, told a press conference that the Jewish leaders have "definitely rejected a timid approach" and conceded that traditional "so-called humanitarian gestures have lost their efficacy." The meeting decided to seek a new strategy and adopt new tactical measures.

It reportedly decided to use the forthcoming elections for the Parliament of Europe to obtain definite commitments from the candidates on behalf of the struggle for Soviet Jews.

### Victim's Family Allowed To Leave Syria

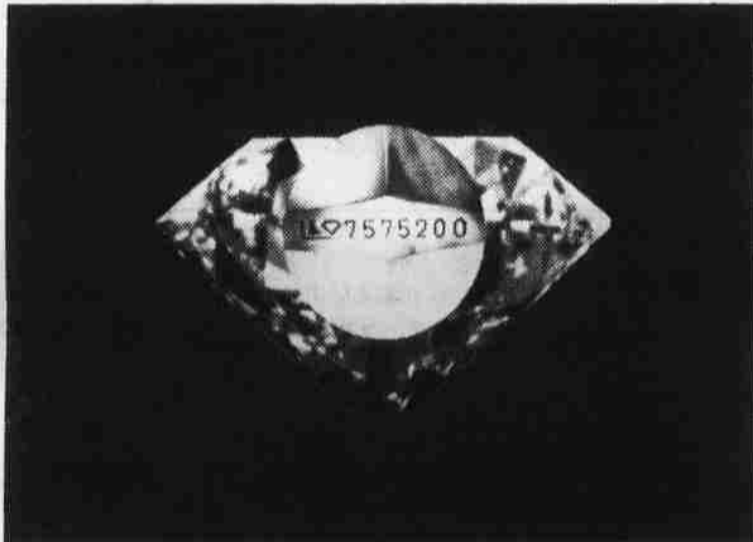
The sole remaining sister of Lillian Abadi, the 24-year-old Jewish mother, who together with her two small children were the victims of a brutal murder in Syria last year, arrived in New York from Syria with her family last month, the World Jewish Congress reported.

Judy Feld Carr, who for eight years headed the National Committee for Jews in Arab Lands of the Canadian Jewish Congress, disclosed that the victim's sister, Fortuna Naftali, her children, Adele, aged 7, Grace, aged 4, Jacob, aged 1 year, and her husband, Rehmo, were able to leave Syria and arrived in New York where they were reunited with other members of the family on April 3.

According to Mrs. Carr, an unprecedented outpouring of contributions by members of the Toronto Jewish community in response to the possibility that the Naftali family might be allowed to leave Syria, was a major factor in bringing about their release. "The Naftali family has expressed its deep appreciation for such magnanimous gestures," she said.

Mrs. Lillian Abadi, the 24-year-old pregnant Jewish mother, and her two small children, Yosef and Sandy, were stabbed to death and horribly mutilated in Aleppo on December 28, 1983. The crime, which sent shock waves throughout the Syrian Jewish community, was discovered by the father, Chaim Victor Abadi, when he returned home that day.

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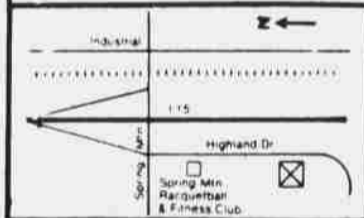


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