

President Reagan Met With American Jewish Women Leaders



Pictured with the President are (Left to Right) Freida Lewis, President of Hadassah, and Barbara Mandel, President of the National Council of Jewish Women.

The President met recently with a group of distinguished women leaders representing a cross section of the American Jewish community. Their discussion focused on foreign policy issues and concerns, including U.S. - Israeli relations. The President expressed his commitment to the security of Israel and his belief that the United States can play an important role in assisting the dialogue between Israel and her neighbors.

The President stressed his Administration does not condone anti-Semitism in any form. The President discussed the third international Women's Conference which will take place next year in Nairobi, marking the end of the United Nations Decade for Women, noting that while the original goals of the previous two United Nations Women's Conferences (in Mexico City in 1975 and Copenhagen in 1980) were noble, both conferences became dominated by political issues extraneous to these goals. Specifically, these conferences became attacks on the State of Israel and an infamous association of Zionism with racism.

The President made clear that the United States will actively oppose any conference agenda item which deviates from important women's issues and calls for the discussion of non-germane, political issues, including any agenda item that could be used as a vehicle to defame Israel. The United States has consistently opposed such efforts, most recently at the United Nations Population Conference in Mexico City earlier this week.

In particular, the President noted that the United States will oppose any agenda item at the Nairobi Conference which associates Zionism with racism. If, despite our efforts, such an agenda item is adopted, the United States will have no choice but to consider seriously cancelling its participation in the conference.

Shultz: No Change In U.S. Policy In Lebanon Or Syria

NEW YORK (WNS) — Secretary of State George Shultz has assured American Jews that the United States has not changed its policy regarding Lebanon as "free of all foreign forces, with a strong representative central government and security for Israel's northern border."

At the same time, Shultz said that "Syria continues to impede the direct discussion between Lebanon and Israel that we believe essential to establish the conditions under which Israeli forces can

be withdrawn from Lebanon with the necessary security for Israel's northern border."

Both statements were contained in a letter, released by Shultz to Kenneth Bialkin, chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, in reply to criticism by the Conference of a senior State Department official's assertion that Syria is now playing a "helpful role" in Lebanon.

Assistant Secretary of State Richard Murphy, who offered this

Prominent Descendants Of AJDC's Founders Observe 70th Anniversary



NEW YORK — To commemorate the Seventieth Anniversary of the dispatch of an historic cable that led to the birth of the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, civic leader and philanthropist Edward M.M. Warburg (L) and noted historian Barbara Tuchman (R), grandchildren of the original recipient and sender of the cable recently posed beneath their portraits and a reproduction of the cable at JDC headquarters in New York.

The present-day leaders of AJDC, Ralph I. Goldman, Executive Vice-President, and Henry Taub, President, are shown to the right.

The cable, dated August 24, 1914, was sent by the U.S. Ambassador to Turkey, Henry Morgenthau, to the New York philanthropist Jacob Schiff, requesting \$50,000 for use as loans for Jewish farming families in Palestine whose breadwinners had been drafted into the Turkish army. Schiff agreed to Morgenthau's request, pledging half the amount himself and obtaining matching donations for the rest. His act marked the beginning an organized American Jewish response to the

critical needs of suffering Jews in Europe and Asia and the birth of the AJDC.

The text of the cable reads as follows:

"Jacob Schiff:

Palestinian Jews facing terrible crisis belligerent countries stopping their assistance serious destruction threatens thriving colonies fifty thousand dollars needed by responsible committee Dr. Ruppin chairman to establish loan institute and support families whose breadwinners have entered army conditions certainly justify American help will you undertake matter.

Morgenthau"

Sothbey's Sale Put On Hold

NEW YORK (WNS) — A State Supreme Court judge ordered that Sothbey's auction house withhold the transfer of all funds and properties it has in its possession from the auction last June of a rare collection of Judaica books and manuscripts whose ownership has been the source of a running dispute for two months. The auction house said it would comply with the court's decision.

The order was issued by Judge David White and it seeks to retain as the status quo the dispute over the Judaica items which were sold for some \$1.45 million, according to the office of the Attorney General which brought the suit against Sothbey's, charging it with "persistent fraud and illegality" in the sale.

Furthermore, it was revealed that the purported owners of the books and manuscripts, which were initially believed to have been destroyed by the Nazis during World War II, are Dr. and Mrs. Alexander Guttman, who claimed in an affidavit filed earlier to have been given the materials to take out of a Berlin Seminary.

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assessment of Syria before a House Foreign Affairs subcommittee last July, was immediately criticized by some of the subcommittee members.

The Conference, in a telegram to Shultz, also criticized Murphy's statement as an "astonishing and depressing development. If it is the Administration's policy to concede dominion of Lebanon to Syria, this is indeed a sad day for America's role in the Middle East."

Shultz, in his reply, affirmed that Murphy "did not indicate any change in U.S. policy regarding either Lebanon or Syria. Rather, he was describing an evolving situation in which changed circumstances have resulted in some redirection of Syrian tactics."



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