

Ethiopian Jewry Issue Disrupts First Session Of CJF Assembly

(Continued from page 1) Welfare Fund, the session chairperson, first protested that the concerns of the demonstrators would be examined at a forum on Ethiopian Jewry after the plenary and threatened to have the demonstrators removed. Jacobovici said "you have no right to refuse us five minutes of convention time for 2,000 dead." Cardin insisted "we are doing the maximum we can" to rescue Ethiopian Jews "but we cannot discuss what we are doing."

Ambassador H. Eugene Douglas, U.S. coordinator for refugee

affairs, addressing the scheduled forum on Ethiopian Jewry, held after the cancellation of the plenary session, referred to the demonstration and urged the audience of about 1,000 delegates "to have more trust" in the efforts of the U.S. and Israeli governments to rescue Ethiopian Jews.

Douglas said the reality is that private groups are in no position to match what governments can do through diplomatic, financial and behind-the-scenes actions in providing the kind of aid needed by mass victims

in famine areas. He said private groups often make harder the rescue work of governments.

During a question and answer period, Jacobovici declared "the world is now watching Ethiopia starve to death" and that "thousands of Jews are among the dying." He asked how long the Ethiopian Jewish community could survive in such terrible conditions.

Jacobovici said there are now 12,000 Falasha refugees in the Sudan and that 8,000 Ethiopian Jews are victims of Africa's worst drought. He said more than 300 Ethiopian Jews are dying every month.

He said the 2,000 Ethiopian Jews who died

perished in refugee camps outside Ethiopia in the past six months while major non-Jewish international relief agencies have been helping the general Ethiopian population. He said 10,000 to 12,000 Ethiopian Jews suffer in over-crowded disease-ridden refugee camps and 6,000 or more very old and young Ethiopian Jews are still trapped in Ethiopia.

Praising Israel's efforts to resettle and absorb Falashas once they reach the Sudan, he said

the issue is not how many are saved but how many are not. Douglas responded that efforts to help the Jews of Ethiopia, a nation with a large Moslem population, a country surrounded by Arab nations, would be made extremely difficult if the rescue issue was linked directly with Zionism and Israel.

There was a moment of silence for the Falashas who had perished in Ethiopia and for those who died in the effort to migrate to Israel.

Sarit Bellinsky Bat Mitzvah At Beth Sholom

Sarit Bellinsky, daughter of Mrs. Smadar Bellinsky, was called to the Torah and became a Bat Mitzvah during services at Temple Beth Sholom, recently.

Rabbi Louis M. Lederman, spiritual leader of the Temple, officiated and conducted the services and Cantor Simon Bergman chanted the liturgy.

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