

Lasting Peace, Economic Stability Dominate Israel's Hopes For Future, Peres Discloses In Hadassah Golden Wreath Society Briefing



Jerusalem...Prime Minister Shimon Peres greets Ruth Popkin, National President of Hadassah, during the visit of Hadassah Golden Wreath Society of Major Donors Mission to Jerusalem.

JERUSALEM — Prime Minister Shimon Peres, speaking at a briefing for members of Hadassah's Golden Wreath Society of Major Donors, cited lasting peace between Israel and her neighbors and the nation's economic recovery as his government's top priorities for the coming year. The briefing took place during a mission of the Society led by Ruth Popkin, Hadassah National President.

The Prime Minister said that he had invited President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt to meet with him on Israel's border with Egypt to discuss "warming up" relations between the two countries. According to Peres, Mubarak had responded positively to his invitation and agreed to send a top envoy to Jerusalem for preliminary talks with him and Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir. Israel Ambassador to Cairo Moshe Sasson already has met with Egyptian Prime Minister Kamal Hassan Ali and Foreign Minister Esmat Abdel Meguid.

Body Of Missing IDF Soldier Is Found At Mt. Carmel

TEL AVIV (WNS) - The body of 20-year-old Hadass Kedmi, an apparent murder victim, was found in a picnic ground on Mt. Carmel. The young woman soldier had been missing since November 29 when she was last seen near Haifa trying to hitch a ride to her home in Kibbutz Kfar Masaryk.

The remains were discovered by soldiers on a training exercise in the Carmel range. Police said the body bore signs of violence and assume Kedmi was kidnapped and murdered by terrorists. But a general investigation is underway. No details have been released.

Kedmi has been the ob-

The Prime Minister also said that Israel is making every effort to bring King Hussein of Jordan into the peace process. "We went to Hussein with a very fair approach," he noted. "We said to him: 'We make no condition. You are entitled, as we are, to make any condition you like. Please come in, we'll consider any proposal.' The Middle East does not need another wise plan," he added. "Our files are full of wise plans. The real issue is to find a meaningful way to deal with each other."

The Israeli leader said that Israel anticipated that negotiations on withdrawal from Lebanon will face serious problems, but added that he was hopeful that agreement could be reached very soon. He stressed that Israel had no ambitions to retain control over any Lebanese territory.

Peres blamed the high cost of securing Israel's borders as a major factor in his nation's economic turmoil. He cited the \$3.2 billion cost of the incursion into Lebanon to end terrorist at-

tacks on the Galilee, and noted that the Yom Kippur War in 1973 cost \$8 billion. He said the cost of peace had been very high with the price tag for peace with Egypt reaching upwards of \$7 billion.

He pointed out that these costs were over and above the nation's "normal" defense expenditures which were aggravated by inflation in the United States since 1974 and the increasing sophistication of weaponry.

Despite the heavy cost of defense, Peres said that Israel hopes "to create a model society," with an economy based on science and invention, and with the highest level of medical and other "quality of life" services. In addition, immigrants would continue to be absorbed, he said.

The Hadassah Golden Wreath Society of Major Donors consists of women leaders from throughout the United States who have given at least \$100,000 for the medical, education and youth welfare programs supported by Hadassah in Israel.

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ject of a massive search by soldiers, border and regular police, aided by Jewish and Arab civilian volunteers. She and another woman soldier hitched a ride together from their army base near Tel Aviv 12 days ago to their homes in the Haifa area.

The driver of the car that picked them up told police that he dropped Kedmi off, at her request, on the outskirts of Haifa, and that she walked to a nearby gasoline station to try to find a ride in the direction of Kfar Masaryk on Haifa Bay.

Kedmi's disappearance prompted police to resume their search for another soldier, David Manos, who disappeared in the same vicinity two weeks earlier. They are checking bars in the Tel Aviv area following reports that someone resembling Manos was seen there after he was reported missing.

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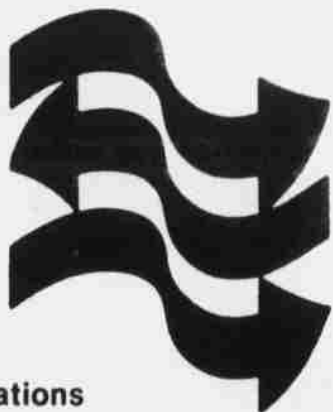
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