

Schultz Says Israel Needs Comprehensive Economic Program

JERUSALEM (WNS) — Premier Shimon Peres confirmed that he had received a letter from Secretary of State George Shultz making clear that he would not support Israel's request for increased U.S. economic aid unless and until the Israeli government produced a comprehensive economic recovery plan.

Peres, addressing Central Bureau of Statistics officials, said it should serve as a warning bell. He said that Shultz complimented the government for doing more to help the economy than its predecessors. But at the same time, the Secretary of State pointed to grave dangers close at hand "unless we act faster and do more," Peres said.

Shultz's letter has been the subject of media reports. According to the media, Shultz sent a three-page letter to the Premier after the first round of meetings of the Joint U.S.-Israel Economic Group in Washington at which Israel formally submitted its request for increased aid.

Israel is seeking \$4.1 billion in U.S. military and economic aid for the fiscal year 1986, which begins October 1. This is \$1.5 billion more than the \$2.6 billion Israel will receive during fiscal 1985, all of it in grants.

The media reports said Shultz's letter advised Peres that his government would have to demonstrate that the increased aid will be put to good use and will not simply fuel inflation. American officials have been demanding a detailed economic plan from Israel to justify its new requests.

Haaretz reported that while Shultz acknowledged to Peres that the unity government has indeed slashed its budget, more remained to be pruned. He urged "structural changes" in the Israeli economy, Haaretz said, meaning apparently that the State must stop funding uneconomical businesses and projects.

According to Haaretz, Shultz counselled a steep drop in living standards in Israel and greater

autonomy for the Bank of Israel, the country's central bank, so that it could restrain the printing of money to cover budget deficits. The authority to print money presently rests with the Treasury.

Israel Radio reported that official figures for 1984, slated to be published at the end of the year, would show an eight percent decline in living standards and a substantial narrowing of the balance of payments gap.

Haaretz, in its report, quoted an unnamed economist as saying that to follow Shultz's formula would result in tens of thousands of Israelis unemployed. The Finance Ministry has expressed anger and astonishment that Shultz's letter was leaked to the press.

LONDON (WNS) — A British Committee for the Rescue of Syrian Jewry has been formed here to arouse public opinion and support for the 4,500 Jews of Syria whose emigration has been banned for years and who appear now to be in greater danger than ever. Leon Tamman, treasurer of the World Sephardi Federation, is president.

TEL AVIV (WNS) — The population of Israel stood at 4,235,000 at the end of 1984 of which 3.5 million are Jews, according to estimates published by the Central Bureau of Statistics. The Jewish population increased by 82,000 during the past year, a 1.9 percent rise. The non-Jewish population rose by 20,000, a 2.8 percent increase.

"Weekend With The Stars" Telethon For Cerebral Palsy To Air January 12-13

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disabilities in a way that accentuates their abilities, not disabilities. It points up their humor, their intelligence and their basic humanity. In short, the UCP telethon has done and continues to do an admirable job of educating the public."

Leonard H. Golden-son, chairman of the board of American Broadcasting Companies, Inc. and United

Cerebral Palsy's board chairmen, expressed the organization's appreciation to Channel 5 for carrying the show. "The Cerebral Palsy Telethon is a team effort all the way," he said, "and our stations are a vital part of the team which includes our celebrities, persons affected by cerebral palsy, corporate contributors, UCP affiliates and community groups across the country."

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