

Orthodox Union Praises Administration On Strike Against Libya

Orthodox Union President Sidney Kwestel praised the American strike against terrorist bases in Libya in a telegram to President Ronald Reagan.

The Orthodox Union telegram to the White House read as follows:

"The Orthodox Union, the central body of Orthodox Jewry in America, applauds the courageous action taken by the U.S. in its effort to combat Libyan inspired and sponsored terrorism. We fully support the Administration in its worldwide war to end the scourge of terrorism."

B'nai B'rith Praises Pope For Visiting Synagogue

WASHINGTON — B'nai B'rith International praised Pope John Paul II for visiting a Jewish synagogue in Rome last Sunday.

Gerald Kraft, B'nai B'rith president, called the visit "a most welcome expression of Jewish-Catholic friendship."

Kraft said that B'nai B'rith hopes "this long overdue gesture" will help strengthen the relations between the two religions and further lessen the misunderstandings "which have led to religious intolerance throughout the centuries."

The B'nai B'rith president added that the Jewish service organization believes that

recognition of the State of Israel by the Vatican "would be an appropriate next step" as the church "continues along the path begun by Vatican II."

"Recognition of Israel would put to rest any doubts harbored by Christians that the Jews are a people with a legitimate right to their state," said Kraft.

Two Senators Cancel Visits To Mideast

WASHINGTON (WNS) — Senators Gary Hart (D. Colo.) and Bennett Johnston (D. La.) cancelled scheduled visits to the Middle East which were to include a stop in Israel, after the Reagan Administration urged that members of Congress "reassess" their travel plans to the region.

A State Department official told a press briefing for foreign reporters that the advisory to Congressional official was in response to recent threats by Libyan leader Muammar Qaddafi that he would launch a wave of terrorism against Americans in the region.

But the Administration's advisory amounted to a "weakening of the American resolve to resist terrorism," according to a statement issued by Kenneth Bialkin, chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations. "The interruption of foreign travel is exactly what terrorists want and the surrender to terrorist threats gives them the victory they seek," Bialkin stated.

Hart announced that he was cancelling his trip to Israel, Egypt and Jordan after he was advised by Administration sources that the visit would "divert limited security resour-

ces." The State Department acknowledged that it had advised Congressional members and their staffs to "re-assess" whether their trips to the Middle East were necessary at this time, but denied having directly requested that such visits be cancelled.

The officials who briefed foreign reporters said that "we've all heard the threats issued by Col. Qaddafi and we have suggested to them that we think real carefully about whether travel to the region at this time is essential or whether they would consider postponing it." State Department spokesman Charles Redman, however, at an earlier briefing, stressed that the Administration's request only related to visits by members of Congress and that no general travel advisory had been issued. Redman said that "a fairly large number" of Congressmen and staff members had planned to travel to the Middle East during the Easter recess.

Hart planned to fly to Israel on a trip that was to include Egypt and Jordan. Johnston, who was to travel with Hart to Israel on the first leg of the separate Middle East tour, also cancelled his plans. Six members of the House of Representatives, however, are reported to be currently visiting the Jewish State.

One Million For Israel



Leaders of the Jewish National Fund proudly hold aloft a four-foot-wide check in the amount of \$1 million, representing the first installment of JNF funds to support afforestation and land reclamation projects in Israel. The check was presented at an all-day conference of the JNF in New York City last week. Participating in the ceremonies are (left to right): Dr. Samuel I. Cohen, JNF executive vice president; Moshe Rivlin, world chairman of the Keren Kayemet L'Israel (JNF); Mrs. Charlotte Jacobson, JNF treasurer, and Rabbi Joseph P. Sternstein, JNF president. Seated is Mrs. Rose Goldman, JNF secretary.



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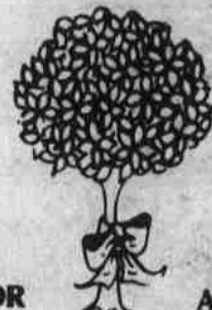


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