

Two Hundred Leaders Of American Jewry To Participate In Hebrew Union College Dedication Ceremonies In Jerusalem



In this historic photograph, Zionist leader Theodor Herzl and members of the World Zionist Organization pose on the parcel of land where now stands the Jerusalem campus of Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion. Left to right: Joseph Seidener, member of the World Zionist Organization; Dr. Moses Schnirer, member of the World Zionist Organization executive; Dr. Theodor Herzl; David Wolffsohn, second president of the World Zionist Organization; and Max Bodenheimer, one of the founders of the World Zionist Organization.

Approximately 200 leaders of the American Jewish community are scheduled to attend a "Week of Dedication" in Jerusalem, Israel, November 2-9, 1986, hosted by Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion. Hebrew Union College will dedicate two new buildings, the Skirball Center for Biblical and Archaeological Research and Museum and the Mildred and Bennett Trupin Family Torah Center, on the campus of its Jerusalem School. In addition, the College has begun to erect a major library facility which will be completed in the near future.

(Also scheduled for dedication is a youth center/hostel constructed, adjacent to the Hebrew Union College campus, by the World Union for Progressive Judaism.)

The Week of Dedication will include a regular meeting of the College's Board of Governors, dinner at the Knesset with the Prime Minister, a reception hosted by the President of Israel, and meetings with leading personalities in the Israeli government, the Jewish Agency and the Israel Movement for Progressive Judaism.

The Jerusalem School of Hebrew Union College was founded in 1963, and is today a focus of education and culture for hundreds of American and Israeli youth and adults, as well as providing a mandatory first year of study for HUC rabbinic, cantorial and religious education students.

The Jerusalem School serves as the academic center for American young people, including those spending a year at the Reform kibbutzim of

Mixed Reaction To Soviet Break-Off Of Helsinki Talks

JERUSALEM (WNS) — Diplomats in Europe and Israeli officials offered differing explanations for the surprise Soviet announcement that further talks with Israel were off.

As Israeli delegates were returning home from the 90-minute meeting with a Soviet team in Helsinki, an unnamed senior American diplomat in Bonn told Israel Radio that Israel's raising of the Soviet Jewry issue at the onset of the talks was a tactical error.

He said that after a breach of relations of 20 years, "It would have been preferable to raise this issue in a more restrained manner -- and not put the Israeli demands immediately to two low-

Yahel and Lotan, enrolled in various programs in Israel co-sponsored with the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, offers special study opportunities for youth affiliated with the Israel Movement for Progressive Judaism, and has developed an increasingly broad program of art exhibits, special lectures, religious services and other projects geared to the general Israeli public. In addition, the Jerusalem campus is home to the Nelson Glueck School of Biblical Archaeology, which has undertaken major excavations at various sites in Israel and conducts a special program of rabbinic studies for native-born Israelis.

"The wide scope of activities undertaken by the Jerusalem School," Dr. Gottschalk explained, "has put tremendous strain on its original facilities and necessitated our launching this building program. We have been heartened by the support for our activities in Israel, and believe the Jerusalem School not only forms a crucial component of our students' education, but is making a genuine contribution to the quality of life in Israel."

Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion is the nation's oldest institution of higher Jewish studies. It trains rabbis, cantors, religious school professionals, Jewish communal workers and graduate and post-graduate scholars at its four campuses in Cincinnati, New York, Los Angeles and Jerusalem.

level officials who had no mandate to discuss this matter."

He indicated that Soviet Jews would have benefitted if demands for their better treatment would have followed official efforts at improving relations.

But Mordechai Lador, Israel's Ambassador to Finland, was quoted as saying "that the doors remain open" and Israel-Soviet contacts would be maintained via the Dutch and Finnish foreign ministries.

In announcing Soviet intentions, a spokesman said in Moscow that a second day of meetings in Helsinki was cancelled because Israel insisted on raising "political questions" including a statement urging improved treatment of Soviet Jews.

Premier Shimon Peres responded that Israel will continue to stress that issue. "In our eyes," he said, "the issue of Soviet Jewry remains a central issue. We are not only a country, we are a people, and whatever will be will be. This matter remains at the focus of our attention." He said the Soviets could participate in the Mideast political process "only when and if it established diplomatic relations with Israel."

Asked if he regarded the Moscow statement as a propaganda move, he said: "It's very difficult to decipher the Soviet riddle. Why did they want to renew? Why, if they stopped -- what is still not clear, why they stopped. What is clear is that Moscow is apparently very sensitive to the reaction of the Arab world, and it is inconceivable for there to be a meeting between us and the Russians without our raising the issue of Soviet Jewry."

In Jerusalem, political sources took the Soviet statement with a grain of salt. They said the Soviets have not said their final word, and the contacts would continue. They explained the Soviet comments were an attempt to appease the Arab countries.

The sources said they failed to understand the Soviet rage over the raising of the issue of Soviet Jewry, because Israeli leaders had made it clear that they would stress the issue.

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