

'This Year In Jerusalem' Declaration Of Jewish Unity Signed

NEW YORK — As Prime Minister Shimon Peres of Israel looked on, the heads of 60 national Jewish religious and secular bodies signed a "Declaration of Jewish Unity -- This Year in Jerusalem" pledging that they and their organization would, "by their personal presence in Israel this year, stand in living witness" to the "imperishable unity" of the Jewish people.

The event, sponsored by the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations and Project Independence, was attended by 700 representatives of Jewish synagogal, rabbinic, communal, fraternal and Zionist groups across the country.

Prime Minister Peres addressed the group after accepting scrolls in Hebrew and English stating in part: "We declare with love and pride that as Jews we are bound to one another, to our ancestral homeland Israel and to her eternal capital, Jerusalem.

Noting that the new Jewish year 5747, which begins October 4, marks the 20th anniversary of the reunification of Jerusalem, the Jewish leaders said in their declaration:

"We call on every member of our community, and on free-loving men and women of every faith,

to join with us in visiting Israel during the year ahead, thereby affirming the common heritage of freedom and democracy that links the people of America with the people of Israel." The statement concluded:

"As we give our names to this proclamation, we recall the words of the Psalmist and we renew this ancient pledge:

"If I forget thee, O Jerusalem
"Let my right hand forget her cunning.
"Let my tongue cleave to the roof of my mouth
"If I remember thee not,
"If I set not Jerusalem
"Above my greatest joy."

Morris B. Abram, chairman of the Conference of Presidents, read the "Declaration of Jewish

Unity" and recited the pledge, "If I forget thee, O Jerusalem," in which he was joined by the participants in the meeting.

Another speaker was David Hermelin of Detroit, chairman of the tourism task force of Project Independence, a volunteer group organized by American Jews to help strengthen Israel's economy. Other speakers were Rabbi Alfred Gottschalk, president of the Hebrew Union College - Jewish Institute of Religion; Rabbi Norman Lamm, president of Yeshiva University; and Rabbi Ismar Schorsch, president of the Jewish Theological Seminary.

Rabbi Joseph Sternstein, chairman of the Presidents Conference task force on tourism, presided at the meeting and called the roll of Jewish organizational leaders signing the "Declaration of Jewish Unity."

French Reported Trying To Make Deal With Terrorists

PARIS (WNS) — Msgr. Hillarion Capucci, the former Greek Catholic Bishop of Jerusalem who was sentenced to 12 years' imprisonment in Israel for smuggling arms into the country, has been allowed to meet George Ibrahim Abdullah, the terrorist leader suspected of having staged the mur-

der of American military attache Lt. Col. Charles Ray and Israeli diplomat Yaakov Bar-simantov in 1982.

It is generally believed that the French authorities allowed the

visit to try to stop the recent wave of terrorist attacks which killed nine people and wounded more than 160 in October alone. Capucci, who was sentenced in 1974, met with Abdullah in Paris' top security prison La Sante where the terrorist is

being held incommunicado. Capucci lives in Rome and travels with a Vatican diplomatic passport. He has played an active role in various secret negotiations and is known for his close personal relations with Syrian President Hafez Assad and Iran's Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini.

Premier Jacques Chirac has twice pledged that he will "not yield to terrorist blackmail." He also said there will be no negotiations with the terrorists and that "those guilty (of the terrorist attacks) and those who manipulate them will be crushed wherever they may be."

Capucci's meeting with Abdullah is generally seen, however, as an attempt to reach an agreement with the terrorist gang.

Meanwhile, in a speech before the United Nations General Assembly, the French Prime Minister called for increased international cooperation to combat terrorism. He denied that any discussions had taken place with terrorist groups, either directly or through intermediaries. He also called for the United Nations Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) to be allowed to fulfill its mandate and move to the border with Israel.

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