It's Time For Greece To Improve Relations With Israel

By Rabbi Marc H. Tanenbaum

Why is Greece the only Western democracy that has not established full diplomatic relations with Israel? We put that question directly to Greek Foreign Minister Dr. Karolos Papoulias recently during a meeting with American Jewish Committee leaders in New York.

Dr. Papoulias, who was in the United States on an official state visit, answered our questions by indirection. He stated that "de jure relations exist between Greece and Israel," adding that "there has been a dramatic improvement in good relations with Israel on all levels." He pointed to the fact that a joint tourism pact was signed with Israel; there is an increase in cooperation in agriculture and micro-electronics, etc.

While we welcomed these gestures, we indicated that positive Greek-Jewish relations will not be realized until full diplomatic ties are established between Greece and Israel. Papoulias responded that he plans to carry out an official state visit to Israel in 1987.

He and his colleagues frankly told us that they had to find a balance in their extensive ties with Arab nations and Israel. But Spain and Italy, among other European Economic Community nations, we pointed out, also are deeply involved

with Arab states, but to their credit refuse to allow Arab threats to dictate their foreign policy. It is time that Greece show no less autonomy in its foreign policy toward Israel.

(Rabbi Marc H. Tanenbaum is director of international relations of the American Jewish Commit-

A Unique Hanukkah Menorah

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Skirball Museum was founded, it was transferred to the Skirball from Cincinnati. Ms. Alevy is president of the student council at Stern College for Women, an undergraduate division of the

University. Mr. Barbalatt heads the student council of Yeshiva College, the undergraduate division of liberal arts and sciences for men. The

lamp's coat of arms is that of the Rothschilds, granted by imperial decree to the family along with baronial status in 1882. It is believed that the lamp was a wedding present from Baron

Wilhelm Karl von Rothschild (1828-1901), to his wife, Baroness Hannah Mathilde von Rothschild (1832-1924), in 1849. The lamp is part of the Yeshiva University Museum's 'critically-

acclaimed exhibition titled "Ashkenaz: The German Jewish Heritage," which traces the emergence of Ashkenaz culture and the way it has shaped a unique national persona.

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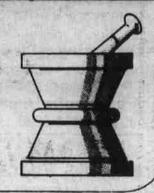


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