

## Meir Haber Appointed National Israeli Representative Of The Jewish National Fund Of America



Meir Haber, prominent Israeli businessman, editor, writer and lecturer, has recently been appointed national Israeli representative of the Jewish National Fund of America.

Upon accepting his new position, Mr. Haber stated that he eagerly anticipates "meeting American Jews across the country and raising their awareness of JNF's historic and ongoing achievements in developing the Jewish state."

With the coming departure of Tsvi Bisk and Yossi Urman, Mr. Haber will be the sole Israeli representative of JNF in the United States. His responsibilities include speaking engagements at JNF functions and community events, participation in professional conferences and parlor meetings, and involvement in a variety of other JNF activities.

Mr. Haber has held positions in government

administration, community development and investment and insurance companies, and is owner and chief executive officer of Otzma Ltd. and Shemer Ltd. He is editor of Niv-Haamel, a young-adult monthly magazine, and writes on current affairs for the daily newspaper Davar and the Trade Council weekly Haifa-Haovedet. He has lectured on behalf of the Israel Consulate and American Jewish organizations on a wide variety of topics, including Israel's youth, sociology, minorities, economy and defense, as well as on Middle East geopolitical affairs.

JNF's new Israeli representative has definite ideas on the agency's importance in Israel and the United States. "Israel's future," he stated, "lies in the promotion of the state's security and economy, and JNF plays a crucial role in both areas." He explained, "JNF's development of the Galilee ensures the security of the northern borders, while JNF's development of the Negev is essential to economic growth.

Speaking on the meaning JNF has for supporters outside Israel, he stated, "JNF is the only organization where a diaspora Jew can be a 'shareholder' by having a foothold in the State of Israel." He concluded, "JNF thus secures the continuity of Jewish identity from generation to generation and ensures the redemption of Jewish land in Israel."

The Jewish National Fund is the agency responsible for afforestation and land reclamation in Israel.

## Syrian Government Releases Five Jewish Prisoners

NEW YORK, N.Y. — The Syrian government has released five Jews detained in Syrian prisons, according to former President Jimmy Carter, who had been asked to intercede in their behalf by the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith.

Abraham H. Foxman, ADL's associate national director and head of its International Affairs Division, said the League had been telephoned by Mr. Carter personally to inform ADL officials of the release of the five. The former President has just completed a visit to Syria and other Middle East countries and has returned to this country.

Mr. Foxman expressed his appreciation to Mr. Carter for his "humanitarian efforts" in winning freedom for Jews who, the ADL official said, were being held for "no apparent reason other than their religious affiliation."

Mr. Carter, according to Mr. Foxman, was contacted just prior to his visit to Syria and asked to use his good offices to secure freedom for the

## American Leaders Greet New Ambassador To Morocco



A group of American leaders greet M'hamed Bargach to Washington as he assumes his post as the new ambassador of Morocco, one of the few moderate Arab nations that has a realistic attitude toward Israel. At a Congressional luncheon welcoming him, Ambassador Bargach said his country, like the U.S. "values democracy and pluralism." He also placed emphasis on Morocco's war against terrorism and its efforts to help bring about a just and lasting peace in the Middle East. With the ambassador (second from left) are Representatives Stephen Solarz of New York (extreme left) and Howard Wolpe of Michigan and Lilliane Shalom, a leader of the American Sephardic Jewish community.

five. The ADL official identified them as Elishu Lalo and his son, Marco, who have been held since December 1986; Rabbi Leon Guindi and Toufix Khalif and his son, Dibo, who were arrested in November 1986.

Mr. Foxman said that ADL had been able to confirm thus far that only the Khalifs and Rabbi Guindi have been released.

Earlier this month ADL appealed to the government of Syria to release the five. The plea was made through the Syrian embassy in Washington.

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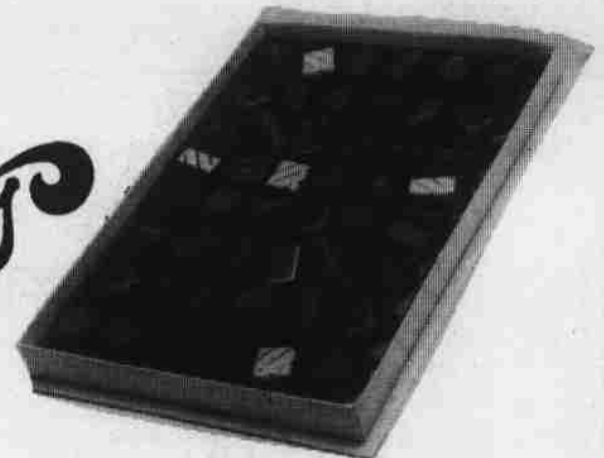
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