Toast By Vice President George Bush At Dinner Honoring Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir Of Israel In Washington, D.C.

Mr. Prime Minister, Mrs. Shamir, it is a great personal pleasure to welcome you back to Washington.

You know meetings between the President of the United States and the Prime Minister of Israel have become so routine, we tend to forget that only 40 years ago, there was no State of Israel, and Israel did not know who its friends would be. But America was there as its first friend.

Much has happened in the world since 1948, and nowhere more so than in Israel. And America is still there as a friend.

In fact, as I said in the Knesset nearly 2 years ago, Israel and America share a common spirit.

We are both nations of immigrants. We were founded by people fleeing religious persecution. We were both born of revolution. We both have a frontier heritage. We are both established on the values embodied in the Holy Scriptures. We are democracies, conceived in liberty and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal. We cherish the same fundamental rights of manfreedom of speech, freedom of the press and freedom of worship.

In the past 40 years, Israel has moved from a pioneer nation to a regional power. We are proud to be Israel's friend, as it celebrates this happy anniversary. As an early celebration of the occasion, and to mark your visit to Washington, I want to present to you, on behalf of President Reagan, a facsimile copy of the instrument of recognition which President Harry Truman signed on May 15, 1948. With it the United States was the first country to welcome Israel into the family of nations.

I am proud of how close our 2 countries have grown in the past 7 years. We are and will remain strategic partners - politically, militarily, and economically. It is my hope that our mutual trust during the Reagan Administration will continue in the years ahead. And if I have anything to say about it, it will.

This cooperation reflects our mutual interests and serves the cause of peace. It signals to all in

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the Middle East that no wedge will be driven between the United States and Israel because Israel is our friend and strategic ally. It also serves as a reminder that America is committed to a strong and secure Israel as a necessary precondition for achieving peace in the Middle East.

Peace in the Middle East is our mutual goal. It will not result from pressures and threats — or from PLO terrorist attacks on buses. It will come only through reconciliation and the recognition of Israel's right to exist as a free and secure state. It cannot be imposed by us or anyone else, and it can only be reached by direct negotiations between Israel and its neighbor states.

Today, we are embarked on an initiative to extend peace beyond the Egyptian-Israeli border. The Secretary of State has gone to the region, held discussions, and developed a proposal for starting negotiations.

We hope that Secretary Shultz's efforts will lead to a lasting peace between Israel and its neighbors. Secretary Shultz knows I strongly support the initiative.

Mr. Prime Minister, we have faith in you and faith in the wisdom of Israel's people. We are like brothers, our two countries, friends and allies forever. Our friendship is deep and it is permanment. As we raise our glasses to you, we are proud to call ourselves Israel's oldest, strongest, and most trusted friend and ally at this, Israel's 40th anniversary. We recognize that the road to peace is not easy. In the history of mankind, the democracies have always gone the extra mile in the search for peace. And we know that Israel will do so.

You have fought for Israel's freedom. Your generation made extraordinary and heroic sacrifices so that Israel could live and fulfill the Zionist dream of Jews living free in their own land. If this be the moment to achieve a breakthrough for lasting peace and security for Israel, who better than you to lead your people to it?

The United States Government and all of Israel's American friends wish for you strength, wisdom, and courage.

Be strong and of good courage.

Mediterranean Meeting



At a tourist seminar held by the Israel Government Tourist Office and the Greek National Tourist Office are (from left) Rina Feldman, Israel Government Tourist Office, N.Y., N.Y.; Moshe Hananel, Galilee Tours, N.Y., N.Y.; Daphna M. Barak, Director Northeastern States, IGTO, N.Y., N.Y.; Andy Cristo, Epirotiki Lines, Inc., N.Y., N.Y.; Nicolette Carrante-Vaughn, TWA, N.Y., N.Y.; Yannis Papaioannou, Jolis Voyages Travelaway, Toronto, Canada; and Anita Peleg, IGTO, N.Y., N.Y. The Israel Government Tourist Office, in conjunction with the Greek National Tourist Office, co-hosted a series of 30 national seminars and mini-trade shows for travel agents aimed at promoting information about attractions in the Mediterranean area.

GENEVA (JTA) — Overriding objections from several European countries, particularly West Germany, the United Nations Human Rights Commission adopted a resolution by consensus calling for the prosecution and punishment of all Nazi war criminals still at large.

It also condemned "the attempts made even today to deny the acts of genocide committed as a result of Nazi and fascist ideology and practices."

The resolution, sponsored by the United States, was initiated by Israel, whnich is not a member of the Human Rights Commission. It was the first time since 1970 that the subject was brought before the commission, which is holding its annual conference here.

