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DIRENFELD LEADS DELEGATION TO TOP-FLIGHT MEIR BRIEFING



National Commander Bernard B. Direnfeld attended the gala dinner-Reception tendered Israel's Prime Minister, Mrs. Golda Meir, in New York City at the Waldorf-Astoria, upon the occasion of her official visit to the United States. Commander Direnfeld, who also was invited to the private briefing session held by Mrs. Meir for the top Jewish leaders in the country, is shown here with the honored guest.

JWV Privileged to Attend Prime Minister's Session

National Commander Bernard B. Direnfeld led a JWV delegation that was privileged to participate in a high level briefing session held by Israel's Prime Minister, Mrs. Golda Meir in New York City. It was one of the highlights of her historic visit to the United States.

The briefing, an exclusive one for the top leadership of National organizations in this country, was an unforgettable experience as they met the former Milwaukee school teacher who has become a legend in her own time.

Mrs. Meir's face reflected the long and continuing struggle for the independence and security of Israel. As she answered questions and spoke of world problems, as well as mankind's search for peace, her emphatic mid-western speech left little doubt in anyone's mind the dream of Israel that came into being over twenty-one years ago will persist in reality despite any adversity.

Several of the national leaders present posed questions to Mrs. Meir regarding major problems that face Israel today. Her response to these queries and other comments were as concise as they were brilliant.

Israel and U.S. Relations

Mrs. Meir indicated she was very satisfied with the relations between the United States and Israel. She was pleased with her ability to communicate with President Richard M. Nixon in her private White House discussion with him during her visit to the nation's capital. They discussed methods for escalating peace in the Middle East. Mrs. Meir felt President Nixon "listened" to her very attentively.

Asked About Agreement

The Prime Minister again indicated that there was no agreement reached on any particular method that would arrive at the goal of peace. The United States hopes the bilateral talks between the United States and Russia will lead to an approach to peace. It was also recognized, however, that direct contact between Israel and the Arab States is a specific Israeli requirement in order to achieve a peaceful settlement.

Arab Proclamation Needed

Mrs. Meir indicated the first step toward this goal, if one is to be realistic, would be a proclamation by the Arab States, especially from Nasser, that he is willing and prepared to come to a peaceful agreement.

Mrs. Meir seemed to feel that all varied formulas proposed are useless unless Nasser publicly states that he desires peace. And she further indicated he must state he wants peace with Israel.

Indications are, however, that Nasser will not make such a statement. With reference to the statement of an Egyptian official, while in the U.S., that the Arab States might consider a meeting much like the Rhodes Conference, Mrs. Meir pointed out that the Conference was for the purpose of signing an armistice and that Dr. Ralph Bunche had been in charge.

Labor-Management Similarity

Prime Minister Meir, in her earlier years, active in Israel's Histadrut, likened the problem of the search for peace to any labor relations arbitration procedure which requires that both labor

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NC Declares Plane Piracy A Top Priority Problem

National Commander Bernard B. Direnfeld, recently reaffirmed the Jewish War Veterans stand that plane hijacking is an international problem that must demand top priority on the agendas of the United States and other civilized countries which deplore this act of terrorism and piracy in the so-called friendly skies.

The Commander stated this fact clearly in his original communique to Secretary of State, William P. Rogers, upon the hijacking of an American TWA airliner by Arab terrorists and its forced landing in Damascus with crew and passengers. Two of its Israeli passengers are still being illegally detained by the government of Syria.

In his strong JWV protest

Commander Direnfeld told Mr. Rogers "United States has a vested interest in seeing that American airlines fulfill their contractual obligations to deliver passengers, regardless of citizenship, or national origin, to their ticketed destinations."

As Commander Direnfeld pointed out this latest act by Arab Terrorists was very much the concern of the United States since it happened to a plane owned by an American airline. The Commander went on to say, "The United States government should stress to the United Nations that the protection of the American flag was ignored by the Syrian government which is col-

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JWV Protest Causes Lufthansa Withdrawal from Syrian Ceremony

As a direct result of an exchange of wires between National Commander, Bernard B. Direnfeld, and West German Ambassador, Rolf Pauls, the Government of West Germany withdrew its National airline, Lufthansa, from participation in the grand opening ceremony at Syria's new International Jet airport in Damascus. Commander Direnfeld's wires stated JWV protested the role Syria played in the latest act of piracy by Arab terrorists, and deplored Syria's illegal holding of two Israeli passengers from the hijacked American TWA plane.