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Charlotteans Attend White House Briefing

By Gail Green

A special briefing at the White House and by the American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC), publishers of the *Near East Report*, were parts of the Southern Seaboard Region of Hadassah's board meeting attended by Gail (Mrs. Ed) Green, Alice (Mrs. Sam) Schreiber and Judi (Mrs. Leonard) Strause October 3-4 in Washington. Gail Green is president of the Charlotte Chapter of Hadassah; Alice Schreiber is president of the Devorah Group; and Judi Strause serves on the board as parliamentarian for the Region.

The White House briefing was conducted by Ambassador Wat T. Cluverius, Director of the Office of Lebanon, Jordan, Syria, and Iraq for the State Department; and Edward Sanders,

Senior Advisor to President Carter.

Their remarks revealed that "peace process" is very much a part of the White House vocabulary. Our government feels that the progress of the peace treaty is proceeding according to schedule, and is especially encouraged by the growth of personal relationships as between Sadat and Begin. The administration feels that Sadat's position is very secure — that his policies are very popular with both the people and the army of Egypt. It will be essential, however, for other parties (Jordanians, Palestinians, etc.) to be drawn into the peace process if it is to succeed, thus accomplishing the "comprehensive settlement" so desired by this government. Despite the lack of success in this area to

date, the White House is confident that others, with the exception of the Syrians, will be drawn into the negotiations within the next two years.

Ambassador Cluverius expressed the belief that ninety percent of the Palestinians symbolically identify with the PLO, even though they do not agree with its policies, and that much progress toward peace could be made if the PLO could become a political, rather than a military factor.

Mr. Sanders, in response to questions from the eighty women present, assured the group that the administration, as part of President Carter's commitment to human rights, closely monitors the situation of the Jewish people in Iran and Russia. The Iranian Jews are at present believed to be in no

danger. Although our government is receiving "mixed signals" regarding an official anti-semitic campaign by Russian government, it is encouraged by the July and August emigration figures, the highest ever.

The AIPAC briefing was a brilliant, incisive review of American-Israeli relations by Aaron Rosenbaum, Director of Research. Mr. Rosenbaum repeatedly stressed that the time has come for the United States government to define our national policy and protect our national interests. Our arguments in favor of support for Israel should be that it is in our nation's best interest to do so. This is the fundamental concern that we, as American Jews, must stress.

He described the peace treaty

and the Iranian Revolution as "earthquakes" happening in the Middle East year, neither effectively used by this country to act more decisively. Rosenbaum criticized the ambiguous policies of this government, saying that they create confusion and encourage exploitation.

The Iranian revolution, which he defined as a people's revolution against a totalitarian regime, is having a "ripple" effect throughout the Middle East and is closely watched by neighboring governments, none of whom, with the exception of Israel, are democracies.

The signing of the peace treaty, he felt, polarized the Arab world and showed the limits of Arab moderation. In view of this, he questioned the ad-

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Academy Best Kindergarten In Town

On November 8th, an informative program will be presented at the N.C. Hebrew Academy, 1006 Sardis Lane, at 8 p.m. The staff of the Academy will discuss the outstanding kindergarten curriculum in detail. Also discussed will be special aspects of the Academy's excellent upper school curriculum.

All interested parents of children who will be entering kindergarten in the fall of 1980 and also those with elementary school aged children are urged to attend. Come and find out what the Hebrew Academy has to offer that makes it the best school in town.

Applications for kindergarten through the sixth grade are now being accepted for the school year 1980-81. For application forms or more information please contact Rabbi Sanford Tucker at the Academy (366-6390) or Sue Brodsky, recruitment chairman, at 364-5609.

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CHECKS!



Sally (Mrs. Robert) Schrader, chairperson of the Russian Resettlement Program, and Marvin Bienstock, executive director of the Charlotte Jewish Federation, are reviewing a check for \$2000 recently received as part of a federally funded grant to assist in the resettlement of Soviet Jews. Because of its long and outstanding work in this field, Charlotte's application for grant assistance was readily approved. This grant enables Charlotte to settle greater numbers of Soviet Jews at substantially lowered costs. Since October 1, 1978, 12 new arrivals have been processed. In the year beginning October 1, 1979 it is hoped that 20 individuals will be brought into our community.

An Afternoon of the Arts

A concert of Spanish guitar music by Jose Beato will highlight a festive art display to be held on Sunday, December 2nd from 2 to 5 p.m. at the JCC. Paintings by members of CHAI and ceramics by Cathy and Patrick Seiderman will be featured.

Cathy and Pat are well known ceramists in the Charlotte area. Cathy is also well known at the JCC where she has instructed children's classes in ceramics for over a year. She also taught at the JCC's day camp this past summer. The Seidermans will be displaying and selling their full range of ceramics. Noted for their fine quality, exquisite colors and outstanding craftsmanship, Cathy and Pat's booth at this year's "Festival in

the Park" was filled with spectators and buyers. A complete new collection of ceramics is now being crafted in time for the JCC show and just in time for Chanukah. Part of the proceeds from the ceramic sale will go to pay for new ceramic equipment for the "J."

The afternoon will also feature the paintings and drawings of the members of CHAI, the JCC Senior Adult Group. Beginning four years ago a group of more than a dozen CHAI members have studied art under the teaching of professors from CPCC. In that time they have spent countless hours perfecting their talents, and the products of their labors

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Miss Bessie Fagan of the CHAI group (rt.) presents Ilse (Mrs. Fred) Bergen of the JCC Board of Directors with a check for \$1452 for the Building Fund. This is the proceeds from the CHAI (senior adults) annual raffle. Prizes for this year were an afghan created by Mrs. Sylvia Sadoff and a painting by Beverly Howard. Miss Fagan has completed her second year as chairperson for this project.

Did You Know? Closed For Yom Kippur

North Carolina has become the first, and only, state in the country to declare Yom Kippur a legal holiday. A bill to make Yom Kippur a legal holiday was introduced into the state legislature by Representative Ted Kaplan and unanimously passed in February, ratified in April and signed by the state's governor.

Speaking for his brother, who was travelling on business, Hal Kaplan told the *Baltimore Jewish Times* that the bill was worded to make Yom Kippur a state legal holiday so that "teachers and state employees have the option of calling in to work and saying they are going to take the day off as a legal holiday in the state. Their time and pay is not docked. They don't have to take the day off as a sick day."

However, he added, "the state does not close down on Yom Kippur." North Carolina has two other religious holidays which by law are state holidays: Christmas Day and Easter Monday. These two holidays have "long been recognized as state legal holidays," Mr. Kaplan said. "When my brother introduced the bill regarding Yom Kippur, he was told it was the first bill like it in 80 years."

Mr. Kaplan estimated that the new law would affect perhaps 1000 people in the state, teachers and state employees who are Jewish.

Ted Kaplan is the representative to the North Carolina legislature from Forsyth County, which includes Winston Salem and its environs. A Democrat, he is now in his second term as a representative.