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(309) 674-9243

Jon Ziegele, Co-Chairman
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(309) 697-7112

Dale McNary, Sr., Treasurer
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Central Illinois Light Company
(309) 672-5232

Address: PALM
230 S.W. Adams
Peoria, Illinois 61602
P.O. BOX 5155
Peoria, IL 61601

January 22, 1986

Al Fleischer, Sr.
Fleischer-Seeger
Construction Company
5725 Manchester Avenue
St. Louis, MO 63110

Dear Al,

I want to thank you for your participation in our conference last Tuesday. We have had nothing but rave reviews about the conference from everyone we have talked to. We are particularly happy with the response we have had from contractors and unions in the building trades, who came because of your involvement in our conference.

The whole day was a tremendous success in every aspect. We have already received many requests for the tapes of the event. Our media coverage of the event was also very good. This may, in fact, be the turning point which we were looking for in terms of labor management relations in the Peoria area.

Please send an invoice for your expenses incurred for the conference.

Again, my very deepest thanks to you for the excellent job you did. We will be reaping the benefits for many years to come from the seeds that were planted here on January 21st.

Sincerely,

David Koehler
Executive Director
PALM COUNCIL

DK/jlk

NATIONAL JEWISH COALITION

415 2ND STREET NE . SUITE 100
WASHINGTON DC 20002
202-547-7701

February 11, 1986

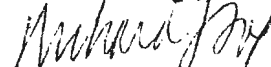
The President
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

On behalf of the National Jewish Coalition, I would like to express our deep appreciation of your exhaustive efforts in bringing about the release of Anatoly Scharansky.

Mr. Scharansky is a symbol to all those who struggle for freedom in the face of Soviet repression. Your success in securing his freedom will provide great inspiration to those who strive for an end to Soviet oppression. We recognize and applaud your commitment to this goal, and support you in your determination to ensure that those who wish to live in freedom may be allowed to do so.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Fox
National Chairman

bc: Max Green ✓

NATIONAL JEWISH COALITION

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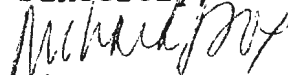
The Honorable George P. Shultz
Secretary of State
U.S. Department of State
Washington, DC 20520

Dear Mr. Secretary:

On behalf of the National Jewish Coalition, I would like to express our deep appreciation of your exhaustive efforts in bringing about the release of Anatoly Scharansky.

Mr. Scharansky is a symbol to all those who struggle for freedom in the face of Soviet repression. Your success in securing his freedom will provide great inspiration to those who strive for an end to Soviet oppression. We recognize and applaud your commitment to this goal, and support you in your determination to ensure that those who wish to live in freedom may be allowed to do so.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Fox
National Chairman

bc: Max Green✓



March 4, 1986

Mr. Alfred J. Fleischer
President
Fleischer Seeger Construction Company
5725 Manchester Ave.
St. Louis, Missouri 63110

Dear Al:

As I mentioned over the phone, I wanted to wait a little while before writing so I could say more than just "thanks." While the bulk of the work is still ahead of us, I'm happy to tell you at this time that a new organization is in the formation stages. Its proposed name is Southwest Louisiana "ABLE"...acronym for Association of Business and Labor Excellence. Enclosed you will find a B&W copy of the logo.

As you found apparent during your short visit, the local construction community mirrors the region's tendency toward fragmentation. Scattered ad-hoc committees which have endeavored to explore our local problems have without exception been closely held and secretive. The element of open shop has been approached in various ways, depending on the prevailing motives of the committee in question.

After long hours of discussions between many individuals following your visit, we have been able to arrange a "steering committee" of sorts representative of all the aforementioned groups. This steering committee will draw up a written document akin to PRIDE's Memorandum. A board of directors will then be chosen which will represent contractors, users, consulting engineers, architects, and both union & non-union labor. For this area's purposes, we will probably add a representative of the local financial community. Initially, it is my belief that Msgr. DeBlanc will need to serve as an impartial moderator. (Unfortunately, it appears we'll need an outsider to give the group some cohesion.) Msgr. DeBlanc will also provide the meeting place, support staff, etc. KPLC-TV will provide artwork, marketing assistance and promotional support.

Rodney Duhon and the majority of his business agents realize that this organization cannot be for the purpose of resurrecting their organizations. ABLE will seek to deal with the area's image and marketability...to encourage existing and new firms to bring construction projects to Southwest Louisiana. Organized labor is generally willing to do whatever is necessary to make itself competitive. Its leaders are eager to play their (as-yet unplayed) "trump card." That is, the providing of venture capital or seed money to developers who will in turn use union labor operating under the terms of the ABLE "Memorandum of Understanding." These union leaders believe ABLE could be the ideal vehicle to help channel some of these monies from their pension funds. The desired end result would be to allow organized labor to achieve a competitive stance in local construction, and perhaps a new image for itself.

God willing, someday the ABLE board will be able to devote its monthly meetings to light switches and boom boxes. But for the foreseeable future, I suspect they will be talking prospects, financing and pre-construction assurances.

Again, thank you for taking the time to visit Lake Charles and say what the local folk could not or would not say. Also please extend our thanks to the entire PRIDE organization for opening its doors to us.

Keep us in your thoughts and prayers. The past week has brought some real hope in the form of a major new industrial prospect for Southwest Louisiana. ABLE can serve to help see this and future projects through to completion.

Best personal regards,



James D. Serra
Vice President & Asst. General Mgr.
KPLC-TV

enc: check, logo, photographs

COMMENTARY

D
SECTION

JOYCE STARR

The chairman of Fiat, Gianni Agnelli, has stated: "Whether one supports the strategic goals of SDI is immaterial to the fact that one program presents... industry with the opportunity to participate in what could become the greatest research and development program of the decade."

Mr. Agnelli's point has not been lost on Israel. So great are the military threats to Israel and so significant are potential Strategic Defense Initiative benefits that if President Reagan's SDI did not exist, the state of Israel could well have found itself lobbying for creation of such a program.

President Reagan's invitation to Israel to participate in SDI was unanimously accepted by its Cabinet several weeks ago, with support from both sides of the political spectrum. The imminent government-to-government memorandum will catapult this small nation into the space age and into the technological revolution of the late 20th century. Most important, Israel's involvement in the Strategic Defense Initiative could become the vital margin, the *sine qua non*, of its survival.

The reasons are both economic and strategic. They are closely tied. In 1984 Israel faced a strategic economic crisis. Inflation was above 400 percent. Wages and prices were spiraling out of control, and foreign reserves were at a critical low. Israel's external debt exceeded \$7,000 per capita — one of the highest in the world — annual debt servicing amounted to 33 percent of the debt, and highly volatile foreign loans stood at \$7 billion. For the first time in its history, Israel's credit standing on the world market was being questioned.

Few Israelis would admit it, least of all the political leaders, but a major confrontation with the Arab states in 1984 could well have eroded Israel's financial situation to the breaking point.

Hitching Israel's wagon to a star

The National Unity Government, under the leadership of Prime Minister Shimon Peres, can be credited with turning the tide. In the last quarter of 1985, the inflation rate dropped to about 12 percent, with projections of 20 to 30 percent for 1986. A wage and price freeze has been in effect for more than a year, foreign reserves have been used to pay off debt principal and still show a slight increase, and the budget has been slashed by almost \$1 billion. Israel's trade deficit in 1985 shrank by 25 percent.

These improvements could, however, be eroded once wage and price controls are finally lifted or with the expected change of government leadership in October. Moreover, the security costs have been considerable.

Israel's defense ministry has absorbed the heaviest burden. Training hours for pilots and crucial defense personnel have been slashed to the bone. Military officers, like other government employees, have suffered almost a 25 percent real-term cut in salary over the last year, leading to contentious rivalries, early retirement of talented officers, and signs of general disenchantment with a military career, hitherto the "glamor" occupation in Israel.

Israel can no longer afford to maintain the 600-plane air force that has given it strategic advantage over the last two decades. Plans for production of 300 Lavie aircraft, an indigenous supersonic alternative to foreign weapon systems like the F-16, will likely be scrapped before year's end, even though almost \$1 billion has already been invested in the program. Top Israeli Air Force officials admit publicly that Israel cannot afford the production funds required for what is now estimated by some American officials as at least a \$16 billion program.

Even more serious is the new strategic threat facing Israel, principally from Syria. In 1983 and 1984



Syria received approximately 24 SS-21 surface-to-surface ballistic missiles from the Soviet Union. In addition, FROG and SCUD missiles have long been in the arsenals of Syria, Egypt, and other Arab countries. But their lack of precision in hitting a specific target, combined with Israel's ability for massive retaliation against urban and military installations, made their threat a minor one.

Such is not the case with the SS-21. By contrast, with its 120-kilometer range and low circular error probable (miss distance), the SS-21 is a formidable weapon. It has a cluster-bomb warhead and chemical warfare potential. The SS-21 can do crippling physical and psychological damage to population centers like Tel Aviv and can disable key military installations, a factor that Israel cannot ignore, especially when response time is measured in seconds, not minutes.

For Israel, therefore, SDI could be the new "manna," both for its defense apparatus and its economic infrastructure. Participation in SDI will bring to Israel:

1. The opportunity to team with the United States and its European allies in the technological effort to create defensive systems against shorter-range tactical ballistic missiles, where none today exist. By itself, Israel lacks the funds to develop defenses against such attacks, and constraints on its defense budget are certain to accelerate in the coming years.

2. The chance to share in U.S. research and development monies for defense technology, where the government of Israel is no longer in a position to meet the country's most basic requirements.

The infusion of even \$50 million to \$100 million from SDI subcontracts or teaming relations with U.S. corporations may be small by American standards, but it portends enormous dividends for Israeli high technology and defense firms, most of whom are desperately seeking R&D

funding and the rationale for keeping engineers and scientists fully employed. The industrial spinoffs would also be tremendous.

Israel is the world's leader in percentage of the population engaged in research and development. It is also an important exporting nation, with exports at approximately \$12 billion and 40 percent of this from the industrial sector.

However, this qualitative edge is in jeopardy. With increasing cuts in educational programs and the lure of overseas employment for its technical specialists at salaries three to five times their current earnings, Israel rests uneasily.

For the United States, the political and economic incentives for involving Israel in SDI are also substantial. Even to Israel's most ardent supporters, the days of wine and roses on Capitol Hill are coming to an end. Gramm-Rudman-Hollings — and Israel's "offer" to return almost \$130 million of military assistance and emergency aid funds advanced in the fall of 1985 — were only the early signs of a cooling of emotions. In the 1987 fiscal budget, U.S. aid to Israel remained fixed at \$3 billion, a de facto decrease for the first time since U.S. assistance to Israel began in 1973.

A congressional plan to reduce interest obligations on Israel's \$10 billion debt to the United States from 12 to 5 percent, thereby saving it billions of dollars over the next few years, was withdrawn several weeks ago. If the United States intends that Israel remain a strategic ally capable of defending itself, the emphasis of our support must shift toward Israel's economic growth and her technological advancement.

Thus, irrespective of whether the creation of a total nuclear shield is indeed feasible, the administration's \$30 billion to \$50 billion commitment to the research and development phase of SDI could prove one of the main avenues for Israel's survival.



SECURITY AFFAIRS

1411 K STREET, N.W. • SUITE 1002 • WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005 • (202) 347-5425

AMERICA, ISRAEL & SDI

by Charles D. Brooks

Ed. Note: Mr. Brooks is Outreach Director for the National Jewish Coalition and Liaison Officer to the Jewish Community for High Frontier.

The arguments for the urgent necessity of deploying non-nuclear multi-tiered defensive weapon systems in an effort to prevent the spectre of a nuclear holocaust have been eloquently argued in public media by scholars, military experts and scientists on numerous occasions. The political, strategic, fiscal and moral case has and will continue to be made for the Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI). However, few analyses have centered on how this historic reformulation of American defense policy will affect the 18 allies invited to participate in the project. In particular, one ally has more to gain and contribute than any other nation, Israel.

For Israel, the historical challenge has and will continue to be ensuring self-survival. The geopolitical nature of the Middle East and the xenophobic nature of fanatical Arabs sworn to the destruction of Israel necessitates a determined, but eco-

nomically costly vigilance. There are terrorists who engage in suicide car bombings and nations who send 12-year-olds to battle and would no doubt use nuclear weapons at the earliest opportunity against Israel. It is illogical and dangerously naive to assume that retaliatory policy would serve as a deterrence if these nations or groups ever obtained nuclear weaponry.

The Threat

In 1981, when Israeli intelligence discovered that the Iraqis were on the verge of constructing nuclear weapons, they made a decision to launch a preemptive attack on the weapons producing facility; the world condemned the surgical strike, but less than two years later failed to condemn the Iraqis on their use of poison gas against Iran. What would have prevented the Iraqis from deploying nuclear weapons if the reactor had not been destroyed?

Already vastly outnumbered, Israel will have difficulty in future years maintaining the qualitative advantage over the Arabs. The Strategic Defense Initiative will help enable them to counter Arab procurement of sophisticated weaponry.

Israel is confronted with a far more immediate threat — Soviet installed SS21 missiles in Syria capable of delivering nuclear warheads at Tel Aviv and Jerusalem. Israel would have only minutes of reaction time and pay a total price if Syria were to equip the SS21s for a random strike. General Daniel G. Graham (USA, Ret.) a former Director of the Defense Intelligence Agency and a founder of High Frontier (the conceptual project from which SDI arose) has noted that one of the first technologies to emerge from SDI research may well be anti-tactical ballistic missiles. Such weapons could allow Israel to defend itself against Syria's Soviet supplied ballistic missiles without having to rely on the increasingly unreliable deterrent of retaliation.

Avram Schweitzer, an Israeli journalist with "Ha'Aretz" newspaper aptly described how Israeli defenses could benefit by being directly involved with the development of SDI technologies. "A system that can make out, identify, home-in-on, and destroy an object less than 100 feet long, moving at near Mach-1 speed at a distance of 10,000 miles, is essentially a system, the application of which could do to the foot soldier, the artillery piece, the tank or the helicopter what its space-progenitor is supposed to do to strategic missiles. To be in on this kind of technology... could mean the purchase of peace for Israel, or more realistically, the imposition, by non-aggressive means, of a permanent state of non-belligerence along its borders."

The Potential

Israel will derive more than national security benefits from its participation in SDI. Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres called SDI, "A new dimension in the technological, scientific and strategic spheres... It is like joining a new era. Imagine if Columbus had invited an Israeli to join his ship. I, for one, would have supported this invitation, no matter what he was going to discover."

Indeed, no one really is quite certain of what we will discover. America landed a man on the moon in less than seven years; 10 years earlier the feat was beyond the wildest imagination of all but an intrepid few. Israel's industrial future will be greatly enhanced by being at the forefront of this technological revolution. Technological spinoffs could lead to production of new computer systems, energy sources, communication devices, medicines and thousands of consumer products. Moreover, SDI will heap research funds upon the troubled universities and will revitalize the Israeli scientific community. Israeli defense-related industries will receive lucrative contracts and strategic and economic cooperation between Israel and the United States will be strengthened.

For the drained Israeli economy, SDI will mean new jobs and revenue. Chase Econometric Group revealed that for every billion dollars invested in space technology, over 800,000 new jobs are created.

the inflation rate reduced by two percent, and the GNP increased by \$23 billion. Tadiran, Inc., an Israeli military electronics corporation, has already had discussions with American SDI officials about potential contracts for future projects.

Israel's Capability

America would also be the recipient of numerous benefits from Israeli involvement in SDI, especially in the area of research and development. Israel is a stable ally that has already worked closely with the American military/industrial complex.

Israel's high state of technological and scientific capability can be utilized in SDI research. The IDF has demonstrated an unforeseen mastery over command, control and communication (C3) by downing over 80 Syrian jet fighters with no losses during the Lebanon conflict. Their expertise in battle-tested technologies would immensely enhance development of weapon systems. In addition, because of the precarious nature of the Middle East, the Israelis cannot afford to have long research and development time spans before weaponry is operational. Israeli involvement can serve to catalyze the entire SDI program by accelerating the pace of the effort.

Furthermore, U.S. technological secrets are often safer with Israel than with our European allies. The Israeli intelligence services are so competent that former chief of Air Force Intelligence Gen. George F. Keegan (USAF, Ret.) has remarked that Israel has been worth five CIAs to the U.S. because of its intelligence-gathering capability and transfer of data on the performance of Soviet weaponry. This has included the direct transfer of captured Soviet weapons.

SDI constitutes a revolution not only in defensive strategy, but moves into a new world of technology that may ameliorate many of the world's problems. In a nuclear world, it is not good enough to be morally right, America and Israel must also be strong. The Strategic Defense Initiative can help ensure that Jews will never have to endure another Holocaust and could lead to a world where close democratic allies can allocate their efforts to socio-economic endeavors instead of preparations for war and defense. For America and Israel, SDI is another giant leap for mankind.

DON'T GET PERS-ENGULFED AGAIN

Low oil prices are a boon today and a threat for tomorrow. Today, they induce increased economic activity and lower inflation. Tomorrow they will lead to increasing dependence on the vulnerable supplies from the Persian Gulf. The U.S. has five to ten years to prevent a replay of the oil shocks of the 1970s.

The strategies are clear: adopt policies that will decrease U.S. imports and that will increase exploration and development of oil resources in those parts of the world both outside the Persian Gulf and where oil is less expensive and more plentiful than within the continental United States.

The difficulty is that these strategies have to work in an environment of low oil prices.

A ten dollar oil tariff would limit U.S. consumption and maintain U.S. production, thereby maintaining imports at approximately today's level of 4.5 million barrels per day. If an equivalent tax were placed on domestic production, U.S. production would decrease and imports would rise to approximately 7.5 million barrels per day. If there were no tariff and domestic oil sold at the current world price, imports in five to ten years are likely to increase to 12 million barrels per day.

In approximately the same time frame, world demand will increase to such a level as to consume OPEC's excess capacity to produce. Therefore, the U.S. may well find itself in the same position as in the 1970s, no excess capacity in the world, peak U.S. imports and OPEC in the catbird's seat — again.

In addition to the tariff, the U.S. could use its market power to aid countries with undeveloped resources — such as Mexico, Argentina, West Africa and Norway — to obtain the funds needed for drilling even in a weak oil market. Once assured of a portion of the U.S. market, developmental drilling can be financed. In this way, the U.S. could maintain the proliferation of international suppliers — outside of OPEC. Production in non-OPEC countries has led to the current oil glut.

At what level of imports is there an unwanted economic dependence on a dangerous part of the world? Previous oil shocks occurred at the 8-million barrel/day import level. A forward looking energy policy could prevent a recurrence of Pers-Engulfment.

Inside This Issue

- The Oil Glut is not Forever
- Reforming Through Reorganization
- From Central Asia to Afghanistan
- Moral Equivalence

HIGH FRONTIER NEWSLETTER

Inside: Can We Achieve
Meaningful & Lasting
Arms Control ?

1010 Vermont Avenue, N.W. • Suite 1000 • Washington, D.C. 20005 • (202) 737-4979

APRIL/MAY 1986

Vol. IV, No. 4

Israel Needs SDI!

Formal bilateral agreements have been signed between the U.S., Germany and Britain which will begin the process of SDI technology exchange. Japan is likely to follow suit, and other Allies in regions of political instability see SDI as the key to their defense and their future.

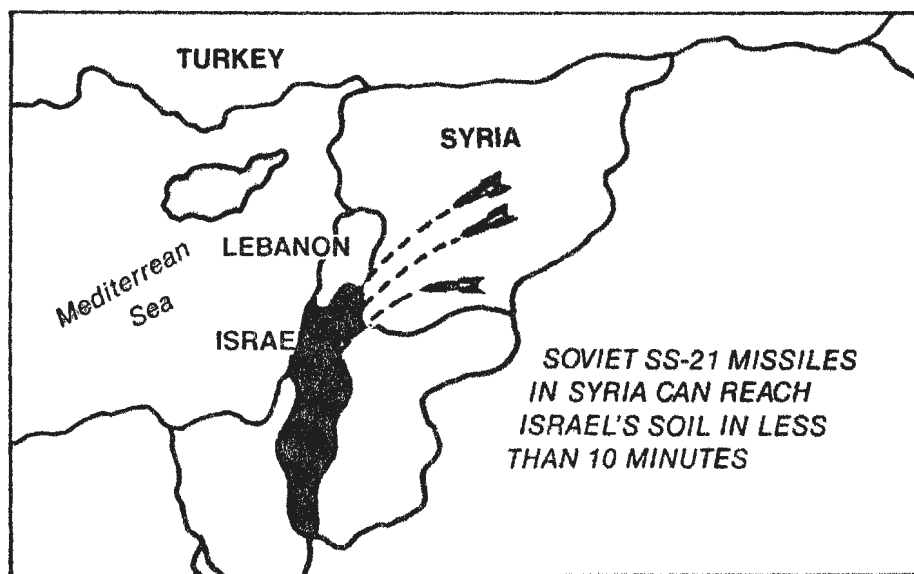
With SDI the U.S. will be in a better position to come to the aid of its Allies. In turn, these Allies can use SDI to help themselves. One such example is Israel.

The Israeli government has expressed a keen interest in advanced missile defenses. The coalition cabinet of Prime Minister Shimon Peres voted unanimously to participate in the U.S. SDI program. Their concern? They lack the means to protect themselves adequately against Syrian SS-21 short range ballistic missiles.

The military balance in the Middle East has been radically altered by the introduction of highly accurate Soviet-made missiles. This increased accuracy permits the use of conventional explosives to destroy targets (with minimal collateral damage to surrounding structures) where formerly only nuclear devices would have to be used to assure destruction of a specific target.

Israel's air force, renowned for its prowess in the skies, could have its most formidable weapon—its fighter aircraft—destroyed on the tarmac. Mobilization centers, so vital due to Israel's heavy reliance upon reservists in times of crises, are equally prone to a decapitating surgical strike. The net result is that Israel must preemptively strike enemy missile pens if it appears an attack is imminent.

As Israel leads the world in the percentage of people employed in research and development (R&D), its contribution to SDI could be sub-



The military balance in the Middle East has been radically altered by the introduction of highly accurate Soviet-made missiles.

stantial. Gen. Abrahamson, who is responsible for the U.S. SDI effort, believes Israel is "a leader in industrial technology."

Abrahamson said that "rail guns" (which use a charged particle field to give projectiles a very high rate of acceleration) with tank-mounted capabilities and countermeasures, are a type of technology which looks the most promising. He believes it may be only a few years before this technology is sufficiently advanced to begin deployment of anti-missile point defenses. Developments in lasers and electronics would complement advances in "rail gun" technology.

Due to their own economic problems, however, the Israelis lack the financial reserves to underwrite research and development on their

own. And because of Gramm-Rudman budget cuts they cannot expect the kind of financial assistance previously granted by the U.S. Awarding contracts to Israel's defense industries would have a multiplier effect upon their own economy and also reward the U.S. with technological advances applicable to North American SDI requirements.

The Israelis have already come up with a dozen good ideas for SDI research, Abrahamson said, including electronics, countermeasures, lasers and holography.

High Frontier believes that as the traditional friends of Israel realize the importance of SDI, they will rally to our cause to ensure that the Defense budget outlays requested by the President are granted by Congress.

HIGH FRONTIER: A NON-NUCLEAR ANSWER TO THE NUCLEAR THREAT

• A High Technology Answer to the Economic Challenge • A New Strategy of Hope for Americans and All Free Peoples •

MIDSTREAM

A Monthly Jewish Review

MAY, 1986

VOLUME XXXII, No. 5

SDI's Importance for Israel

DANIEL O. GRAHAM

On April 8, 1985, Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres, speaking to the Israeli army magazine *Bamahane* said:

Star Wars is not just another United States strategic move. It is a new dimension in the technological, scientific and strategic spheres . . . a departure from earth and a journey to a world with completely new conditions.

Imagine if Columbus had invited an Israeli to join his ship. I for one, would have accepted his invitation, no matter what he was going to discover.

But of course President Reagan's Strategic Defense Initiative has implications for the whole world. During the continuing debate it has generated opponents and advocates have focused their arguments either on the program's technical feasibility or on its implications for the U.S./Soviet strategic balance. Very little has been heard of the program's implications for Third World nations, including those in the Middle East.

This is unfortunate. For in the day-to-day conduct of international relations, the real importance of the nuclear balance — and the effect on that balance of U.S. ballistic missile defenses — is its effect on the ability of the superpowers to extend either domination or security in the Third World.

To understand this more fully, we must first understand why the Soviet Union attaches such great importance to the achievement and maintenance of strategic superiority. The Soviets tend not to view superiority at the strategic level as something to be used directly in a nuclear first strike against the U.S. Rather, they believe that Soviet nuclear superiority has the indirect effect of making the United States more circumspect with regard to such Soviet policies as support for "National Liberation Movements" in the Third World.

Behind this Soviet view lies the rationale that an American attempt to stand in the way of the Soviets at low levels of conflict carries with it a risk that the conflict will escalate. Since the Soviets are strategically superior, they believe that they will be better able to cope with that escalation than will the Americans. As a result, the Soviets conclude, in order to avoid such an escalation, the Americans will avoid challenging Soviet policy in the first place.

The possibility of another Arab-Israeli war similar to the 1973 Yom Kippur War illustrates how such a scenario might unfold. In the midst of that war the Soviets made several threatening gestures, including the airlifting of the headquarters of two airborne divisions to Damascus and the dispatch of several ships — possibly carrying radioactive cargoes — to Egypt. The United States responded to those Soviet moves by raising its level of military alert. This American move, backed by U.S. strategic strength, convinced the Soviets to back down.

DANIEL O. GRAHAM is founder and director of High Frontiers, a non-profit educational organization. He previously served as Director of the Defense Intelligence Agency and as Deputy Director of the CIA.

But this incident took place in 1973, when the United States still enjoyed rough parity with the Soviets in strategic systems. Since then, the Soviets have added thousands of new, highly accurate warheads to their inventory and have dramatically increased the capacity of their civil and air defenses. As a result, the Soviets may now possess the capacity to launch a first strike against U.S. land-based strategic forces and to survive the kind of uncoordinated response that might — or might not — follow.

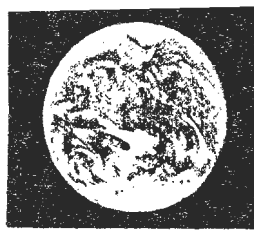
Under these new conditions it is not at all clear that a U.S. military alert of the sort raised in 1973 would bring about Soviet compliance with American wishes. Instead, it might only bring about a similar Soviet alert. At that point an American President would have to decide whether the United States should fight a war it did not choose, and might well lose, or allow the destruction of an ally whose demise would be a serious blow to, but not necessarily the end of, the United States itself. Given this choice, the United States might well opt for the latter. Moreover, this possibility increases with every day that Soviet offensive power and defensive capabilities continue to grow and the United States remains offensively inferior and naked to nuclear attack.

Should ballistic missile defenses of the sort envisaged by SDI be deployed to defend America, this situation would change. The United States would not have to fear intimidation at the hands of the Soviet Union's superior offensive forces, and its active and passive defenses. As a result, the United States would be far more able — and therefore far more willing — to act in defense of its allies and far more willing to stand in the way of Soviet policy when it threatens their security. To put it simply, a defended America is more likely to aid its allies than a vulnerable America.

Another reason why SDI is of great value to U.S. allies lies in the specific systems that the effort will produce. Not only Israel, but also our European and Pacific allies, live under the threat of Soviet or Soviet-supplied tactical ballistic missiles such as the SS-21, -22, and -23. These offensive weapons are especially threatening to Israel, which lies only a short distance from such potential missile bases as Damascus.

One of the first technologies likely to emerge from SDI research is that needed for anti-tactical ballistic missiles. These weapons would enable Israel actually to defend itself against this threat rather than simply to attempt to deter it by threat of retaliation. This is especially important in the Middle East, populated as it is with extremist states whose leaders may not be deterred by threat of retaliation.

SDI offers new horizons to the United States and its allies. Its scientific promise alone would demand our commitment. But its importance to our security and to the security of the free world demands that we pursue it with full rigor — no matter what we may discover. ■



DEFENSE NEWS

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Charles D. Brooks

Israeli SDI Participation Benefits U.S. and Israel

In March 1983, President Reagan formally announced a pioneering defensive strategy predicated on the notion that it is better to save lives than avenge them. The president's plan, called the Strategic Defensive Initiative (SDI), was designed to replace the doctrine of Mutually Assured Destruction (MAD), a dangerously obsolete and immoral doctrine of holding civilian population centers hostage to nuclear attack.

In Israel, a nation faced with the ultimate challenge of ensuring self-survival, the president's vision and the invitation to U.S. allies to participate were met with great interest. After preliminary discussions, Israeli Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin formally responded to the American invitation agreeing "in principle" to participate in the initial research and development

phases of the SDI program.

The strategic, economic and political implications of Israeli involvement in SDI are significant. The most immediate benefit to Israel will be the development of missile interception technologies. The invitation sent to the allies specifically states that the program will "examine technologies with potential against shorter-range ballistic missiles," and antitactical missile technologies are likely to be among the first to be developed.

The use of surface-to-surface missiles against major cities in the Iran-Iraq war has alerted the Israeli defense establishment to the urgent need for such technologies. Syria, Israel's foremost adversary, has already deployed highly accurate and lethal SS-21 missiles capable of reaching Israeli population centers, air bases, storage depots and other vital facilities.

Gen. Dan Graham, USA (Ret.), founder and director of High Frontier, the organization from which many of the concepts for SDI arose, has noted these implications for Israeli defense planning. Obtaining defenses against SS-21s, he said, "would enable Israel actually to defend itself . . . rather than simply deter attack by threat of retaliation."

While the threat of retaliation has served Israel well in the

past, this option may no longer be effective in light of the changing realities of modern warfare and the increasingly fanatical character of Israel's enemies. Such threats are unlikely to deter enemies whose scant regard for human life is reflected in suicide bombings in Lebanon and the use of poison gas in the Gulf war. To guard against the growing ballistic missile threat, Israel must move beyond deterrence to develop a defense against missile attacks if she is to survive.

In a paper presented in testimony before the Senate Armed Services Committee, W. Seth Carus, a military analyst for the American-Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC), called attention to Israel's growing vulnerability to missile attack. Carus pointed out that by 1990 Arab armies will possess large numbers of surface-to-surface missiles armed with sophisticated warheads. As the Arab inventory of SS-21 missiles grows, he noted, a missile attack on vital Israeli installations would leave the country dangerously vulnerable. In addition, he wrote, existing technologies alone would be insufficient to defend against such attacks, even if Israel knew of them in advance.

Dr. Robert O'Neil, director of the London-based International Institute for Strategic Stud-

ies, has also pointed out the inherent benefits of Israeli participation in SDI. O'Neil believes that Israel's involvement will allow Israel to remain abreast of the technologies central to a tactical missile defense.

Avram Schweitzer, a journalist with Israel's respected *Ha'Aretz* newspaper, perhaps best describes the benefits of SDI interception technologies:

"To be in on this kind of technology . . . could mean the purchase of peace for Israel, or more realistically, the imposition, by non-aggressive means, of a permanent state of non-belligerence along its borders."

Besides the utilization of missile interception technologies, Israel will also benefit in other ways from participation in SDI. Israel's industrial future will be greatly enhanced by being at the forefront of the SDI technological revolution while spinoffs could include new computer systems, energy sources, communication devices, medicines and consumer products. Research funds from SDI will help revitalize the universities and the Israeli scientific community.

SDI cooperation will be of critical importance to the Israel defense industrial base that will otherwise be subject to foreign aid cutbacks generated by the Gramm-Rudman-Hollings deficit reduction bill. In particular, SDI will provide jobs and revenues to defense-related industries who have already been forced to cut back on research and development activities because of lack of funds.

America will also benefit from

Israeli involvement in SDI. Israel's high state of technological and scientific capability can be utilized in SDI research. The Israeli Defense Forces demonstrated an unforeseen mastery over command and communications by downing more than 80 Syrian jet fighters with no losses during the recent Lebanon conflict. Their expertise in battle-tested technologies would immensely enhance development of weapon systems. In addition, the Israelis are known for their rapid turn-around time from research and development to making weaponry operational. Israeli involvement can serve to catalyze the entire SDI program by accelerating the pace of the effort.

Israel's acceptance of Reagan's invitation to participate in SDI should yield invaluable dividends, particularly in the critical area of development of ballistic missile interception technologies. Unable to match the quantitative advantage in weaponry accumulated by her numerous adversaries, Israel's involvement in SDI should enable her to maintain a qualitative edge necessary for survival.

Israel can only be part of this strategic, technological, economic and political revolution if SDI is funded and promoted by Congress. With the help of Israel's friends in America, SDI may prove to be the most important project ever undertaken by the two allies.

Charles Brooks is the outreach director for the National Jewish Coalition in Washington, D.C., and also serves as a liaison for High Frontier to the Jewish community. He was educated at DePauw University in Indiana, The Hague Academy of International Law and holds a master's in international relations from the University of Chicago.

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The Washington Times

National

More national news
on pages 2A-5A

Israeli participation in SDI expected to help both sides

By Warren Strobel
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

Israeli participation in the Reagan administration's Strategic Defense Initiative will help both Israel and the program, but it isn't clear how the Middle East nation will fare in winning SDI contracts.

Participation in the multibillion-dollar research program would fulfill several Israeli goals. Its prime goal appears to be construction of a defense against Soviet SS-21 missiles stationed in Syria. Such a defense is one of the first technologies expected from the SDI program.

Participation also would keep Israel at the vanguard of warfighting technology and would help cement its alliance with the United States.

Of advantage to the United States is Israel's unparalleled research and development track record.

Calling SDI "a project of great interest to the future of the world and

the Free World," Israeli Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin, along with Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger, on May 6 signed an agreement outlining Israel's participation in the program.

Technologically, "we both can add to each other," said Emanuel A. Winston, a Chicago-based expert on Middle East affairs.

"Israel has the advantage of being involved in a very expensive type of research which they [Israel] might not otherwise be able to afford," Mr. Winston said. "They give as good as they get."

Small in number, but highly accurate, the Soviet SS-21 missiles in Syria could destroy Israeli military control centers and airfields almost without warning. No defense against them exists. Similar missiles threaten U.S. allies in Europe.

"It [SDI] simply eliminates what Israel needs most, which is quick response time," said Joyce Starr, di-

rector of Near East studies at Georgetown University's Center for Strategic and International Studies. She called the missiles "not only a high priority threat for Israel, but the highest priority threat."

Israeli officials believe that more advanced SS-23 missiles soon will be on their way to Syria, she said.

Miss Starr, who last month led a delegation of 24 U.S. contractors to

Israel, a tiny nation surrounded by often-hostile Arab states, faces weapons arrayed against it that have been made in countries across the globe, Mr. Winston said.

"The mix of weapons systems is so extraordinary, Israel has to have ... almost a surrealistic approach to defense," he said.

Heavily dependent on technological experts, Israel excels in the de-

NEWS ANALYSIS

Israel in talks credited with paving the way for the SDI agreement, said Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres "was not politely supportive, he was openly and enthusiastically supportive" of the SDI concept.

"Whether they would have moved as quickly without the direct threat of the SS-21s and without Peres — I suspect that those were the two prime elements," she said.

velopment of lasers, computer software and propulsion systems. It out-performs the United States in such development technologies as remotely piloted vehicles.

Proponents of Israeli participation in SDI said it could serve to catalyze the program, to further U.S. aims and to bolster Israel's sagging economy.

"From the U.S. standpoint, it's

good to have anybody support SDI," said skeptic Peter Stares, a Brookings Institution analyst. "From Israel's point of view, I'm not sure how much they can hope to gain from it."

"The Israelis see it more as a way of getting a handle on the technology in the U.S.," he said.

Observers say the Israeli decision is unlikely in itself to coax support from U.S. allies in Europe, where the SDI program remains controversial.

Great Britain and West Germany also have agreed to participate in SDI. Blessed with greater experience in handling the Pentagon and U.S. industry, they both may have an edge when it comes to bidding for lucrative research contracts and subcontracts.

The two countries "are more familiar with the players," Miss Starr said. "It's going to take a great deal of work and follow-up by the Israelis, if they're really serious."

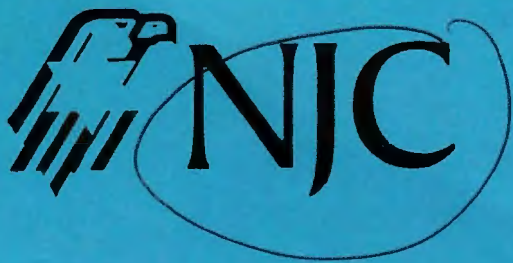
"They [Israel] basically need to get their act together and get over here and start dealing with contractors," said Charles Brooks, spokesman for the conservative National Jewish Coalition.

"It'll be tough, of course," said an Israeli Embassy spokesman. "But that's the name of the game."

There are other drawbacks.

"The most serious strategic implication for Israel of participation in SDI is its possible effect on Soviet global military planning in the future," Dore Gold, a researcher at Tel Aviv University's Jaffe Center for Strategic Studies, wrote in a December 1985 paper. "Israel could become a significant Soviet nuclear target."

Said Miss Starr: "These long, long term major question marks are important, but don't have enough weight to weigh in against taking advantage of the short range opportunities."



NATIONAL JEWISH COALITION:

PRESS COVERAGE

SUPPORTING PRESIDENT REAGAN'S

REQUEST FOR AID TO THE "CONTRAS"

AMERICAN-JEWISH LIFE

National Brotherhood Monthly

VOLUME 28, NUMBER 4

FRIDAY, APRIL 25, 1986

TRENTON, N.J.



Exiled Nicaraguan Jewish Leaders Rap Sandinistas

The National Jewish Coalition today hosted a press conference at which six members of the exiled Nicaraguan Jewish community spoke of their experiences under the anti-Semitic policies of the Sandinista regime.

In a prepared statement, Mr. Fred Luft, a Rumanian-born businessman and former secretary of the Jewish community in Nicaragua, told reporters that all but a few members of the community had fled the country "because of fears for our personal safety. This fear was stimulated by the fire-bombing of our synagogue by the Sandinistas and graffiti on the walls of our businesses warning us that after their take-over we will suffer at their hands the 'Sandinista justice.'"

SANDINISTA GUNMEN

Mrs. Sarita Kellerman, a Nicaraguan-born member of the community spoke of harrassment she had experienced at the hands of Sandinista gunmen. "You in America have no idea how it feels when people with machine guns come to your home and search it without a warrant."

Washington Confidential

Mrs. Kellerman also told of graffiti which said "Jews go home" and "What Hitler started we will finish." Mrs. Kellerman, responding to assertions that there had been no anti-Semitism in Nicaragua asked: "If that is not being against the Jews, what is?" Mrs. Kellerman also criticized Jews, such as Rabbi Balfour Brickner, who have denied the reality of Jewish persecution in Nicaragua. She told reporters that if the Rabbi had been concerned about the Jews in Nicaragua, he would have gone to the leaders of the Jewish community for testimony and rather than to Sandinista leader Tomas Borge.

ARREST AND DETENTION

Mrs. Elena Pataky Gorn, daughter-in-law of Abraham Gorn, the former president of the Jewish community, told of Mr. Gorn's arrest and detention without charge shortly after the

Sandinista revolution.

She told of how, at age 70, he was forced to sweep the streets. "There were no charges against him," she said. "The only reason this happened was because he was a Jew."

Mr. Oscar Kellerman, a former Nicaraguan businessman who escaped from the Nazis, set the record straight about the Sandinista bombing of the Synagogue in Managua. He contradicted Rabbi Brickner's claim that the firebomb was thrown on the lawn.

Kellerman stated that the Sandinistas firebombed the door to the Synagogue which was the only exit. He said that flames engulfed the door and started to catch on the walls. When the members attempted to escape, Sandinista gunmen threatened to shoot them if they didn't go back into the building. Mr. Kellerman also provided a terrifying account on how the Sandinistas tried to set fire to his car while he was inside it.

RABBI BRICKNER

Mr. Kellerman expressed disbelief that Rabbi Brickner could choose sides with the Sandinistas and noted that when Jews are oppressed, they usually look out for each other. Kellerman also noted that Today in Nicaragua, Protestants and Catholics are being persecuted. "They only started with the Jews."



JEWISH TELEGRAPH AGENCY

DIFFERING VIEWS OF SANDINISTAS' ATTITUDE TOWARD JEWS AND ISRAEL
By David Friedman and Judith Kohn

WASHINGTON, April 14 (JTA) -- Seven Jews who fled Nicaragua when the Sandinistas came to power maintained Monday that the Sandinista regime is not only anti-Israel, but anti-Semitic.

But a leading Jewish critic of President Reagan's policy of opposition to the Sandinista government, Rabbi Balfour Brickner of the Stephen Wise Free Synagogue in New York City, continued to deny both charges.

"Unfortunately, many individuals who oppose the President's policy in Central America, have repeatedly attempted to distort the fact of Sandinista state-induced anti-Semitism," Fred Luft, former secretary of the Nicaraguan Jewish community, said at a Capitol Hill press conference.

He singled out Brickner as did others at the press conference sponsored by the National Jewish Coalition, which has been gathering Jewish support for Reagan's proposal to provide \$100 million to the anti-Sandinista Contras.

Those who deny Sandinista anti-Semitism "have chosen to take the word of Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega, who understandably denies allegation of anti-Semitism rather than the word of Jews who actually lived in Nicaragua and were forced to flee," Chris Gersten, the Coalition's executive director, said.

About the same time as the press conference was being held, Brickner was taking part in a rally at the Capitol by "Quest for Peace," a coalition of religious groups opposed to aid for the Contras.

The Jews of Nicaragua "didn't leave because they were persecuted as Jews. They fled Nicaragua because they were supporters of (ousted

President Anastasio Somoza," Brickner told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency following the rally. He and several Christian leaders had led some 100 people in a symbolic presentation of medical supplies that "New Quest" was preparing to send to Nicaragua in order to match any aid approved by Congress for the Contras.

The Nicaraguan Jews denied that they had been supporters of the Somoza regime. "I have never had anything to do with any government," Sarita Kellerman, a native-born Nicaraguan, said. "I was dedicated to my business and to my children."

Circulation:

**100 Newspapers,
2300 individuals,
USA, France, South Africa
Peru, Israel**

Luft said only two or three members of the Jewish "congregation" are still in Nicaragua. "The rest of our small community (about 50 families) left the country because of fears for our personal safety," he said.

"This fear was stimulated by the fire bombing of our synagogue by the Sandinistas while we were worshipping inside, by repeated telephone threats and graffiti on the walls of our businesses, warning us that after their take over we will suffer at their hands the 'Sandinista Justice'," Luft said. The graffiti said 'Zionism, Judaism and Somoism are all the same thing'."

Asked about the firebombing, Brickner snapped, "I don't want to argue that. It's a dumb, stupid argument because nobody really knows what happened. I suggest to you that what happened is different than what they report." At the same time, however, Brickner stressed that neither Reagan nor any of the supporters of aid for the Contras, have evidence "of any ongoing anti-Semitism expressed by the present government of Nicaragua to Jews or against Jews from 1979 to 1986."

At the Coalition's press conference, Oscar Kellerman said he fled after the 1979 Sandinista takeover when he was warned as a U.S. citizen by the U.S. Embassy that it would not be able to protect him. He said he was told he was in especial danger because of his "faith."

Sarita Kellerman said she returned later but was ostracized and was constantly harassed and threatened. She said there was graffiti on her home, business and the synagogue saying, "what Hitler started we will finish."

Oscar Kellerman said he was in the synagogue when it was firebombed, setting the door aflame. When he and others tried to get outside they were met by seven or eight masked men who warned them to go back inside or be shot. They eventually were able to get the fire out, Kellerman said. The Jews also stressed the closeness of the Sandinistas with the Palestine Liberation Organization, a theme that has been stressed repeatedly in the Administration's campaign for Contra aid.

Brickner, however, was insistent that the Sandinistas are neither anti-Semitic nor hostile to Israel, in spite of their ties with the PLO, stressing instead Nicaragua's "concern" over alleged Israeli aid to the Contras. Israel has denied supplying the Contras with aid. To bolster his argument, Brickner drew out a letter he received this month from Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Miguel D'Escoto.

"We are neither anti-Semitic nor anti-Israel," the Sandinista leader declared in the letter. "We firmly believe that Israel has a right to exist just as we believe that Palestinians deserve a homeland."

Nicaraguan Jews brand Sandinistas anti-Semitic, anti-Israel

WASHINGTON (JTA)—Seven Jews, who fled Nicaragua when the Sandinistas came to power, maintained Monday that the Sandinista regime is not only anti-Israel but anti-Semitic.

But a leading Jewish critic of President Reagan's policy of opposition to the Sandinista government, Rabbi Balfour Brickner, of the Stephen Wise Free Synagogue in New York City, continued to deny both charges.

"Unfortunately, many individuals who oppose the president's policy in Central America have repeatedly attempted to distort the fact of Sandinista state-induced anti-Semitism," Fred Luft, former secretary of the Nicaraguan Jew-

ish community, said at a Capitol Hill press conference.

He singled out Brickner, as did others at the press conference sponsored by the National Jewish Coalition. It has been seeking Jewish support for Reagan's proposal to provide \$100 million to the anti-Sandinista contras.

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The Jews of Nicaragua "didn't leave because they were persecuted as Jews. They fled Nicaragua because they were supporters of (ousted President Anastasio) Somoza," Brickner said following the rally. He and several Christian leaders had led some 100 people in a symbolic presentation of medical supplies that "New Quest" was preparing to send to Nicaragua to match any aid approved by Congress for the contras.

The Nicaraguan Jews denied that they had been supporters of the Somoza regime.

"I have never had anything to do

with any government," Mrs. Sarita Kellerman, a native Nicaraguan, said. "I was dedicated to my business and to my children."

"Oh, baloney, that's just a damn lie," Brickner, who visited Nicaragua after almost all of the small remaining Jewish community had left, said of the assertion by Nicaraguan Jews that they had not been involved in politics under the Somoza regime.

Luft said only two or three members of the Jewish "congregation are still in Nicaragua. The rest of our small community (about 50 families) left the country because of fears for our personal safety," he said.

"This fear was stimulated by the fire-bombing of our synagogue by the Sandinistas while we were worshipping inside, by repeated telephone threats and graffiti on the walls of our businesses, warning us that after their takeover we will suffer at their hands the 'Sandinista Justice,'" Luft said. "The graffiti said 'Zionism, Judaism and Somozaism are all the same thing.'"

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"We are neither anti-Semitic nor anti-Israel," the Sandinista leader declared in the letter. "We firmly believe that Israel has a right to exist just as we believe that Palestinians deserve a homeland."

Kellerman maintained it was because of the close PLO-Sandinista ties that no businesses owned by Arabs in Nicaragua had been confiscated.

Kurt Preiss, who had two tannery factories confiscated despite court rulings that the confiscation was illegal, said while businesses of Somoza allies were seized, this was not why his and other Jewish businesses were taken.

The Nicaraguan Jews did not argue directly in support of contra aid. "We want a democratic government" in Nicaragua, Kellerman said. "We want freedom of speech; we want freedom of religion; we want freedom of movement."

Mrs. Kellerman expressed surprise that Nicaraguan Jews had not received more support from American Jews. "We are one people, and therefore we have one destiny. We grow up here or in Nicaragua or in Africa," she said.

"What happens to a Jew in any place of the world is bound to happen to every Jew any place in the world if you let it happen," she stressed.

Circulation: 108,000

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Jews are split over aid to the contras

WASHINGTON (JTA) — The debate among Jews over aid to the contras in Nicaragua escalated here this week as seven Jews who fled Nicaragua when the Sandinistas came to power said in a news conference Monday that the Sandinista regime is anti-Israel and anti-Semitic.

"Unfortunately, many individuals who oppose the president's policy in Central America have repeatedly attempted to distort the fact of Sandinista state-induced anti-Semitism," Fred Luft, former secretary of the Nicaraguan Jewish community, said at a Capitol Hill news conference sponsored by the National Jewish Coalition.

The coalition, a largely Republican organization, has been gathering Jewish support for Reagan's proposal to provide \$100 million to the anti-Sandinista rebel forces, known as the

contras.

Luft singled out Rabbi Balfour Brickner as one of those who have attempted to deny that government-sponsored anti-Semitism exists in Nicaragua. Brickner, who is religious leader of the Stephen Wise Free Synagogue in New York, is an outspoken critic of President Reagan's policy in Nicaragua.

At almost the same time as the National Jewish Coalition news conference was taking place, Brickner was participating in a rally at the Capitol by "Quest for Peace," a coalition of religious groups opposed to aid for the contras.

He later said in an interview that the Jews of Nicaragua "didn't leave because they were persecuted as Jews. They fled Nicaragua because they were supporters of [ousted President Anastasio] Somoza."

Circulation:

65,000

World-National

Send support letter to U.S. Congress

Jewish coalition lobbies for help for Contras

By
DAVID FRIEDMAN

WASHINGTON(JTA)—Nineteen prominent American Jews have signed a letter to members of Congress urging support of President Reagan's request of \$100 million in aid to the Nicaraguan rebels, known as Contras.

The letter which was sent to legislators last week shortly before the House voted 222-210 to reject Reagan's request, was organized by the National

Jewish Coalition. The letter cited "the growing threat to U.S. strategic interests in Central America" from the Sandinista government in Nicaragua.

"Our concern is heightened by the increasing Soviet-supplied arsenal being accumulated by the Sandinista government in Nicaragua and the Sandinistas' willingness to export this weaponry to anti-democratic forces throughout Latin America," the letter said.

A spokesman for the National Jewish Coalition said the letter was sent to 200 senators and congressmen who were either undecided or opposed to the aid.

"We watched with dismay as Nicaragua's Jewish community suffered under Sandinista rule" until most had fled the country by 1981, the letter said.

"Prominent among the Sandinistas' allies are the PLO's Yasser Arafat and Libya's Qaddafi," the letter said.

The letter charged that

"the anti-semitism in Nicaragua is a reflection of the repression inherent in the Marxist-Leninist society the Sandanista's seek to establish. Furthermore, the Sandinistas' ties to Libya and the PLO exemplify the support that the Managua regime gives to the world's terrorist groups."

The signatories stressed that "we support a negotiated settlement to this conflict. But we recognize that, at this time, unless the United States aids the democratic forces, the San-

dinistas will continue to resist the establishment in Nicaragua of a pluralistic, democratic society."

Among those signing the letter were: Max Fisher, of Detroit, Morris Abram, chairman of the National Conference on Soviet Jewry; Julius Berman and Jack Stein, both former chairmen of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations; Richard Fox, chairman of the National Jewish Coalition; Rabbi Joshua Haberman of the Washington Hebrew Congregation and Rabbi Stanley Rabinowitz of Adas Israel Congregation, both of Washington.

Also: Hart Hasten, president of Herut Zionists of America; George Klein and Gordon Zacks, both co-chairmen of the National Jewish Coalition; Ivan Novick, chairman of the board of the Zionist Organization of America, and Rabbi Morris Sherer, Agudath Israel of America.

NEW YORK (JTA) —

The Anti-Defamation

League of B'nai B'rith supports President Reagan's charge of virulent anti-semitism practices by the Nicaraguan government.

The ADL published a "white paper" describing the Sandinista persecution of Nicaraguan Jews, including the firebombing of the Managua synagogue, death threats and harassment and expropriation of property which led to the exodus of virtually the entire Jewish community of Nicaragua.

Abraham Foxman, ADL's associate national director and head of its international affairs division, said the white paper was being made public "to set the record straight, to answer published denials about the Sandinistas' treatment of the Jews."

Rabbi Balfour Brickner of the Stephen Wise Free Synagogue here was quoted in The New York Times as saying that he visited Nicaragua twice since the Sandinistas took power and that he found no signs of anti-semitism and

persecution against the Jews. He claimed that the few Jews in the country before the 1979 revolution that overthrew Anastasio Somoza Dabayle were linked to the deposed president and left the country on their own free will.

President Reagan, in a recent speech on television, charged that Managua's only synagogue had been "desecrated and firebombed" and that the entire Jewish community had been "forced to flee Nicaragua."

The ADL's white paper, in supporting the President's charges, said that the Sandinista persecution of Jews took place against a background of unremitting hostility to Israel and longstanding alliances with the Palestinian Liberation Organization and other anti-Israeli terrorist groups.

The ADL said it based its information on testimony from Nicaraguan exiles, on disclosures from an ex-Sandinista informant and on the investigations carried out by the agency during the last five years.

Circulation:

47,000

Palm Beach

JEWISH WORLD

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National News Briefs

Circulation
35,000

Prominent Jewish Republicans Urge Contra Aid

WASHINGTON — Nineteen prominent American Jews, all of whom have close ties to the Republican Party, have signed a letter to members of Congress urging support of President Reagan's request of \$100 million in aid to the Nicaraguan Contras.

The letter, which was sent to legislators shortly before the House on Thursday voted 222-210 to reject Reagan's request, was organized by the National Jewish Coalition.

"Our concern is heightened by the increasing Soviet-supplied arsenal being accumulated by the Sandinista government of Nicaragua and the Sandinistas' willingness to export this weaponry to anti-democratic forces throughout Latin America," the letter said.

A spokesman for the National Jewish Coalition said the letter was sent to about 200 Senators and Congressmen who were either undecided or opposed to the aid.

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No. 41

House of Representatives

PRESIDENT'S REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE FOR NICARAGUAN OPPOSITION

SPEECH OF

HON. VIN WEBER

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 20, 1986

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 540) relating to Central America pursuant to the International Security and Development Cooperation Act of 1985.

Mr. WEBER. Mr. Chairman, I would like to share with my colleagues the following statements by two prominent Jewish leaders in the United States who wish to make us aware of the Sandinista's repressive treatment of the Jewish community in Nicaragua.

Chris Gersten, executive director of the National Jewish Coalition, and Fred Luft, secretary of the Jewish Nicaraguan Community in Exile, are aware of the evidence that has been presented to prove that the Jewish community in Nicaragua has not been singled out for abuse and mistreatment because of their religious beliefs.

These two leaders, actively involved with this region, have quite a different opinion. I urge my colleagues to give their comments serious attention.

STATEMENT ON NICARAGUAN ANTI-SEMITISM

Last night, the CBS evening news allowed New York Rabbi, Balfour Brickner, to state without challenge, that there was no anti-semitism in Nicaragua, either official or unofficial. According to Brickner, there is no evidence to support the President's claims that Nicaragua's Jewish community was forced out of the country by a systematic government policy of anti-semitism.

I have long been aware, though, that the facts, tell a different story, a story that bears out the President's statements. The National Jewish Coalition has worked tirelessly over the past year, but especially in recent weeks, to bring to light the abuses committed by the Sandinistas against Nicaragua's Jews. The coalition has also worked to make America aware of what Sandinista anti-semitism means for others in Nicaragua and beyond. Despite what Balfour Brickner may believe, today, there are no Jews in Nicaragua. The coalition has mounted a major effort to tell America that, while it is too late to save the Nicaraguan Jewish community, it is not yet too late to save Catholics, Protestants, Miskito Indians and others from the totalitarian net that the Sandinistas are tightening around Nicaragua.

I first became aware of the systematic persecution of Jews by the Sandinista government over a year ago, when I saw documentary evidence of the events that took place.

I say to those who doubt that the Sandinistas are the anti-semites, the President said them to be that:

"It is a substantiated fact that in 1978, the synagogue which Brickner said had been abandoned by the Jewish community was firebombed by Sandinista gunmen while members of the community were inside. When those Jews attempted to flee the building, the gunmen tried to force them back into the burning building.

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It is a substantiated fact that Jews were singled out for arrest and imprisonment on false charges, that individual Jews were followed, that their homes were searched, their businesses confiscated, their cars burned.

And, lest anyone doubt that these acts of persecution were specifically aimed at Jews, let me refer you to the Sandinista-sanctioned newspaper, Nuevo Diario, which in July 1982 ran articles which referred to "Synagogues of Satan," which accused the Jews of using "the myth of God's chosen people to massacre the Palestinian people without mercy," and which resurrected the charge that "the world's money, banking and finance are in the hands of descendants of Jews," a charge which has for centuries been used by anti-semites to slander Jews.

There are no Jews today in Nicaragua. There are no Jews because the Sandinista regime drove them out with acts of violence and threats of death. Who are the Jews that Brickner claims remain in the country? They are people with Jewish names whose ancestors may, generations ago, have been Jewish. Today, though, the Jews Brickner refers to are Roman Catholics or atheists who have never had any ties to Jews, Judaism or to Nicaragua's former Jewish community.

Let there be no doubt that the Sandinistas are precisely the anti-Semites described by the President. The special zeal reserved by the Sandinistas for persecution of Nicaragua's Jews is well documented.

The Anti-Defamation League of B'Nai B'rith has spent five years investigating this persecution, documenting reports by victims of these outrages and by some of the former Sandinistas who had helped carry them out. Yesterday, the ADL released a white paper reaffirming that these incidents did take place. The statements made in this paper

have been corroborated by the State Department.

And, most importantly, they have been corroborated by the Nicaraguan Jews who were in the synagogue when it was firebombed, who were falsely arrested and imprisoned, whose cars were burned and property confiscated, and whose lives were threatened by agents of the Sandinista government.

And who was it that assured Rabbi Brickner that no anti-semitism had occurred? Why, it was Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega and his representatives, people who, I suggest, have more than a passing interest in denying their own brutality.

Apart from Brickner and the few of his friends whose first loyalty is to the Ortega regime, the many American Jews whom I have heard from recognize the hostility and violence visited upon their Nicaraguan co-religionists by the Sandinistas.

Thankfully, those Jews are wise enough to recognize Mr. Ortega's denial for the self-serving disinformation that it is. Through the efforts of the National Jewish Coalition, America and American Jews are now aware that the Sandinistas have enthusiastically imitated the anti-semitism of their Soviet mentors.

This week, I and many of my colleagues received a letter from several prominent members of the American Jewish community, including three former chairmen of the umbrella organization of the Jewish community, several rabbis, and many others. These individuals recognize what Rabbi Brickner, and many of my colleagues across the aisle do not: that the Sandinistas are a threat, not only to Jews, but to all those in Nicaragua and beyond who cherish democracy and strive for freedom.

JEWISH TIMES

U.S. Jews Urged Passage Of Contra Aid Bill

Washington (JTA) — Nineteen prominent American Jews signed a letter to members of Congress urging support of President Reagan's request of \$100 million in aid to the Nicaraguan rebels, known as Contras. The letter which was sent to legislators shortly before the House last week voted 222 to 210 to reject Reagan's request, was organized by the National Jewish coalition.

The letter spoke about the growing threat to U.S. strategic interests in Central America from the Sandinista government in Nicaragua. A spokesman for the National Jewish Coalition said the letter was sent to about 200 Senators and Congressmen who were either undecided or opposed to the aid. The letter also stated that prominent in support of the Nicaraguan government are PLO leader Yassir Arafat and Libyan leader Muammar Qaddafi.

In another development in New York, the Anti-Defamation league of B'nai B'rith supported President Reagan's charge of virulent anti-Semitism practices by the Nicaraguan Government.

The ADL published a "white paper" describing the Sandinista persecution of Nicaraguan Jews, including the firebombing of the Managua synagogue, death threats and harassment and expropriation of property which led to the exodus of virtually the entire Jewish community of Nicaragua.

Rabbi Balfour Brickner of the Stephen Wise Free Synagogue here was quoted in newspapers as saying that he visited Nicaragua twice since the Sandinistas took power and that he found no signs of anti-Semitism and persecution against the Jews.

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Washington Wrap Up

Nicaraguan Jews renew Sandinista charges

With the backing of the National Jewish Coalition, former Nicaraguan Jewish community leaders now in the US renewed their charges that the Sandinista regime forced them into "exile" by direct, personal harassment, repeated telephone threats and the fire-bombing of their synagogue.

At a news conference in the Cannon Office Building of the House of Representatives, five men and women detailed their experiences they said proved Sandinista anti-Semitism. Their statements countered views by some American Jews that the authorities in Managua are not anti-Jewish but anti-Israel and anti-Zionist because of relations between Israel and Nicaraguan Jews with the former Somoza government.

The coalition, whose leadership includes prominent Americans active both in the Republican Party and in Jewish communal affairs, said the Nicaraguan Jews would "respond to the allegations put forth by various apologists for the Sandinista government, including New York rabbi, Balfour Brickner."

The statement added that "Brickner and others have denied that Nicaragua's Jews were subjected to Sandinista anti-Semitism and have downplayed the significance of the close Sandinista-PLO relationship as a source of this persecution."

Among the coalition's leaders are Max Fisher of Detroit, Richard Fox of Philadelphia, George Klein of New York and Gordon Zacks of Columbus, Ohio. Executive director is Chris Gersten, formerly of the American-Israel Public Affairs Committee.

Gersten, who opened the news

conference, described the coalition as a "political-educational organization" dealing with "policies of concern to the Jewish people." He said in the controversy over Sandinista treatment of Jews, some,



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"Brickner particularly," have attempted to deny anti-Semitism, "implying the entire Jewish community supported that regime."

Speaking of their experiences were Fred Luft, secretary of the Jewish Nicaraguan Community in Exile who had emigrated from Romania in 1946 to go to Nicaragua and now lives in Florida; Oscar Kellerman, a Czechoslovak native who escaped the Nazis, found refuge in Nicaragua and who came to the US in 1940 and is now an American citizen; his wife, Sarita, a Nicaraguan-born Jew; Kurt Preiss, who went from Germany to Nicaragua and now lives in the Dominican Republic, and Elena Potaky Goren, daughter-in-law of Abraham Goren, the last president of the Nicaraguan Jewish community.

"There is no Jewish community, no Jewish organization, no Jewish life in Nicaragua," Luft said. "Only two or three Jews are left. The rest left in fear of their personal safety." Nicaraguans who claim they are Jewish, he said later, either are descendants of Jews, no longer Jewish, or have family members

associated with the Sandinista government.

Graffiti made Zionism, Nazism and Fascism "all the same," Luft said. Goren at age 70 was made to clean streets. He charged that their letters about Sandinista anti-Semitism sent to the New York Times and the Washington Post were never published and they, therefore, called the news conference.

Sarita Kellerman, an articulate, impassioned speaker, said she had returned to Nicaragua from the US to look after her husband's business. She was told "Jew go home. What Hitler started, we will finish." She added, "If that is not against the Jewish people, what is? We are taught in Hebrew school we are one people with one destiny. Whatever happens to Jews anywhere in the world can happen to Jews everywhere in the world — if you let it happen."

Goren said her father-in-law was detained three weeks by the Sandinistas, then he was told "they made a mistake and he could go home" but his home was confiscated and he was told "you should thank us for letting you go." Goren went to the Costa Rican embassy for asylum. "No charge was made against him," she said. What was the reason for exile? "Because he was a Jew." Goren said a reason why the Sandinistas are "so friendly" with Yasir Arafat, the PLO chief, is that he gave them \$12 million. After the history of Hitlerism, she said, "everybody chose to leave Nicaragua although the government said no Jews had to leave but went for political reasons."

Kellerman said that the "three or four Jews currently doing business in Nicaragua" were "left there on purpose after 200 others were forced out." The Sandinistas "just started with the Jews and they are going after Catholics and Protestants," Kellerman said. Arabs in Nicaragua — estimated by Luft at

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DETAILS ON PAGE 2

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Anti-Semitic Sandinistas burned synagogue, Nicaraguan Jews say

By James Morrison
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

Three Jews who fled Nicaragua after Marxists gained power said yesterday that Sandinista gunmen tried to burn them to death in a Managua synagogue in 1978 while they and about 25 other Jews were attending prayer services.

They said that although the firebombing of the synagogue occurred a year before the overthrow of dictator Anastasio Somoza, it was a signal of the Sandinistas' anti-Semitism that they pursued as a policy following their takeover of the government in 1979.

Oscar Kellerman, Fred Luft and Kurt Preiss, all European Jews who settled in Nicaragua before the revolution, described the synagogue attack at a Washington press conference called to rebut Jewish leaders who recently disputed charges of anti-Semitism leveled at the Managua regime.

The speakers at yesterday's press conference also endorsed President Reagan's effort to provide \$100 million in military and humanitarian aid to the anti-Sandinista resistance. The House of Representatives is scheduled to begin debate today on the president's aid request. The

House previously defeated the proposal, but the Senate approved it.

"We want a new government . . . a Democratic government," Mr. Kellerman said. "We want freedom of speech, freedom of movement, we support aid to the Contras [rebels]."

Mr. Kellerman, a former vice president of the Nicaraguan Jewish Community, described the firebombing of the synagogue as part of

When the firebombs exploded outside the synagogue, Mr. Kellerman said he tried to escape from the burning building but was confronted by three masked gunmen who identified themselves as Sandinistas, Mr. Kellerman said.

"If you don't go back we will kill you. What Hitler started, we will finish," he quoted one as saying.

The gunmen eventually fled as a

Mr. Kellerman described the firebombing of the synagogue as part of a growing wave of anti-Semitism that eventually drove nearly all of the tiny Jewish population of about 60 families out of the country within four years.

a growing wave of anti-Semitism that eventually drove nearly all of the tiny Jewish population of about 60 families out of the country within four years.

The Sandinistas' attack on the synagogue showed they "were mounting a campaign of terror against Jews" before the revolution, said Charles Brooks of the National Jewish Coalition, which sponsored the press conference.

crowd gathered outside the building and the trapped worshippers escaped.

Mr. Kellerman said the campaign of terror and persecution against Jews, which included death threats and car-bombings, intensified after the Sandinistas formed close ties with the Palestine Liberation Organization, which has an embassy in Managua.

Anti-Semitic graffiti appeared on

the walls of Jewish-owned businesses, accusing the Jews of collaborating with Gen. Somoza.

"The graffiti said, 'Zionism, Judaism and Somozism are all the same thing.' Other graffiti said, 'Jewish pigs, gun sellers, we will apply Sandinista justice to you,'" Mr. Luft said.

Accounts of Jewish persecution have been denied by the Sandinistas and challenged by a prominent American rabbi, Balfour Brickner, who defended the Sandinistas in a newspaper interview last month.

Rabbi Brickner said the synagogue was not being used in 1978 and was later confiscated by the Sandinistas, who, he said, "would be happy to give it back" if there were a Jewish community in Managua.

But the rabbi never talked to the Jews who were in the synagogue when it was firebombed, Mr. Kellerman said.

At the press conference, the Nicaraguan wives of Messrs. Kellerman and Preiss and the exiled daughter-in-law of the former president of the Nicaraguan Jewish Community also described persecution inflicted upon Jews by the Sandinistas.

Elena Pataky Gorn said her 70-year-old father-in-law, Abraham Gorn, was arrested by the Sandinistas and held without charge for three weeks. During that time, she said, he was forced to sweep streets. His property was later confiscated and he sought asylum in the Costa Rican Embassy.

"What was the reason? Because he was a Jew," Mrs. Gorn said of her father-in-law, who led the country's Jewish community.

The Boston Herald

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ALAN S. EISNER,
Managing Editor

RACHELLE COHEN,
Editorial Page Editor

Clerical apologist

WHEN it comes to clerical apologists for the Sandinistas, even the Witnesses for Peace take a back seat to Rabbi Balfour Brickner, of New York. The rabbi charges that President Reagan's indictment of Sandinista anti-Semitism is a fabrication.

How does he know this? Easy. The Nicaraguan Communists told him so. What of the mass exodus of the nation's Jewish community? Well, according to Brickner, they were all supporters of the former Somoza government. (This also conveniently explains the confiscation of their property.)

Brickner's rationalizations are refuted by the National Jewish Coalition. Managua's persecution of Jews was a quid pro quo for

PLO support, the NJC discloses. Prior to the revolution, the Middle Eastern terrorists trained their Nicaraguan comrades. Today, PLO hit men travel the Western Hemisphere on Nicaraguan passports.

In solidarity with their PLO friends, Sandinista guerrillas fire-bombed Managua's synagogue. On coming to power, they unleashed a reign of terror against Jews. Homes were ransacked and looted. Jews were given a choice — emigration or death.

That is why there are few, if any Jews in Nicaragua today. And that will be the fate of Jews elsewhere in Central America, should the Sandinistas triumph and resume the exportation of their tyranny.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 12, 1985

'An Apologist' (Cont'd.)

Rabbi Balfour Brickner claims ["The Walls Are Not Smeared With Anti-Semitic Graffiti," *Free for All*, Sept. 21] that the Jews who left Nicaragua were not driven out by anti-Semitism. Rather, as he wrote last year, the worst that can be said of the Sandinista regime is that it "sometimes expels those who . . . conduct counter-revolutionary activity."

Never mind the fact that the Sandinista-approved newspaper, *Nuevo Diario*, has referred to Jewish places of worship as "synagogues of Satan" and denounced Jews "who . . . used the myth of God's chosen people to massacre the Palestinian people without mercy." Never mind that the same paper revived the ancient calumny that "world money, the banks and finance are in the hands of descendants of Jews, the eternal protectors of Zion." Never mind that in 1978 Sandinista gunmen threw a firebomb at the Managua synagogue while Jews were at prayer and forced those who tried to escape back into the burning building.

To Rabbi Brickner this is not anti-Semitism. To him, it represents, at worst, the actions "of a small gang of excited supporters of the revolution out on their own . . . caught up 'in the mob frenzy of the moment.'"

Never mind that the PLO—a terrorist organization and not (lest anyone doubt it) a sovereign government—is allowed by the Sandinistas to maintain a fully accredited "embassy" in Managua. Never mind that the Sandinistas provide PLO members with Nicaraguan passports with which to travel freely around the world as they plan and execute terrorist attacks. Never mind that Sandinista gunmen participated in PLO terrorist attacks against Jews in Israel and Europe during the 1970s. Rabbi Brickner believes that such actions are, well, somehow excusable.

Why does Rabbi Brickner choose to take the word of Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega, who (understandably) denies allegations of anti-Semitism, rather than that of the many Jewish victims of Sandinista persecution who have fled Nicaragua? He does so because he has dedicated himself to causes of the radical left rather than to Judaism and the Jewish people. He has cast off his Jewish mantle, donning, instead, that of an apologist for the overt and irrefutable anti-Semitism of a regime which he admires but which most other Jews have learned to fear.

—Richard J. Fox

The writer is chairman of the National Jewish Coalition.

MEMO

From: CHRIS GERSTEN

To: Max Green *Min*

Date: May 1, 1986

I thought you would be interested in the press we have generated on the "contra" issue. I am enclosing additional copies of the articles for you to use.

Please note that I have sent copies to Pat Buchanan, Mitch Daniels, Elliott Abrams, and Richard Schifter. At your convenience, would you check to see if Pat Buchanan has focused on it?

Thank

NATIONAL JEWISH COALITION





NATIONAL JEWISH COALITION:

PRESS COVERAGE

SUPPORTING PRESIDENT REAGAN'S

REQUEST FOR AID TO THE "CONTRAS"

April 25, 1986

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The coalition, whose leadership includes prominent Americans active both in the Republican Party and in Jewish communal affairs, said the Nicaraguan Jews would "respond to the allegations put forth by various apologists for the Sandinista government, including New York rabbi, Balfour Brickner."

The statement added that "Brickner and others have denied that Nicaragua's Jews were subjected to Sandinista anti-Semitism and have downplayed the significance of the close Sandinista-PLO relationship as a source of this persecution."

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"Brickner particularly," have attempted to deny anti-Semitism, "implying the entire Jewish community supported that regime."

Speaking of their experiences were Fred Luft, secretary of the Jewish Nicaraguan Community in Exile who had emigrated from Romania in 1946 to go to Nicaragua and now lives in Florida; Oscar Kellerman, a Czechoslovak native who escaped the Nazis, found refuge in Nicaragua and who came to the US in 1940 and is now an American citizen; his wife, Sarita, a Nicaraguan-born Jew; Kurt Preiss, who went from Germany to Nicaragua and now lives in the Dominican Republic, and Elena Polaky Goren, daughter-in-law of Abraham Goren, the last president of the Nicaraguan Jewish community.

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House of Representatives

PRESIDENT'S REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE FOR NICARAGUAN OPPOSITION

SPEECH OF

HON. VIN WEBER

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 20, 1986

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 540) relating to Central America pursuant to the International Security and Development Cooperation Act of 1985.

Mr. WEBER. Mr. Chairman, I would like to share with my colleagues the following statements by two prominent Jewish leaders in the United States who wish to make us aware of the Sandinista's repressive treatment of the Jewish community in Nicaragua.

Chris Gersien, executive director of the National Jewish Coalition, and Fred Luft, secretary of the Jewish Nicaraguan Community in Exile, are aware of the evidence that has been presented to prove that the Jewish community in Nicaragua has not been singled out for abuse and mistreatment because of their religious beliefs.

These two leaders, actively involved with this region, have quite a different opinion. I urge my colleagues to give their comments serious attention.

STATEMENT ON NICARAGUAN ANTI-SEMITISM

Last night, the CBS evening news allowed New York Rabbi, Balfour Brickner, to state without challenge, that there was no anti-semitism in Nicaragua, either official or unofficial. According to Brickner, there is no evidence to support the President's claims that Nicaragua's Jewish community was forced out of the country by a systematic government policy of anti-semitism.

I have long been aware, though, that the facts, tell a different story, a story that bears out the President's statements. The National Jewish Coalition has worked tirelessly over the past year, but especially in recent weeks, to bring to light the abuses committed by the Sandinistas against Nicaragua's Jews. The coalition has also worked to make America aware of what Sandinista anti-semitism means for others in Nicaragua and beyond. Despite what Balfour Brickner may believe, today, there are no Jews in Nicaragua. The coalition has mounted a major effort to tell America that, while it is too late to save the Nicaraguan Jewish community, it is not yet too late to save Catholics, Protestants, Miskito Indians and others from the totalitarian net that the Sandinistas are tightening around Nicaragua.

I first became aware of the systematic persecution of Jews by the Sandinista government over a year ago, when I saw documentary evidence of the events that took place.

I say to those who doubt that the Sandinistas are the anti-semites, the President said them to be that:

"It is a substantiated fact that in 1978, the synagogue which Brickner said had been abandoned by the Jewish community was firebombed by Sandinista gunmen while members of the community were inside. When those Jews attempted to flee the building, the gunmen tried to force them back into the burning building.

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It is a substantiated fact that Jews were singled out for arrest and imprisonment on false charges, that individual Jews were followed, that their homes were searched, their businesses confiscated, their cars burned.

And, lest anyone doubt that these acts of persecution were specifically aimed at Jews, let me refer you to the Sandinista-sanctioned newspaper, Nuevo Diario, which in July 1982 ran articles which referred to "Synagogues of Satan," which accused the Jews of using "the myth of God's chosen people to massacre the Palestinian people without mercy," and which resurrected the charge that "the world's money, banking and finance are in the hands of descendants of Jews," a charge which has for centuries been used by anti-semites to slander Jews.

There are no Jews today in Nicaragua. There are no Jews because the Sandinista regime drove them out with acts of violence and threats of death. Who are the Jews that Brickner claims remain in the country? They are people with Jewish names whose ancestors may, generations ago, have been Jewish. Today, though, the Jews Brickner refers to are Roman Catholics or atheists who have never had any ties to Jews, Judaism or to Nicaragua's former Jewish community.

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The Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith has spent five years investigating this persecution, documenting reports by victims of these outrages and by some of the former Sandinistas who had helped carry them out. Yesterday, the ADL released a white paper reaffirming that these incidents did take place. The statements made in this paper

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Thankfully, those Jews are wise enough to recognize Mr. Ortega's denial for the self-serving disinformation that it is. Through the efforts of the National Jewish Coalition, America and American Jews are now aware that the Sandinistas have enthusiastically imitated the anti-semitism of their Soviet mentors.

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Nicaraguan Jews brand Sandinistas anti-Semitic, anti-Israel

WASHINGTON (JTA)—Seven Jews, who fled Nicaragua when the Sandinistas came to power, maintained Monday that the Sandinista regime is not only anti-Israel but anti-Semitic.

But a leading Jewish critic of President Reagan's policy of opposition to the Sandinista government, Rabbi Balfour Brickner, of the Stephen Wise Free Synagogue in New York City, continued to deny both charges.

"Unfortunately, many individuals who oppose the president's policy in Central America have repeatedly attempted to distort the fact of Sandinista state-induced anti-Semitism," Fred Luft, former secretary of the Nicaraguan Jew-

ish community, said at a Capitol Hill press conference.

He singled out Brickner, as did others at the press conference sponsored by the National Jewish Coalition. It has been seeking Jewish support for Reagan's proposal to provide \$100 million to the anti-Sandinista contras.

Those who deny Sandinista anti-Semitism "have chosen to take the word of Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega, who understandably denies allegations of anti-Semitism, rather than the word of Jews who actually lived in Nicaragua and were forced to flee," Chris Gersten, the coalition's executive director, said.

About the same time the press conference was being held, Brickner was taking part in a rally at the Capitol by "Quest for Peace," a coalition of religious groups opposed to aid for the contras.

The Jews of Nicaragua "didn't leave because they were persecuted as Jews. They fled Nicaragua because they were supporters of (ousted President Anastasio) Somoza," Brickner said following the rally. He and several Christian leaders had led some 100 people in a symbolic presentation of medical supplies that "New Quest" was preparing to send to Nicaragua to match any aid approved by Congress for the contras.

The Nicaraguan Jews denied that they had been supporters of the Somoza regime.

"I have never had anything to do

with any government," Mrs. Sarita Kellerman, a native Nicaraguan, said. "I was dedicated to my business and to my children."

"Oh, baloney, that's just a damn lie," Brickner, who visited Nicaragua after almost all of the small remaining Jewish community had left, said of the assertion by Nicaraguan Jews that they had not been involved in politics under the Somoza regime.

Luft said only two or three members of the Jewish "congregation are still in Nicaragua. The rest of our small community (about 50 families) left the country because of fears for our personal safety," he said.

"This fear was stimulated by the fire-bombing of our synagogue by the Sandinistas while we were worshiping inside, by repeated telephone threats and graffiti on the walls of our businesses, warning us that after their takeover we will suffer at their hands the 'Sandinista Justice,'" Luft said. "The graffiti said 'Zionism, Judaism and Somozaism are all the same thing.'"

Asked about the fire-bombing, Brickner snapped: "I don't want to argue that. It's a dumb, stupid argument because nobody really knows what happened. I suggest to you that what happened is different than what they report."

At the same time, however, Brickner stressed that neither Reagan nor any of the supporters of aid for the contras has evidence "of any ongoing anti-Semitism ex-

pressed by the present government of Nicaragua to Jews or against Jews from 1979 to 1986."

At the coalition's press conference, Oscar Kellerman said he fled after the 1979 Sandinista takeover when he was warned as a U.S. citizen by the U.S. embassy that it would not be able to protect him. He said he was told he was in especial danger because of his "faith."

Mrs. Kellerman said she returned later but was ostracized and was constantly harassed and threatened. She said there was graffiti on her home, business and the synagogue saying: "What Hitler started we will finish."

Kellerman said he was in the synagogue when it was fire-bombed, setting the door aflame. When he and others tried to get outside, they were met by seven or eight masked men who warned them to go back inside or be shot. They eventually were able to get the fire out, Kellerman said.

The Jews also stressed the closeness of the Sandinistas with the Palestine Liberation Organization, a theme that has been stressed repeatedly in the administration's campaign for contra aid.

Brickner, however, was insistent that the Sandinistas are neither anti-Semitic nor hostile to Israel, in spite of their ties with the PLO, stressing instead Nicaragua's "concern" over alleged Israeli aid to the contras. Israel has denied supplying the contras with aid.

To bolster his argument, Brickner drew out a letter he received this month from Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Miguel D'Escoto.

"We are neither anti-Semitic nor anti-Israel," the Sandinista leader declared in the letter. "We firmly believe that Israel has a right to exist just as we believe that Palestinians deserve a homeland."

Kellerman maintained it was because of the close PLO-Sandinista ties that no businesses owned by Arabs in Nicaragua had been confiscated.

Kurt Preiss, who had two tannery factories confiscated despite court rulings that the confiscation was illegal, said while businesses of Somoza allies were seized, this was not why his and other Jewish businesses were taken.

The Nicaraguan Jews did not argue directly in support of contra aid. "We want a democratic government" in Nicaragua, Kellerman said. "We want freedom of speech; we want freedom of religion; we want freedom of movement."

Mrs. Kellerman expressed surprise that Nicaraguan Jews had not received more support from American Jews. "We are one people, and therefore we have one destiny. We grow up here or in Nicaragua or in Africa," she said.

"What happens to a Jew in any place of the world is bound to happen to every Jew any place in the world if you let it happen," she stressed.

JEWISH EXPONENT

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75 CEI

Jews are split over aid to the contras

WASHINGTON (JTA) — The debate among Jews over aid to the contras in Nicaragua escalated here this week as seven Jews who fled Nicaragua when the Sandinistas came to power said in a news conference Monday that the Sandinista regime is anti-Israel and anti-Semitic.

"Unfortunately, many individuals who oppose the president's policy in Central America have repeatedly attempted to distort the fact of Sandinista state-induced anti-Semitism," Fred Luft, former secretary of the Nicaraguan Jewish community, said at a Capitol Hill news conference sponsored by the National Jewish Coalition.

The coalition, a largely Republican organization, has been gathering Jewish support for Reagan's proposal to provide \$100 million to the anti-Sandinista rebel forces, known as the

contras.

Luft singled out Rabbi Balfour Brickner as one of those who have attempted to deny that government-sponsored anti-Semitism exists in Nicaragua. Brickner, who is religious leader of the Stephen Wise Free Synagogue in New York, is an outspoken critic of President Reagan's policy in Nicaragua.

At almost the same time as the National Jewish Coalition news conference was taking place, Brickner was participating in a rally at the Capitol by "Quest for Peace," a coalition of religious groups opposed to aid for the contras.

He later said in an interview that the Jews of Nicaragua "didn't leave because they were persecuted as Jews. They fled Nicaragua because they were supporters of [ousted President Anastasio] Somoza."

DIFFERING VIEWS OF SANDINISTAS' ATTITUDE TOWARD JEWS AND ISRAEL

By David Friedman and Judith Kohn

WASHINGTON, April 14 (JTA) -- Seven Jews who fled Nicaragua when the Sandinistas came to power maintained Monday that the Sandinista regime is not only anti-Israel, but anti-Semitic.

But a leading Jewish critic of President Reagan's policy of opposition to the Sandinista government, Rabbi Balfour Brickner of the Stephen Wise Free Synagogue in New York City, continued to deny both charges.

"Unfortunately, many individuals who oppose the President's policy in Central America, have repeatedly attempted to distort the fact of Sandinista state-induced anti-Semitism," Fred Luft, former secretary of the Nicaraguan Jewish community, said at a Capitol Hill press conference.

He singled out Brickner as did others at the press conference sponsored by the National Jewish Coalition, which has been gathering Jewish support for Reagan's proposal to provide \$100 million to the anti-Sandinista Contras.

Those who deny Sandinista anti-Semitism "have chosen to take the word of Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega, who understandably denies allegation of anti-Semitism rather than the word of Jews who actually lived in Nicaragua and were forced to flee," Chris Gersten, the Coalition's executive director, said.

About the same time as the press conference was being held, Brickner was taking part in a rally at the Capitol by "Quest for Peace," a coalition of religious groups opposed to aid for the Contras.

The Jews of Nicaragua "didn't leave because they were persecuted as Jews. They fled Nicaragua because they were supporters of (ousted

President Anastasio Somoza," Brickner told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency following the rally. He and several Christian leaders had led some 100 people in a symbolic presentation of medical supplies that "New Quest" was preparing to send to Nicaragua in order to match any aid approved by Congress for the Contras.

The Nicaraguan Jews denied that they had been supporters of the Somoza regime. "I have never had anything to do with any government," Sarita Kellerman, a native-born Nicaraguan, said. "I was dedicated to my business and to my children."

Luft said only two or three members of the Jewish "congregation" are still in Nicaragua. "The rest of our small community (about 50 families) left the country because of fears for our personal safety," he said.

"This fear was stimulated by the fire bombing of our synagogue by the Sandinistas while we were worshipping inside, by repeated telephone threats and graffiti on the walls of our businesses, warning us that after their take over we will suffer at their hands the 'Sandinista Justice'," Luft said. The graffiti said 'Zionism, Judaism and Somozism are all the same thing'."

Asked about the firebombing, Brickner snapped, "I don't want to argue that. It's a dumb, stupid argument because nobody really knows what happened. I suggest to you that what happened is different than what they report." At the same time, however, Brickner stressed that neither Reagan nor any of the supporters of aid for the Contras, have evidence "of any ongoing anti-Semitism expressed by the present government of Nicaragua to Jews or against Jews from 1979 to 1986."

At the Coalition's press conference, Oscar Kellerman said he fled after the 1979 Sandinista takeover when he was warned as a U.S. citizen by the U.S. Embassy that it would not be able to protect him. He said he was told he was in especial danger because of his "faith."

Sarita Kellerman said she returned later but was ostracized and was constantly harassed and threatened. She said there was graffiti on her home, business and the synagogue saying, "what Hitler started we will finish."

Oscar Kellerman said he was in the synagogue when it was firebombed, setting the door aflame. When he and others tried to get outside they were met by seven or eight masked men who warned them to go back inside or be shot. They eventually were able to get the fire out, Kellerman said. The Jews also stressed the closeness of the Sandinistas with the Palestine Liberation Organization, a theme that has been stressed repeatedly in the Administration's campaign for Contra aid.

Brickner, however, was insistent that the Sandinistas are neither anti-Semitic nor hostile to Israel, in spite of their ties with the PLO, stressing instead Nicaragua's "concern" over alleged Israeli aid to the Contras. Israel has denied supplying the Contras with aid. To bolster his argument, Brickner drew out a letter he received this month from Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Miguel D'Escoto.

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The Washington Times

TUESDAY, APRIL 15, 1986^R

WASHINGTON, D.C.

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Anti-Semitic Sandinistas burned synagogue, Nicaraguan Jews say

By James Morrison
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

Three Jews who fled Nicaragua after Marxists gained power said yesterday that Sandinista gunmen tried to burn them to death in a Managua synagogue in 1978 while they and about 25 other Jews were attending prayer services.

They said that although the firebombing of the synagogue occurred a year before the overthrow of dictator Anastasio Somoza, it was a signal of the Sandinistas' anti-Semitism that they pursued as a policy following their takeover of the government in 1979.

Oscar Kellerman, Fred Luft and Kurt Preiss, all European Jews who settled in Nicaragua before the revolution, described the synagogue attack at a Washington press conference called to rebut Jewish leaders who recently disputed charges of anti-Semitism leveled at the Managua regime.

The speakers at yesterday's press conference also endorsed President Reagan's effort to provide \$100 million in military and humanitarian aid to the anti-Sandinista resistance. The House of Representatives is scheduled to begin debate today on the president's aid request. The

House previously defeated the proposal, but the Senate approved it.

"We want a new government ... a Democratic government," Mr. Kellerman said. "We want freedom of speech, freedom of movement, we support aid to the Contras [rebels]."

Mr. Kellerman, a former vice president of the Nicaraguan Jewish Community, described the firebombing of the synagogue as part of

When the firebombs exploded outside the synagogue, Mr. Kellerman said he tried to escape from the burning building but was confronted by three masked gunmen who identified themselves as Sandinistas, Mr. Kellerman said.

"If you don't go back we will kill you. What Hitler started, we will finish," he quoted one as saying.

The gunmen eventually fled as a

Mr. Kellerman described the firebombing of the synagogue as part of a growing wave of anti-Semitism that eventually drove nearly all of the tiny Jewish population of about 60 families out of the country within four years.

a growing wave of anti-Semitism that eventually drove nearly all of the tiny Jewish population of about 60 families out of the country within four years.

The Sandinistas' attack on the synagogue showed they "were mounting a campaign of terror against Jews" before the revolution, said Charles Brooks of the National Jewish Coalition, which sponsored the press conference.

crowd gathered outside the building and the trapped worshippers escaped.

Mr. Kellerman said the campaign of terror and persecution against Jews, which included death threats and car-bombings, intensified after the Sandinistas formed close ties with the Palestine Liberation Organization, which has an embassy in Managua.

Anti-Semitic graffiti appeared on

the walls of Jewish-owned businesses, accusing the Jews of collaborating with Gen. Somoza.

"The graffiti said, 'Zionism, Judaism and Somocism are all the same thing.' Other graffiti said, 'Jewish pigs, gun sellers, we will apply Sandinista justice to you,' " Mr. Luft said.

Accounts of Jewish persecution have been denied by the Sandinistas and challenged by a prominent American rabbi, Balfour Brickner, who defended the Sandinistas in a newspaper interview last month.

Rabbi Brickner said the synagogue was not being used in 1978 and was later confiscated by the Sandinistas, who, he said, "would be happy to give it back" if there were a Jewish community in Managua.

But the rabbi never talked to the Jews who were in the synagogue when it was firebombed, Mr. Kellerman said.

At the press conference, the Nicaraguan wives of Messrs. Kellerman and Preiss and the exiled daughter-in-law of the former president of the Nicaraguan Jewish Community also described persecution inflicted upon Jews by the Sandinistas.

Elena Pataky Gorn said her 70-year-old father-in-law, Abraham Gorn, was arrested by the Sandinistas and held without charge for three weeks. During that time, she said, he was forced to sweep streets. His property was later confiscated and he sought asylum in the Costa Rican Embassy.

"What was the reason? Because he was a Jew," Mrs. Gorn said of her father-in-law, who led the country's Jewish community.

Baltimore

March 28, 1986 / 17 Adar 11 5745

JEWISH TIMES

U.S. Jews Urged Passage Of Contra Aid Bill

Washington (JTA) — Nineteen prominent American Jews signed a letter to members of Congress urging support of President Reagan's request of \$100 million in aid to the Nicaraguan rebels, known as Contras. The letter which was sent to legislators shortly before the House last week voted 222 to 210 to reject Reagan's request, was organized by the National Jewish coalition.

The letter spoke about the growing threat to U.S. strategic interests in Central America from the Sandinista government in Nicaragua. A spokesman for the National Jewish Coalition said the letter was sent to about 200 Senators and Congressmen who were either undecided or opposed to the aid. The letter also stated that prominent in support of the Nicaraguan government are PLO leader Yassir Arafat and Libyan leader Muammar Qaddafi.

In another development in New York, the Anti-Defamation league of B'nai B'rith supported President Reagan's charge of virulent anti-Semitism practices by the Nicaraguan Government.

The ADL published a "white paper" describing the Sandinista persecution of Nicaraguan Jews, including the firebombing of the Managua synagogue, death threats and harassment and expropriation of property which led to the exodus of virtually the entire Jewish community of Nicaragua.

Rabbi Balfour Brickner of the Stephen Wise Free Synagogue here was quoted in newspapers as saying that he visited Nicaragua twice since the Sandinistas took power and that he found no signs of anti-Semitism and persecution against the Jews.

World-National

Send support letter to U.S. Congress

Jewish coalition lobbies for help for Contras

By
DAVID FRIEDMAN

WASHINGTON (JTA)—

Nineteen prominent American Jews have signed a letter to members of Congress urging support of President Reagan's request of \$100 million in aid to the Nicaraguan rebels, known as Contras.

The letter which was sent to legislators last week shortly before the House voted 222-210 to reject Reagan's request, was organized by the National

Jewish Coalition. The letter cited "the growing threat to U.S. strategic interests in Central America" from the Sandinista government in Nicaragua.

"Our concern is heightened by the increasing Soviet-supplied arsenal being accumulated by the Sandinista government in Nicaragua and the Sandinistas' willingness to export this weaponry to anti-democratic forces throughout Latin America," the letter said.

A spokesman for the National Jewish Coalition said the letter was sent to 200 senators and congressmen who were either undecided or opposed to the aid.

"We watched with dismay as Nicaragua's Jewish community suffered under Sandinista rule" until most had fled the country by 1981, the letter said.

"Prominent among the Sandinistas' allies are the PLO's Yasser Arafat and Libya's Qaddafi," the letter said.

The letter charged that

"the anti-semitism in Nicaragua is a reflection of the repression inherent in the Marxist-Leninist society the Sandanista's seek to establish. Furthermore, the Sandinistas' ties to Libya and the PLO exemplify the support that the Managua regime gives to the world's terrorist groups."

The signatories stressed that "we support a negotiated settlement to this conflict. But we recognize that, at this time, unless the United States aids the democratic forces, the San-

dinistas will continue to resist the establishment in Nicaragua of a pluralistic, democratic society."

Among those signing the letter were: Max Fisher, of Detroit, Morris Abram, chairman of the National Conference on Soviet Jewry; Julius Berman and Jack Stein, both former chairmen of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations; Richard Fox, chairman of the National Jewish Coalition; Rabbi Joshua Haberman of the Washington Hebrew Congregation and Rabbi Stanley Rabinowitz of Adas Israel Congregation, both of Washington.

Also: Hart Hasten, president of Herut Zionists of America; George Klein and Gordon Zacks, both co-chairmen of the National Jewish Coalition; Ivan Novick, chairman of the board of the Zionist Organization of America, and Rabbi Morris Sherer, Agudath Israel of America.

NEW YORK (JTA) —

The Anti-Defamation

League of B'nai B'rith supports President Reagan's charge of virulent anti-semitism practices by the Nicaraguan government.

The ADL published a "white paper" describing the Sandinista persecution of Nicaraguan Jews, including the firebombing of the Managua synagogue, death threats and harassment and expropriation of property which led to the exodus of virtually the entire Jewish community of Nicaragua.

Abraham Foxman, ADL's associate national director and head of its international affairs division, said the white paper was being made public "to set the record straight, to answer published denials about the Sandinistas' treatment of the Jews."

Rabbi Balfour Brickner of the Stephen Wise Free Synagogue here was quoted in The New York Times as saying that he visited Nicaragua twice since the Sandinistas took power and that he found no signs of anti-semitism and

persecution against the Jews. He claimed that the few Jews in the country before the 1979 revolution that overthrew Anastasio Somoza Dabayle were linked to the deposed president and left the country on their own free will.

President Reagan, in a recent speech on television, charged that Managua's only synagogue had been "desecrated and firebombed" and that the entire Jewish community had been "forced to flee Nicaragua."

The ADL's white paper, in supporting the President's charges, said that the Sandinista persecution of Jews took place against a background of unremitting hostility to Israel and longstanding alliances with the Palestinian Liberation Organization and other anti-Israeli terrorist groups.

The ADL said it based its information on testimony from Nicaraguan exiles, on disclosures from an ex-Sandinista informant and on the investigations carried out by the agency during the last five years.

The Boston Herald

PATRICK J. PURCELL, Publisher

JOE ROBINOWITZ, Editor

ALAN S. EISNER,
Managing Editor

RACHELLE COHEN,
Editorial Page Editor

Clerical apologist

WHEN it comes to clerical apologists for the Sandinistas, even the Witnesses for Peace take a back seat to Rabbi Balfour Brickner, of New York. The rabbi charges that President Reagan's indictment of Sandinista anti-Semitism is a fabrication.

How does he know this? Easy. The Nicaraguan Communists told him so. What of the mass exodus of the nation's Jewish community? Well, according to Brickner, they were all supporters of the former Somoza government. (This also conveniently explains the confiscation of their property.)

Brickner's rationalizations are refuted by the National Jewish Coalition. Managua's persecution of Jews was a quid pro quo for

PLO support, the NJC discloses. Prior to the revolution, the Middle Eastern terrorists trained their Nicaraguan comrades. Today, PLO hit men travel the Western Hemisphere on Nicaraguan passports.

In solidarity with their PLO friends, Sandinista guerrillas fire-bombed Managua's synagogue. On coming to power, they unleashed a reign of terror against Jews. Homes were ransacked and looted. Jews were given a choice — emigration or death.

That is why there are few, if any Jews in Nicaragua today. And that will be the fate of Jews elsewhere in Central America, should the Sandinistas triumph and resume the exportation of their tyranny.

JEWISH WORLD

Boca Raton—Delray Beach—Boynton Beach—Lake Worth—West Palm Beach—Palm Beach Gardens—North Palm Beach—North Broward County

National News Briefs

Prominent Jewish Republicans Urge Contra Aid

WASHINGTON — Nineteen prominent American Jews, all of whom have close ties to the Republican Party, have signed a letter to members of Congress urging support of President Reagan's request of \$100 million in aid to the Nicaraguan Contras.

The letter, which was sent to legislators shortly before the House on Thursday voted 222-210 to reject Reagan's request, was organized by the National Jewish Coalition.

"Our concern is heightened by the increasing Soviet-supplied arsenal being accumulated by the Sandinista government of Nicaragua and the Sandinistas' willingness to export this weaponry to anti-democratic forces throughout Latin America," the letter said.

A spokesman for the National Jewish Coalition said the letter was sent to about 200 Senators and Congressmen who were either undecided or opposed to the aid.

The letter charged that "the anti-Semitism in Nicaragua is a reflection of the repression inherent in the Marxist-Leninist society the Sandinistas seek to establish. Furthermore, the Sandinistas' ties to Libya and the PLO exemplify the support that the Managua regime gives to the world's terrorist groups."

The signatories stressed that "we support a negotiated settlement to this conflict. But we recognize that, at this time, unless the United States aids the democratic forces, the Sandinistas will continue to resist the establishment in Nicaragua of a pluralistic, democratic society."

Among those signing the letter were: Max Fisher, of Detroit; Morris Abram, chairman of the National Conference on Soviet Jewry; Julius Berman and Jack Stein, both former chairmen of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations; Richard Fox, chairman of the National Jewish Coalition.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 12, 1985

'An Apologist' (Cont'd.)

Rabbi Balfour Brickner claims ["The Walls Are Not Smeared With Anti-Semitic Graffiti," *Free for All*, Sept. 21] that the Jews who left Nicaragua were not driven out by anti-Semitism. Rather, as he wrote last year, the worst that can be said of the Sandinista regime is that it "sometimes expels those who . . . conduct counter-revolutionary activity."

Never mind the fact that the Sandinista-approved newspaper, *Nuevo Diario*, has referred to Jewish places of worship as "synagogues of Satan" and denounced Jews "who . . . used the myth of God's chosen people to massacre the Palestinian people without mercy." Never mind that the same paper revived the ancient calumny that "world money, the banks and finance are in the hands of descendants of Jews, the eternal protectors of Zion." Never mind that in 1978 Sandinista gunmen threw a firebomb at the Managua synagogue while Jews were at prayer and forced those who tried to escape back into the burning building.

To Rabbi Brickner this is not anti-Semitism. To him, it represents, at worst, the actions "of a small gang of excited supporters of the revolution out on their own . . . caught up 'in the mob frenzy of the moment.'"

Never mind that the PLO—a terrorist organization and not (lest anyone doubt it) a sovereign government—is allowed by the Sandinistas to maintain a fully accredited "embassy" in Managua. Never mind that the Sandinistas provide PLO members with Nicaraguan passports with which to travel freely around the world as they plan and execute terrorist attacks. Never mind that Sandinista gunmen participated in PLO terrorist attacks against Jews in Israel and Europe during the 1970s. Rabbi Brickner believes that such actions are, well, somehow excusable.

Why does Rabbi Brickner choose to take the word of Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega, who (understandably) denies allegations of anti-Semitism, rather than that of the many Jewish victims of Sandinista persecution who have fled Nicaragua? He does so because he has dedicated himself to causes of the radical left rather than to Judaism and the Jewish people. He has cast off his Jewish mantle, donning, instead, that of an apologist for the overt and irrefutable anti-Semitism of a regime which he admires but which most other Jews have learned to fear.

—Richard J. Fox

The writer is chairman of the National Jewish Coalition.



Better Building Since 1896

Malins
Jewish
Coalition

June 12, 1986

Mr. Max Green
The White House
Washington, D. C. 20501

Dear Max:

This relates to the Holocaust Memorial subject we discussed.

I have asked Richard Mahoney, the CEO of Monsanto Company to be co-chairman with me for the fund raising efforts in Missouri. I think he is temporizing because the list of names of men across the country who have signed on to date does not include a CEO of a major company. I think getting him would be not only great for us here in Missouri, but would be of help throughout the country in recruiting other men of comparable economic stature.

It is with that background that causes me to think a letter from the President would tip the scale. It could be a note which says:

"I am the Honorary Chairman of the Holocaust Memorial Council. I have a great personal interest in the success of this idea.

I am told that Alfred Fleischer, the Co-Chairman in Missouri, has invited you to chair with him in his program. It would be meaningful for all of us if you accepted this responsibility and helped us conclude this very meaningful program, to be operative on the Mall.

My best wishes and thanks."

Max, if anything like this could come forward, it would benefit all of our goals.

My best wishes.

Cordially,


Alfred J. Fleischer



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NATIONAL
JEWISH
COALITION

Max M. Fisher
Honorary Chairman

Richard J. Fox
National Chairman

George Klein
Gordon Zacks
Co-chairmen

Ivan Boesky
Finance Chairman

Executive Committee

Bernard H. Barnett

Paul Borman

Marshall Breger

The Hon. Matthew Brown

Joseph B. Gildenhorn

Leonard Greenberg

Samuel Kane

Robert R. Mazer

Ruth Miller

Louis A. Morgan

Jacob Stein

Philip Winn

Chris Gersten
Executive Director
Howard Kohr
Deputy Director
A. Mark Neuman
Political Director

August 13, 1986

The Honorable Ronald W. Reagan
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

The National Jewish Coalition (NJC) applauds your March, 1983 decision to pursue the Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI) program, aimed at making nuclear weapons obsolete. The NJC urges you to vigorously pursue full-scale development, testing and deployment of proposed strategic defense systems.

As the authoritative Jane's Defense Weekly reports, the U.S. is lagging dangerously behind the Soviet Union in space technologies, by as much as ten years. The Soviets have also built a massive offensive arsenal which greatly threatens national security and world stability. It is therefore imperative to the future of the program that you set specific goals for the deployment of the SDI technologies that will effectively deter nuclear conflict.

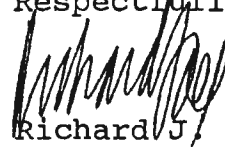
The NJC hopes that you will not impose unnecessary constraints on the program, such as extending the ABM treaty. According to a Sindlinger poll, more than 51 per cent of the American people support your decision to oppose unilateral nuclear weapons agreements, such as the SALT II and the ABM treaty.

According to experts, after successful tests such as the Homing Overlay Experiment (HOE) and numerous others, the technology has been proven to already exist...on the shelf. We need only make a firm commitment to adequately fund SDI. The free world will be forced to pay a horrible price if the Soviet Union is the first to achieve a national strategic nuclear defense and the first-strike capability it would provide.

The NJC urges you to ignore the vocal critics of the program who have no qualms about leaving America defenseless against deliberate nuclear attack, accidental firings or terrorists. By maintaining and bolstering support for the deployment of SDI, your administration will enable the United States to embark on a new course of peace that will effectively protect and defend the free world from the ominous threat of nuclear destruction.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,



Richard J. Fox
National Chairman

cc: Donald Regan
Patrick Buchanan
Linas Kojelis
Max Green ✓



ash - G

Max M. Fisher
Honorary Chairman

Richard I. Fox
National Chairman

George Klein
Gordon Zacks
Co-chairmen

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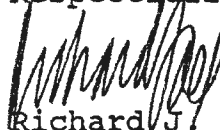
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Respectfully,



Richard J. Fox
National Chairman

cc: Donald Regan
Patrick Buchanan
Linas Kojelis
Max Green ✓



ST. LOUIS CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY

PRIDE

TEAMTALK

PRODUCTIVITY & RESPONSIBILITY INCREASE
DEVELOPMENT & EMPLOYMENT

Representatives of construction labor and management, design professionals and construction owners sign the PRIDE Memorandum of Understanding on Aug. 28, 1972. PRIDE celebrates its 15th anniversary this month. *Sievers photo*

PRIDE Creates Harmony

Nearly every member of the St. Louis construction industry has seen the impact of the PRIDE organization on the health of the industry here. But the day-to-day workings of PRIDE are much less visible. On this occasion of PRIDE's 15th anniversary, *Teamtalk* shares those details with readers.

The monthly PRIDE board meetings, held around a big table at the Construction Training School, closely resemble family meetings. Led jointly by PRIDE Co-Chairmen Alfred J. Fleischer and Richard Mantia, the consistent theme is open and honest exchange of ideas and problems.

Up to 32 delegates, selected by members of the representative organizations, gather around the table for one to two hours of discussion. Meetings are held whether or not there are specific matters to discuss.

"In-between meetings, each PRIDE member is welcome to call our organization's secretary, Al Hinton at the Associated General Contractors of St. Louis, to put items on the agenda," describes Mantia. "In general, meeting discussions focus on current construction industry activities and ways in which the industry can meet the needs of our customers — building owners and developers."

Each new board member is quickly initiated to a key tenet of PRIDE: open and honest communication. "Every PRIDE board member learns to talk out differences," says Fleischer. "We all share a common concern for construction

industry jobs. That's number one. And PRIDE is also a forum for discussing disagreements that need to be resolved. The most solid gain from PRIDE is that people throughout this industry have learned to communicate with each other."

The PRIDE board also invites labor and management contract negotiators to meetings before contract expiration to discuss possible areas of contention. "We impress upon them the importance of settling contracts without work stoppages, and let them know PRIDE is here to help," Mantia says.

PRIDE leaders are also called upon to resolve jurisdictional dispute matters. "Initially, PRIDE agreed not to be involved in settling jurisdictional disputes, which were a major cancer of the industry when PRIDE was formed in 1972," Fleischer notes. "We were soon asked by business managers of two locals to help resolve two disputes and it evolved from there. Today, most jurisdictional disputes are referred directly to Dick (Mantia) if the matter involves two unions or to me if there is a question about management's assignment decision."

To guard against PRIDE becoming a political football, board members agreed among themselves to speak publicly only on matters where unanimity of opinion exists, such as the recent Missouri gas tax increase. "We've stuck to that promise," Fleischer says.

Memorandum of Understanding Guides PRIDE

When PRIDE was formed in 1972, labor and management enjoyed little — if any — trust between them.

But a handful of construction industry leaders willing to risk ridicule and failure to shape a better future for the industry soon convinced others to join their gamble. Their efforts led to agreement on several key principles which they put in writing as the "PRIDE Memorandum of Understanding." Today, that document continues to serve as the light that guides all PRIDE decision-making and action.

"The PRIDE Memorandum of Understanding recognizes that every member of this industry has responsibilities to the others," says Alfred J. Fleischer, PRIDE management co-chairman. "It embodies the spirit of the PRIDE organization."

The memorandum, developed between February and August, 1972, was originally signed by representatives of construction owners, contractors, craftsmen, engineers and architects on Aug. 28, 1972. The agreement was

amended to include construction industry suppliers and signed again on Nov. 28, 1977.

The memorandum represents each PRIDE member's pledge to do — or not do — certain things for the good of the industry.

- **Construction users** pledged to demonstrate personal interest in their projects; to conduct pre-bid conferences to prevent jurisdictional disputes; to pursue thorough design and documentation to limit changes and associated costs; to set realistic schedules; to enforce contract terms and make fair decisions; and to avoid the need for scheduled overtime.

- **Architects and engineers** pledged to provide service within owners' budgets; to prepare clear plans and specifications; to consult owners on billing and schedules; and to guide owners in following recognized construction standards.

- **Contractors** pledged to follow plans

and specifications; to fully manage their projects; to provide the necessary tools, equipment and materials; to coordinate all subcontractors; and to follow ethical construction standards.

- **AFL-CIO and Teamsters craftsmen** pledged to avoid illegal work stoppages and strikes; to settle jurisdictional disputes off the job site, rather than picket the job; to perform a day's work for a day's pay; to allow working stewards only; and to work productively without limitations.

- **Together, union contractors and craftsmen** pledged to work in harmony; to keep overtime to a minimum; and to eliminate inefficient work practices.

- **Suppliers** pledged to deliver materials on time; to help with order placements; to provide materials at the most economical prices possible; to expedite plans, details and instructions; to furnish materials according to specifications; and to maintain a stock of regularly needed items.

PRIDE 1987 Board Members

Alfred J. Fleischer, PRIDE management co-chairman
Richard Mantia, PRIDE labor co-chairman

Management Representatives

David Birenbaum, SITE Improvement Association
Carl F. Freeman, Mason Contractors Association
James Murphy, Jr., Plumbing Contractors Association
Larry Plunkett, National Electrical Contractors Association
Jerry Sauder, Mechanical Contractors Association
Jack Whittle, Wall and Ceiling Contractors Association

Labor Representatives

Donald Bresnan, Electrical Workers Local 1
Donald J. Devitt, Pipefitters Local 562
George V. Ersion, Cement Masons Local 527
Clyde Martini, Bricklayers Local 1
Robert C. Sansone, Teamsters Local 682
Leonard Terbrock, Carpenters' District Council

Architects

Angelo Corrubia, American Institute of Architects

Engineers

William A. Herrmann, Consulting Engineers Council of Missouri

Suppliers

Rob Higgins, Construction Products Manufacturers' Council
Alternate: Dennis Swanston

Construction Users

William Schweikert, St. Louis Construction Users Council

Alternate: Woody Zenfell

Mark Turken, National Association of Industrial & Office Parks

Alternate: Alan J. Perlmutter

Management Alternates

Robert P. Elspersman, Associated General Contractors
Raymond R. Grossmann, Sheet Metal & Air Conditioning Contractors National Association
Floyd Krickhahn, National Electrical Contractors Association
Ron Pfleger, Mason Contractors Association
Dan Green, Wall & Ceiling Contractors Association

Labor Alternates

Gerald T. Feldhaus, Asbestos Workers Local 1
Del Goebel, Operating Engineers Local 513
G. Thomas Harvill, Eastern Missouri Laborers' District Council
Tom McNeil, Iron Workers Local 396
Russell G. Schergen, Elevator Constructors Local 3

Votes are rarely taken. "We discuss the issues until we reach consensus, and then we expect people to do as they've agreed," Mantia reports.

"The success of the PRIDE program is that it's voluntary. Nothing is mandatory. We're all dedicated to bettering the St. Louis construction industry through cooperation between labor and management as well as with designers and suppliers to do the best we can to serve construction buyers," Mantia describes.

Adds Fleischer, "We believe our togetherness is more important than our separateness."

PRIDE Welcomes NAIOP to Board

The PRIDE board of directors was recently expanded to include a second representative of construction buyers. Mark Turken, chairman and chief executive officer



Mark Turken

of Turco Development Co., was elected to the new post by the St. Louis chapter of the National Association of Industrial & Office Parks (NAIOP).

Alan J. Perlmutter, vice president of Paragon Group, was elected as NAIOP alternate delegate.

"PRIDE devotes considerable effort meeting construction owners' needs for on-time construction, competitive construction costs and high quality craftsmanship," notes PRIDE Co-Chairman Alfred J. Fleischer. "While the St. Louis Construction Users Council has been part of the PRIDE organization since its founding in 1972, the PRIDE board decided to expand owner representation with a delegate from the leading developer association in St. Louis."

The St. Louis Construction Users Council represents major corporate and industrial buyers of construction.

As chairman of Turco, Turken has developed various commercial, office and light industrial properties, including Park 2701 and 11 and the Woodlands Business Park.