

סוכנות לקטעי עתונות

רחוב הרברט סמואל 4

ח.ד. 724 טלפון 234252

ירושלים

1979 י"ג - 1
JEWISH CHRONICLE
(London, England)

HOME NEWS

Begin in London

Jewish Chronicle Reporter

More than 400 people gathered in the Finchley Synagogue last week to celebrate Yom Yerushalayim, the 12th anniversary of the reunification of Jerusalem, with the Prime Minister of Israel and Mrs Begin.

In a moving service conducted by Rabbi B. Gelles, Dayan M. Fisher, Dayan P. Toledano, the Rev L. Hardman and the Rev A. Segal, the congregation paid tribute to those who had fallen in the battles for Jerusalem.

In an emotional address to the congregation, Mr Begin recalled the days immediately before the Six-Day War when, as a member of the War Cabinet, he heard that the UN Security Council had ordered a ceasefire. "I and my colleagues, General Yadin and Yigal Allon, told the Prime Minister (Levi Eshkol) that Jerusalem should be liberated. At 7 am the order was given for the army to go into Jerusalem. At 9.30 am Jerusalem was liberated."

The service was organised by the Herut Movement of Great Britain, which later held a celebration dinner for the Prime Minister and Mrs Begin in the Kinloss Suite of the synagogue.

Mr Eric Graus, the movement's president, welcomed the guests. The Herut Movement has celebrated Yom Yerushalayim for the past nine years, "but tonight we have reached the peak of our celebrations. Never has any Jewish leader been accepted by Anglo-Jewry as the Prime Minister, Menachem Begin."

Guests at the dinner included the Chief Rabbi, the Israeli Ambassador Mr Avraham Kidron, Dr Rhodes Boyson MP and Lord Bethell, who presented a copy of his book, "The Palestine Triangle", to Mr Begin. Mr Arthur Hubert introduced the

Prime Minister who later presented an Irgun medal to Mr Monty Harris, of Ireland.

Mr Harris was sentenced to eight years in prison by the British authorities after being found guilty of gun-running for the Irgun. He served two years of the sentence.

Mr Begin recalled his previous visits to Britain, including the first most stormy one in January 1972, during which time several meetings were cancelled and there was difficulty in finding a venue for him. And he reminded guests of the prophecy of the late Ivan Greenberg, a former editor of the JEWISH CHRONICLE, that he (Mr Begin) would be officially invited to Britain as the guest of the British Government.

The Premier paid tribute to Mr Greenberg, whose widow was present at

the dinner. "He turned the JEWISH CHRONICLE into a fighting newspaper. He told the truth about the underground, and he was dismissed as editor because of his opinions. He was a great man, writer and editor, but above all a man of great courage."

The Prime Minister was also warm in reference to the leader of the Opposition, Mr Callaghan, who will be his guest in Israel on November 2 at a Balfour Declaration Dinner. "He is a real friend of Jewry and we shall always be indebted to him for his friendship. He helped us very much in Europe among the Nine," the Prime Minister declared.

Mr Begin also announced that preparations were under way in Israel for the celebration next year of the centenary anniversary of the birth of Ze'ev Jabotinsky, the founder of the Herut Movement. "This must be celebrated by all the Jewish people and it will be celebrated by the State of Israel," he said.

The co-chairman of the Herut Movement in Great Britain, Mr Mahvyn Benjamin, thanked Mr Begin.