

EDITORIAL**KOSHER FOOD HEARINGS
END: TIME WELL SPENT**

As we report elsewhere in these pages the kosher hearings conducted by the New York State Advisory Board on Kosher Law Enforcement, under the auspices of the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets and chaired by Advisory Board Chairman Gerald E. Feldhamer, ended last week. The report to be prepared by the Advisory Board is to be submitted to the Commissioner of the Department, Dr. Donald Butcher, by mid-December. If the testimony is any indication the final report should contain many important recommendations to enhance the protection for the kosher consumer.

Such matters as the kosher inspection of out-of-state plants, increased penalties, public disclosure of violations, increased enforcement powers and streamlining of enforcement procedures are just some of the vital issues raised at the hearings and we wish the Advisory Board well in its weighty task.

We were particularly taken with the testimony of Rabbi Robert Schwartz, a former *mashgiach* at the Indianapolis plant of the Hebrew National Company. Rabbi Schwartz testified that there were improper procedures followed at the plant relating to the deveining and soaking and salting of meat, meat soaking in blood and other matters. A witness from Hebrew National vigorously countered these charges claiming that Rabbi Schwartz disagreed with the interpretation of Jewish religious requirements regarding kashruth of the Chief Kosher Supervisor of Hebrew National, Rabbi Tibor Stern.

The controversy will have to be resolved by an authority other than us. But we think that it points up the need for the public to have as much information as possible as to the standards of kashruth that are, in fact, being adhered to in the production of the food purchase as kosher.

We take this opportunity to wish a *yasher koach* to New York's Governor Mario Cuomo for making these hearings — and the potential for enhancing the protections available to the kosher consumer — possible. The Governor has long made the interests of the kosher consumer a matter of priority in his Administration. We believe that we are at the threshold of critical movement.

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U.S. Says PLO De

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON (JTA) — The State Department has reviewed the political statements issued at the end of the Palestine National Council's three-day meeting in Algiers and has found them inadequate.

Department spokesman Charles Redman said that they neither meet the requirements of the Middle East peace process nor the conditions set by the United States before Washington will have any dealings with the Palestine Liberation Organization.

These conditions have been in effect since 1975 when then Secretary of State Henry Kissinger offered them in a commitment to Israel.

The conditions are recognition of Israel's right to exist, acceptance of U.N. Security Council Resolution 242 and a renunciation of terrorism.

The Reagan administration had refused for the last two days any comment on the PNC's political statements until it could study the text, although it noted that there were positive elements.

"After reviewing the outcome of the Palestine National Council, there are signs that there are Palestinians who are trying to move the PLO in a constructive way," Redman said. "That's encouraging and should continue."

But, he added, "based against the requirements of the negotiating process, more movement on key issues will be required."

"And measured against the positions the PLO must adopt in order for the United States to engage in dialogue with it, the results of the PNC session fall short of meeting those requirements."

Redman said that while "the reference to Resolutions 242 and 338 is an advance over previous efforts by the PNC it is ambiguous both in its placement in the text and its meaning."

He said recognition of Israel's right to exist "must be clear and unambiguous," and not, as the PNC did, "possibly implying" or making an "indirect reference" to it.

Redman said the PNC statement rejecting terrorism "in accordance with United Nations resolutions" is

**Rabbi Sholom Klass
Than 1,000 At**

More than 1,000 attended the dinner of the National Committee for The Furtherance of Jewish Education at the Imperial Ballroom and Terrace of the Sheraton Centre Hotel in New York, last Sunday to pay tribute to Rabbi Sholom Klass, Publisher of THE JEWISH PRESS. Rabbi Klass was presented with the Jewish Education Award, a magnificently mounted sterling Silver Crown. The presentation was made by Rabbi Jacob J. Hecht, Executive Vice President of the NCFJE.

In making the presentation Rabbi Hecht said "Rabbi Klass justly deserves this award because he is the teacher of thousands, in fact, the millions who read THE JEWISH PRESS each week. It is filled with Torah articles and information that reaches around the world."