

1 of 1 DOCUMENT

The Jerusalem Post

August 22, 1989, Tuesday

PUBLIC PRESSURE HELPS SAVE HAIFA'S SIXTH FLEET CENTRE

BYLINE: By YA'ACOV FRIEDLER, Jerusalem Post Reporter

SECTION: News

LENGTH: 221 words

HIGHLIGHT: HAIFA - The American United Services Organization, which last February decided to close its Fleet Centre in Haifa, now intends to expand it and make it the southern anchor of its Mediterranean operation, USO president Charles Hagel told The Jerusalem Post yesterday.

HAIFA - The American United Services Organization, which last February decided to close its Fleet Centre in Haifa, now intends to expand it and make it the southern anchor of its Mediterranean operation, USO president Charles Hagel told The Jerusalem Post yesterday.

The closure decision came under heavy fire from the citizens of Haifa, the Sixth Fleet and American-Jewish circles. Hagel explained that the Haifa centre will be maintained, while 10 other USO centres in Mediterranean countries are being closed as scheduled.

He said the U.S. Navy and the State Department had agreed that, for military and diplomatic reasons, the Haifa centre was "very necessary." The community support given by residents, as well as 200 protest letters, mainly from American-Jewish circles, had influenced the decision. Hagel noted that the protesters had backed their demands with funds, and some \$60,000 had already been raised to support the centre.

Hagel, 43, is a decorated Vietnam veteran who has served as deputy head of the Veterans Administration. In February 1987, he was elected president of USO, a voluntary organization catering to the personal needs of U.S. servicemen in 160 centres worldwide. At the time it was practically bankrupt, with a \$ 1.5 million deficit. It is now \$ 1.8 million in the black.

LOAD-DATE: May 6, 1991

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

Copyright 1989 The Jerusalem Post