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Happy New Year

ROSH HASHANAH EDITION - 5725

לשנה טובה

USHERING IN 5725, JEWS PRAY FOR WORLD PEACE, ISRAEL'S WELFARE

NEW YORK, Sept. 6. (JTA) -- Jews throughout the world began at sundown tonight the observance of the Jewish New Year 5725 in prayerful hope for permanent peace everywhere, for the succor of their fellow-Jews in the Soviet Union and other countries of distress, and for Israel's welfare in a convulsively hostile Arab world.

American Jews rededicated themselves to the protection and enlargement of the goals essential to the creative survival of the American Jewish community in a world of rapid change. These included support of local, national and overseas relief programs, expansion of Jewish education and widening of Jewish culture, including study of Hebrew, and the education of the young. The goals of American Jewry were reaffirmed in New Year messages from leaders of all American Jewish organizations.

The many thousands of American Jewish servicemen and women on duty at home and abroad in such distant places as South Vietnam, Guantanamo Bay and the Azores, and their dependents, observed the New Year with services conducted by 74 full-time and 250 part-time Jewish chaplains, provided through the National Jewish Welfare Board's "Operation Rosh Hashanah." Cooperating were local JWB Armed Forces and Veterans Services committees, Jewish community centers, synagogues and other local Jewish institutions. Religious supplies and kosher foods for the overseas installations were shipped by JWB to the remotest outposts.

Israel Uppermost in Messages from U. J. A., J. D. C., Agency, Bonds

Joseph Meyerhoff, general chairman of the United Jewish Appeal, said in a Rosh Hashanah message that the UJA would continue to pursue the goals of providing haven for more thousands of newcomers to Israel, aiding the thousands of earlier immigrants "to build a creative future," and bring vital aid to "uprooted or distressed Jews in 30 other countries." He declared that "the dedicated response of American Jews to these continuing needs is affirmation of their devotion to the great philanthropic tradition of the Jewish people."

Edward M. M. Warburg, chairman of the Joint Distribution Committee, noted: "Tens of thousands of Jews will celebrate Rosh Hashanah this year because JDC made it possible for them to do so. The million American Jews who support JDC through their annual contributions to the United Jewish Appeal--and the tens of thousands of Jews in Canada, England, France and other countries who also provide the funds and manpower to carry on this work--can take extra pride in the role they played and continue to play." He noted also that the new year marked the 50th anniversary of JDC.

Dewey D. Stone, chairman of the Jewish Agency for Israel, Inc., said that, as Jewry entered 5725, the Jewish Agency for Israel, Inc. the major beneficiary of the UJA, "still faces many formidable immigration and rehabilitation problems" for Jews in distress, both in lands of oppression and in Israel. On their behalf, he appealed to American Jews "to rededicate themselves to this great humanitarian work."

Mrs. Rose L. Halprin, chairman of the American Section of the Jewish Agency, cited the difficulties still suffered by Jews in the Soviet Union and Latin America, the threats to Israel posed by Arab boycott activities, and the work of West German scientists in Egypt on offensive weapons. These, she said, are problems for the solution of which "the overwhelming majority of the Jewish people in the free world will continue to lend every assistance to Israel."

Abraham Feinberg, president of the Israel Bond Organization, predicted that, in the coming year, the role of American Jews in aiding Israel through Israel Bonds would be "decisive in such vital projects as the opening of the new deep-water port at Ashdod, the fuller implementation of the national water system, and the establishment of many new towns with industries and homes for the rapid growth of the population through natural increase and immigration."

Responsibilities of American Jewry Emphasized; Extremism Condemned

Louis Stern, president of the Council of Jewish Federations and Welfare Funds, said in New Year greetings that Jewish communities in this country, as well as abroad, were seeking to re-examine what "are the proper and priority responsibilities of Jews in a changing

world;" He urged re-assessment of what the role should be of American Jews in helping "to build an American society which will assure all of its citizens the dignity and decency which is the birthright of every human being, giving force to the most fundamental of Jewish teachings."

Murray I. Gurfain, president of United Hias Service, said that "the pressures which had driven millions of Jews to flee their native lands throughout the 80 years that United Hias Service has been in existence, unfortunately, are still prevalent today."

Dr. William Haber, president of the American ORT Federation, recalled in his New Year's message that "each year of this decade of the sixties has produced its quota of the displaced and the refugee. Such is the nature of the age that the New Year will just as surely send new thousands down the refugee road. They will need aid to sink new roots in Israel."

A New Year appeal to all Jewish communities and organizations "to support in all possible ways the worldwide movement toward universal freedom from fear of war and to join with their fellow citizens in a common effort" to realize this ideal, "which for centuries has been of the substance of the Jewish heritage" was issued by Samuel Bronfman, vice-president of the World Jewish Congress.

Morris Abram, president of the American Jewish Committee, warned in a New Year message that "the democratic process is seriously threatened by extremists, right or left, who would destroy democracy in pursuit of its goals." He pledged his organization "to continue its efforts to bring religious and cultural freedom" to co-religionists in the Soviet Union, Latin America and other areas of Jewish difficulty.

Dr. Joachim Prinz, president of the American Jewish Congress, declared that the New Year came at a "moment of great discovery for Jewish religious life" in the United States, the discovery that "Judaism must play an active role in society, that rabbis and congregations must not shrink from participating in the solution of racial inequality, poverty and other social ills which demean human dignity."

Common Aims of Israeli and American Jewry Stressed in Statements

Dr. Max Nussbaum, chairman, and Nathaniel S. Rothenberg, chairman of the Administrative Committee of the American Zionist Council, declared that "the very survival of our people depends upon the measure of initiative we will take in rallying the united forces of American Jewry for the primary aim of the preservation of the identity and unity of the Jewish community through an organized effort in the extension and development of Jewish education" to impart to the young generation of American Jews "the values of Judaism and its spiritual heritage, to spread the knowledge of the Hebrew language and Israel's resplendent Hebrew culture."

Dr. Nussbaum, as president of the Zionist Organization of America, declared also that "the reunification of the American Jewish community through the establishment of a unified representative body, patterned after the former American Jewish Conference, has now become a matter of imperative need."

Mrs. Mortimer Jacobson, president of Hadassah, offered a prayer that the New Year would witness the alleviation of the plight of Soviet Jewry and agreement by the Arabs to meet at the peace table with Israel. "In welcoming the Jewish New Year," she said, "we in Hadassah rededicate ourselves once again to advancing the health and well-being of the people of Israel through our programs of healing, teaching and research, child rehabilitation and education, and vocational training. And we rededicate ourselves anew to the tasks of strengthening Jewish life in America, and to helping perpetuate the Jewish heritage and Jewish ideals among the Jewish youth of our country."

Dr. Israel Goldstein and Mrs. Rose L. Halprin, co-chairmen of the World Confederation of General Zionists, told American Jewry that the problem facing Jews outside of Israel and those facing the Jews in Israel were so closely inter-related that solutions could not be sought for the problems of the former "without considering the problems of Israeli Jews." "Nor," they added, "can Israel concern itself with the problems of its own Jewry without an awareness of the problems of Jews elsewhere."

Pleas on Behalf of Soviet Jewry Issued by Religious Leaders

In addition to a New Year message, a High Holy Day proclamation on Soviet Jewry was issued by the Synagogue Council of America, the coordinating agency for the rabbinic and congregational agencies of Reform, Orthodox and Conservative Judaism. The proclamation, on behalf of the American Jewish religious community, publicly voiced "our protest and indignation over the denial of religious and cultural rights to 3,000,000 of our co-religionists in the Soviet Union," and proclaimed 5725 "as a year of concern for Soviet Jewry and of forthright and determined action to obtain equal rights and freedom for Soviet Jewry."

New Year messages also were issued by Rabbi Max Schenk, president of the New York Board of Rabbis; Dr. Louis W. Jones, president of the National Conference of Christians and Jews; Dr. Samuel Belkin, president of Yeshiva University; Mrs. Joseph Willen, president of the National Council of Jewish Women; Mrs. Albert Fried, president of the National Women's League of the United Synagogue of America; Rabbi Max J. Routtenberg, president of the Rabbinical Assembly of America; Rabbi Abraham B. Hecht, president of the

Rabbinical Alliance of America; Edward Sharf, president of B'nai Zion; Rabbi Mordecai Kirshblum, president of the Religious Zionists of America. Mrs. Eli Resnikoff, president of the Mizrahi Women's Organization of America.

Also, Moses I. Feuerstein, president of the Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations of America; the Lubavitcher Rebbe; Rabbi Leon I. Feuer, president of the Central Conference of American Rabbis; Leon Kronitz, president of the Labor Zionist movement of Canada; Rabbi A. M. Hershsberg, president of the Union of Orthodox Rabbis and of the Federation of Orthodox Communities of Latin America; and others.

PRESIDENT JOHNSON GREETES AMERICAN JEWISH COMMUNITY ON ROSH HASHANAH

WASHINGTON, Sept. 6. (JTA) -- President Johnson issued today Rosh Hashanah greetings to the American Jewish community through the Jewish Telegraphic Agency. His message read: "On the eve of Rosh Hashanah and the High Holy Days, I extend to all my fellow Americans of the Jewish faith cordial greetings and my warmest wishes for a happy, tranquil and spiritually meaningful year."

"The High Holy Days, with their penitential and exalting liturgy, constitute a perennial reminder of Judaism's profound dedication to the advancement of social justice and to the pursuit of world peace. These are everlasting imperatives. Ours is an age of both social and spiritual revival. Although marred at times by conflict among nations and bigotry within the family of man, it is nevertheless an age of new hope--hope for the sick and the poor--hope for those who suffer persecution--hope that our children will live in a better and brighter world. It is appropriate that all Americans join in the resolve to work for the uprooting of bigotry, discrimination and persecution, and in prayers for peace."

SHAZAR, ESHKOL ISSUE NEW YEAR GREETINGS; STRESS PEACE, DEFENSE

JERUSALEM, Sept. 6. (JTA) -- In a Rosh Hashanah message calling for the strengthening of Israel and Jewish life the world over, Israel's President Zalman Shazar noted the "grave and bitter trials mankind continued to endure throughout the past year." He voiced hope that the coming year "will bring us closer to the time when the sword will not judge between peoples and the mighty; and marvelous conquests of science will be diverted to joining the war against hunger, disease, ignorance and desolation."

President Shazar deplored the fact that, "while Israel's hand is extended for peace, the face of the Arabs is still turned toward war, and they are being misled by the intoxicating, blinding slogan--the desire to annihilate us." He voiced the hope that the new year will bring "the blessing of free aliyah from every corner of the world" and called upon Jews everywhere to "resist the process of self-deprecation and fragmentation and, most dangerous of all, spiritual impoverishment."

Prime Minister Levi Eshkol expressed the hope in his Rosh Hashanah greeting that the new year would "bring its blessing to those who are devoted to our Land and to those who engage in its defense." Turning to the "Jewish communities in lands of dispersion marked by persecution and separation from our people," Mr. Eshkol declared:

"We are today again witnesses to Jewish communities facing the danger of rising anti-Semitism in the lands where they dwell. Jewish communities, and among them a very large one, live cut off from the body of the Jewish people, without ways of expressing their Jewishness, and prevented from coming and joining their families in Israel. We know their distress. They are our brothers--in the past, the present and the future--in suffering and in hope; we wish them a year of pride and redemption."

Voicing the greetings of the Israel Government "to our millions of brothers in the lands of abundance," Premier Eshkol declared: "May this year be a year of deepening their Jewish identity, a year of fruitful activity on behalf of Jewish education, and the strengthening of Israel."

Other messages of New Year greetings were extended by Ashkenazi Chief Rabbi Isser Yehuda Unterman, Sephardi Chief Rabbi Yitzhak Nissim, and Chief Chaplain Shlomo Goren.

ARAB SUMMIT MEETING OPENS; ANTI-ISRAELI MOVES LEAD AGENDA

LCNDCN, Sept. 6. (JTA) -- The chiefs of state of the 13 Arab League nations opened their summit conference in Alexandria last night with the primary purpose of arriving at some form of agreement on joint countermeasures to Israel's Jordan River irrigation project, and on the establishment of a united Arab military command. Action on both these measures was announced at the conclusion of the last Arab summit conference in January, but no progress has been made on either project to date.

At the opening session, the Arab leaders approved an agenda which includes a discussion of threatened Arab projects to divert the Jordan waters from Israeli use. The conference agenda also includes follow-up action on decisions of the first Arab leaders' meeting on the establishment of a united military command, and the presentation of the Arab case to the rest of the world. Lack of progress on the Arab Jordan River diversion projects was attributed by observers here to the unwillingness of Lebanon to accommodate any other Arab military forces in its territory, where most of the Jordan River tributaries have their source.

VATICAN DENIES NEW ECUMENICAL DRAFT AIMS AT CONVERTING JEWS

ROME, Sept. 6. (JTA) -- A high Vatican source asserted yesterday that the revised draft of the Ecumenical Council statement on Catholic-Jewish relations had been erroneously interpreted as containing an appeal to Jews to convert to Catholicism.

The comment, stressing that the new draft was to be considered a proposal for discussion, and thus subject to change, was made in reply to the publication in New York last week of part of the revised draft which evoked sharp and widespread criticism from Jewish leaders in many countries. Observers here said the reply had been made with remarkable speed and with obvious surprise at the strong negative reaction from Jewish sources.

The source asserted that the new text deviated only in form, and little in substance, from the original text proposed at the second session of the Council. The source insisted that the controversial paragraphs on conversion were "only" a reminder that, according to Paul, the reunion of the Jewish people with the Catholic church constituted part of the "Christian hope," and that the Church therefore waited "with confidence" for the "adhesion" of the Jewish people.

The source compared the statement on the Jews and the crucifixion in the original and revised drafts, and said the revision made it clear that the new text held it was "unjust to call this people decide, or to consider it cursed by God. Saint Paul in his Letter to the Romans assured us that God never abandoned his elected people." For these reasons, the source said, "this time it had been preferred not to speak even of decide." The source referred to the fact that the word decide, which appeared in the original version, does not appear in the revised draft.

A source close to the Secretariat for the promotion of Christian unity added that publication of the full text would prove useful because many criticisms were made without knowledge of the entire text.

'DECIDE' CHARGE EVOKES ANTI-JEWISH FEELINGS, A.D.L. REPORTS

NEW YORK, Sept. 6. (JTA) -- A significant number of American Catholics expressed anti-Jewish prejudice stemming from their interpretation of the crucifixion story, the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith said today in a preliminary report on a survey of Catholic attitude. Dore Schary, ADL chairman, in releasing the initial findings of the study, also criticized the clause in a revised Ecumenical Council draft on Catholic-Jewish relations which cites the Church's traditional desire to convert Jews. He called the clause "extremely unfortunate."

The study showed that 61 per cent of Catholics named Jews as "most responsible for crucifying Christ" and 22 per cent blamed the Romans. Those blaming the Jews tended to "attribute evil motives to the Jews for rejecting Christ as the Messiah." Forty-two per cent said Jews "were deceived by the wicked priests who feared Christ."

Mr. Schary said that data also indicated that "such liberal denominations as the Congregational and Episcopal were less likely to hold negative religious images of Jews. Moderate bodies, such as Lutherans, closely paralleled Catholics. Fundamentalist groups, such as the Southern Baptists were more likely than Catholics to be hostile toward Jews."

The survey also showed there was a strong link between acceptance of secular stereotypes of the Jews and belief that ancient and modern Jews are to blame for the crucifixion. The survey is being conducted at the Survey Research Center at the University of California. Completion of the study will take another year.

Heschel Denounces New Council Draft, Sees 'Spiritual Fratricide'

In a related development, a leading Jewish theologian denounced the new Ecumenical Council draft as "not only ineffective but also profoundly injurious" and one that could lead to "spiritual fratricide." Dr. Abraham Joshua Heschel, professor of ethics and Jewish mysticism at the Jewish Theological Seminary, declared that any message which regards Jews as candidates for conversion "proclaims that the destiny of Judaism is to disappear." He said this would be "abhorred by Jews all over the world," stating it was "bound to foster reciprocal distrust as well as bitterness and resentment."

Saying he had repeatedly told "leading personalities of the Vatican" that he was "ready to go to Auschwitz any time if faced with the alternatives of conversion or death," he declared that Jews everywhere would be "dismayed by a call from the Vatican to abandon their faith in a generation which witnessed the massacre of 6,000,000 Jews and the destruction of thousands of synagogues in Christian Europe."

Dr. Heschel expressed the "profound hope" that the draft would again be revised so that the "overwhelming majority of the Council fathers, who have courageously expressed their desire to eradicate sources of tension between Catholics and Jews, will have an opportunity to vote on a statement which will express this sacred aspiration." The next session of the Ecumenical Council convenes September 14.