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Jews Meet the New Year of 5728 With Prayers for World Peace

NEW YORK, Oct. 4. (JTA) — Jews throughout the world assembled tonight in synagogues to greet the New Year of 5728 and to express in communal prayer their hopes for world peace, for the security of an Israel which once again passed through the trial of war last June and for the security of Jews in the Soviet Union and other lands where persecution continued. Jews in uniform offered prayers on battle-ships, in fox holes and on cease-fire lines.

The first Rosh Hashana service anywhere in the world took place Tuesday at 5 a.m., New York Time, for a group of Jewish airmen and sailors on the island of Guam. Hour by hour, as the sun set in each time zone, other High Holy Day services either were held or scheduled for Jewish servicemen in Viet Nam and at more than 600 other overseas and domestic installations, according to Rabbi Selwyn D. Ruslander, chairman of the Commission on Jewish Chaplaincy of the Jewish Welfare Board, which made the arrangements for the services. He said the last large military service would take place in Hawaii and the very last one will be attended by two men stationed at Wake Island.

The JWB arranged similar facilities for services for Peace Corps volunteers throughout the world. The JWB's Women's Organizations' Services, together with B'nai B'rith and B'nai B'rith Women, sent miniature replicas of arks, complete with Torah Scrolls, to military installations where there are no permanent chapels. Among troops using the replicas will be soldiers on front line duty in Viet Nam, who cannot attend regular services, and patients in Veterans Administration hospitals who are bed-ridden.

Special Arrangements Made for Jews in Hospitals and Institutions

Many thousands of Jews in hospitals, homes for the aged, child care residences and community centers throughout the United States also took part in services. In Metropolitan New York, arrangements were made by the Federation of Jewish Philanthropies for patients in the many affiliated institutions of the Federation. Many Federation institutions have on-premise synagogues. In centers, Y's and family and child care agencies, auditoriums and special rooms were converted into chapels for Rosh Hashana.

The New York Society for the Deaf held services in its headquarters in the Emanuel Midtown YM and YWHA in Manhattan. The services were conducted orally for those who could read lines, with a simultaneous translation into sign language. A choir of four women interpreted in sign language the musical portions of the service. The Hebrew Association of the Deaf in Chicago again provided services in Temple Beth El in that city.

Blind Jews in the United States, Israel and other countries were again provided with Braille editions of prayerbooks and long-playing recordings of New Year services by the Jewish Braille Institute.

Some 900 Orthodox, Conservative and Reform rabbis throughout the United States signed a "Call to American Jewry" which stressed "the insoluble link between American Jewry and Israel."

An appeal to worshippers in the Greater New York area to remember in their New Year observances the needs of Jews throughout the world was made by Edward M.M. Warburg, president of the United Jewish Appeal of Greater New York, who stressed the problems of half a million newcomers to Israel and thousands of Jews fleeing from Arab countries who are dependent on programs financed by the UJA.

Rabbi Edward T. Sandrow, president of the New York Board of Rabbis, asked the 900 members of the board to offer special prayers for peace during the High Holy Days, peace in Israel, the entire Middle East and in Viet Nam.

In Israel, three services were held in East Jerusalem for the first time since the 1948 War of Independence. One service was conducted at the Western Wall where thousands of Israeli Jews and High Holy Day visitors congregated. Another service, conducted by followers of the Lubavitcher Rebbe of Brooklyn, was held at the former Habad Synagogue. The third was held at Ayei Olam Yeshiva. The synagogue and the yeshiva were leading places of worship before the 1948 war. They were desecrated in the intervening years by the Jordanians. Jews coming to the Western Wall found that workers had completed excavations of two additional layers of walls and stones to a depth of three yards.

President Johnson and American Political Leaders Greet Jews on New Year

WASHINGTON, Oct. 4. (JTA) — President Lyndon B. Johnson and national, state and local leaders joined today in extending greetings to the Jewish people on the advent of the New Year. The President said in a message from the White House that "as my fellow Americans of the Jewish faith observe the coming of a New Year, I am happy to extend to each of you my warmest wishes for health and happiness." The President noted that "we are in the midst of a trying and troubled time — a time that tests the bedrock beliefs of our fathers and the founders of this land. No citizens are better equipped than you to meet the challenge before us." He added that "adversity and distress have been the constant companions of your people. But valor and endurance have been your steadfast friends — and our own pathfinders in need. So as you gather in these penitential days under the fatherhood of God, the brotherhood of man is enriched by a well-remembered past and a resurgent hope for that which is to come. And all of us are humbled — and heartened — by the sustaining faith of Judaism in our midst."

Vice-President Hubert H. Humphrey, sending his "warmest greetings" on the New Year "to so many friends and neighbors, so many families in all parts of this nation and overseas," voiced heartfelt wishes "to you for a year of affection, a year of progress, a year of human splendor."

Gov. Nelson A. Rockefeller of New York, offering greetings to "all Americans of Jewish faith and to the Jewish people the world over," said that the High Holy Days were "an occasion for Americans of all creeds who live up to the ideals upon which our republic was founded to manifest their sincere friendship for their Jewish fellow citizens." It was fitting at this time, he said, "that we acknowledge the great contribution of the Jewish people to the material and spiritual growth of our nation." He concluded with an expression of hope "for the establishment of just and lasting peace in the Near East."

John V. Lindsay, Mayor of New York, noting that New York City is "the home of the world's largest single Jewish community," stressed that "we are deeply indebted to the teachings of Judaism, with its emphasis upon freedom, justice and brotherhood. These have been the foundation stones which have enabled the House of Israel to endure through the centuries, and which have made modern Israel an example to the young developing nations of the world. At no time have these precepts of Judaism had greater meaning for us, here in our city, in the nation and in the world at large."

Israeli Leaders Stress Need for Closer Ties Between Israel and Jews of World

JERUSALEM, Oct. 4. (JTA) — Prime Minister Levi Eshkol of Israel issued a New Year's message to the Jews of the world in which he fervently prayed that the New Year, "the twentieth of Israel reborn, be a splendid year for the Jewish people — a year of freedom for all our nation, a year of cultural flowering, a year of great uplift and of a great aliyah."

The Prime Minister recalled the fateful days of the past year and said that when the enemy "was tightening the noose of strangulation around us and opening the assault," Israel fought alone. "We had but one ally — the Jewish people," he declared, and noted with pride that "the Jewish people in all the countries of the world came valiantly forward, with all its might and main, to help Israel."

He warned that while the war was over, "many a hard battle still awaits us" and he stressed that "in the coming struggle we will continue to need the succor of our one ally — the Jewish people" to transform victory into the basis of a permanent peace, and to keep building the Israel of the future.

President Zalman Shazar, in his greeting to the Jews of the world, made a plea for immigration and for development of Israel to enable the country to absorb all the Jews who wished to settle there. He said Jews must not rest "nor allow the world to rest until the governments that now forbid aliyah from their countries revoke that cruel edict and allow those of their citizens who so wish, to join their families in Israel for their own benefit and ours." He stressed the need for education for Jewish youth.

"He who answered us in days of test and heroism will answer, too, in the years of striving for the unity of the people, the prosperity of the land and the establishment of lasting peace," President Shazar declared. "May the ancient promise be fulfilled for us: 'And you shall dwell in the land which the Lord your God giveth you to inherit, and He shall give you rest from all your enemies roundabout, so that you dwell in safety.'"

Rabbi Isser Untermann, Ashkenazic Chief Rabbi of Israel, prayed that the New Year would bring "full redemption to our people, strengthening the light of Israel and of the Torah, and comfort to Zion and Jerusalem." Israel's recent travail, he said, had "touched off sparks of belief even in the hearts of those whose belief had been dormant," and he said "the task for Israel — the State and the Diaspora — is to keep those sparks alive and to join them into a great spiritual force that will give both light and warmth." The Chief Rabbi also issued a special prayer for the wellbeing of the Jews in the Soviet Union and in the Arab states to be recited in all Israeli synagogues tonight and on the eve of Yom Kippur, the Day of Atonement.

Rabbi Yitzhak Nissim, the Sephardic Chief Rabbi, rejoiced in his New Year message over the liberation of Jerusalem and declared that "the people of Israel have again become one nation." He proclaimed the New Year — the first after the redemption of Jerusalem — as "the Year of Jerusalem."

American Jewish Leaders Outline Tasks, Problems of New Year

NEW YORK, Oct. 4. (JTA) — As Jews throughout the world ushered in the New Year tonight with prayers for world peace in general and for the security of Israel in particular, leaders of all national Jewish organizations called for the strengthening of continued aid to the Jewish State as it faces unprecedented diplomatic, social and economic problems in the immediate future. All voiced high praise for the dramatic response shown by American Jewry this year as Israel faced what one American organization called "the costs of victory."

That formulation was expressed on behalf of the United Jewish Appeal by Max M. Fisher, of Detroit, general chairman, and Rabbi Herbert A. Friedman, executive vice-chairman. Voicing the hope that Rosh Hashana, "called the birthday of the world," may bring world peace this year, Mr. Fisher pointed out that "the gallant people of Israel paid a heavy price for winning the struggle for survival." Israel's crisis, he stated, "is not over; it has merely entered a new stage. The people of Israel have won victory but not peace. They are forced to maintain a mobilization which continues to affect their economy and their progressive development program."

Mr. Fisher pointed out that UJA's humanitarian mission "is still the major responsibility of the United Jewish Appeal as we enter the New Year. We are also inspired to deepen our concern for the additional hundreds of thousands of Jews in need, in 30 countries other than Israel, many of whom have been adversely affected by the recent conflict, and who are served by the UJA-supported Joint Distribution Committee." Rabbi Friedman added that "it is clear to everyone that we have many difficult months ahead." While this year's Jewish responses to Israel's grave needs have been "glorious" and "magnificent," he said, and Jewish generosity resulted in outstanding "humanitarian achievements," Israel now faces further Arab intransigence, backed by the re-supply of Soviet armaments, territorial problems, the issue of integrating the Arab populations in the conquered areas, domestic unemployment and "old social problems that the war did not solve or cause to disappear." "It is clear," he declared, that the forthcoming UJA campaign "will require tremendous output of devotion and energy to produce a result that will give Israel the strength to hold out until the solutions begin to emerge."

Federation Leader Sees Past Year as Productive, Gratifying

On behalf of the Council of Jewish Federation and Welfare Funds, its president, Louis J. Fox, of Baltimore, noted that the past year "has been a productive year, a gratifying year" when the American Jewish people "poured great energy into meeting great needs. The crisis and war in Israel," he stated, "attracted the greatest philanthropic response in Jewish history." But our task at this particular Rosh Hashana is more solemn than to simply review recent accomplishments with self-satisfaction. We must look forward to assure that the objects of our help continue to be supported and sustained. This year, for the first time in 19 years, the Shofar will be blown at the Western Wall. For the first time in 1,900 years, the Jews control the site of Solomon's Temple. We can feel some small part of helping to make these dreams a modern reality. But, more important, in facing the future, we must hope and pray that there will be a lasting peace in the Middle East and all the world. We must seek a way to help man to live with his neighbor and his brother in understanding."

Dr. Dewey D. Stone, chairman of the United Israel Appeal, noted that, this year, High Holy Day services were being conducted "at the spot most sacred to our tradition, the Western Wall in the heart of the Old City of Jerusalem." "No other event," he said, "could highlight so poignantly the historical continuity of the Jewish people. In this continuity of Jewish identity and mutual responsibility, the United Israel Appeal has been privileged to play a significant role. As the arm of American Jewry and the principal beneficiary of the United Jewish Appeal, it has been instrumental in the rescue and ingathering of over 1,000,000 Jews from the four corners of the earth. As we approach these High Holy Days, we pledge to continue this vital philanthropic program. We join our brothers in Israel and throughout the world in their prayers for the welfare, safety and peace for all mankind."

Mrs. Rose L. Halprin, chairman of the Jewish Agency-American Section, also stressed prayer for peace in her New Year greeting. "The peace we yearn for," she declared, "can be accomplished only by direct contacts and negotiation; no peace can be imposed on the Middle East. We also wish for peace in other troubled areas. In our beloved America, we must work and strive for a racial peace built on mutual respect and understanding. We trust that the New Year will see the end of hostilities in Viet Nam. We are hopeful that the leaders of the Soviet Union will see the justice and wisdom of granting cultural, religious and educational equality to its Jewish minority."

Strengthening Israel's Foundations Urged as Key to Peace

"Strengthening the foundations of Israel's future" was urged by Abraham Feinberg, president of the State of Israel Bond Organization. Noting that Israel's entire economy had come to a halt during the year's Arab-Israel war and crisis, he stated: "It is of vital importance that the heartening and overwhelming response of American Jewry through Israel Bonds in recent months should go forward with the same spirit of unity and dedication in years ahead. Israel has written an historic chapter for peace. We can write the sequel in an historic chapter for economic development through the success of the new \$500 million fourth Development Issue of State of Israel Bonds."

Human Rights, Peace, Justice, Goals to be Achieved

Morris B. Abram, president of the American Jewish Committee, pledged on behalf of the Committee, "in its seventh decade of service to Jews and to all mankind, a continuation and reaffirmation of the goals for which we have striven since our inception: The preservation of our American democracy, the protection of the civil and religious rights of Jews everywhere, the improvement of human relations among all people, the safeguarding of the right of every man to be secure in his homeland, and the establishment of peace and justice everywhere." Noting that the Jews of Israel this year "had been put to the test of fire and sword," he declared: "We pray for peace and stability in the Middle East and throughout the world. We are hopeful that all of the states and all of the peoples in that area will now recognize that only through direct settlement of their differences and the forging of permanent peace settlements can security and progress for all be assured."

Rabbi Arthur J. Lelyveld of Cleveland, president of the American Jewish Congress, declared that, "in our joy over the fact that those who would destroy Israel have been dispersed and the peril to her existence removed, we cannot diminish our efforts in behalf of our fellow-Jews seeking to practice their faith and express their culture in the Soviet Union. Nor can we reduce our participation in the struggle for racial and economic justice in America."

Samuel Bronfman, vice-president of the World Jewish Congress and chairman of the WJC's North American executive committee, called on Jews "to strengthen Jewish life and defend Jewish rights everywhere, regardless of economic, social or political system. We must make intolerance, reason and justice our allies, and always we must be mindful that, in the ultimate analysis, the fight for Jewish rights is indissolubly linked to the fight for fundamental human rights, for the dignity and worth of the human person, for the rights of all nations and peoples, large and small."

Dr. Emanuel Neumann, president of the World Union of General Zionists, said that "the new challenges and staggering burdens that Israel has assumed 'cannot and must not be borne by its citizens alone but call for redoubled effort by all Zionists and all friends of Israel throughout the world.'" Dr. Israel Goldstein and Mrs. Halprin, co-chairmen of the World Confederation of General Zionists, voiced their "fervent prayer that the uneasy calm achieved in the Middle East may be turned into lasting and permanent peace. In this solemn hour, Jews throughout the world are united and resolute on behalf of security for Israel and the continuation of Jewish survival in the Diaspora."

Other New Year messages expressing, among other sentiments, continued staunch support for Israel, were issued by Rabbi Israel Miller, chairman of the American Zionist Council; Jacques Torczyner, president of the Zionist Organization of America; Mrs. Mortimer Jacobson, president of Hadassah, the women's Zionist organization of America; Joseph Schlossberg, president of the National Committee for Israel; Dr. Milton Aron, executive vice-president of the Jewish National Fund of America; and other Zionist leaders.

Rabbi Jacob Philip Rudin, president of the Synagogue Council of America, expressed the hope that in the New Year, "the Jewishness of the community will be deepened and reenforced; a New Year for America, a year in which the sense of community will burgeon forth."

Other New Year messages were issued by Carlos L. Israels, president of United Hias Service; Dr. William Haber, president of the American ORT Federation; Louis Stern, president of the National Jewish Welfare Board; and the heads of virtually all other national Jewish organizations in the United States.

Tashlich Rites to be Performed on Banks of Suez Canal

TEL AVIV, Oct. 4. (JTA) — For the first time in history, Jewish soldiers will perform the rite of Tashlich on the banks of the Suez Canal tomorrow when Israeli army units participate in the customary High Holy Day practices in Israeli-held Arab territories. The Tashlich ceremony, in which Jews symbolically throw their sins into the sea, usually takes place on the second day of Rosh Hashana.

The Army Chief Rabbinate issued special instructions on High Holy Day observances by troops on duty on the cease-fire lines and in bases. Special Shofar blowers have been dispatched to larger units and to remote defense posts so that the shofar blowing tradition will be maintained for as many of the troops as possible.

Lydda airport had its busiest pre-season day yesterday when 25 planeloads of High Holy Day visitors arrived. The influx of tourists began last week and reached a peak yesterday when more than 3,000 visitors arrived by air alone. Hotels throughout Israel were reported fully booked for overseas and domestic tourists.

Rabin Says Battle Will Be Carried to Enemy Soil if Fighting Resumes

TEL AVIV, Oct. 4. (JTA) — Gen. Yitzhak Rabin, Israel's chief of staff, declared today that, if war broke out again, Israel was ready to carry the fight from its present bases in occupied Arab territory, in a strategy of fighting the enemy on the enemy's soil. Meanwhile, he told Yediot Achronot in an interview, Israel would continue to maintain its occupation positions until a settlement was reached with the Arab countries.