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שנה חמשה עשר

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Jews Around The World Greet 5729, The New Year, With Prayers For Peace

NEW YORK, Sept. 22 (JTA)--Jews throughout the globe gathered tonight in synagogues to greet the New Year of 5729 and to express in communal prayer their wishes for world peace, for Israel's security, and for just resolution of the many problems confronting society locally, nationally and internationally.

The first Rosh Hashanah service anywhere in the world took place in Guam for Jewish Air Force men and sailors based there. As the sun set hour by hour in succeeding time zones, other High Holy Day services were scheduled for Jewish servicemen, according to Rabbi Selwyn D. Ruslander, chairman of the Jewish Welfare Board's Commission on Jewish Chaplaincy. Rosh Hashanah will continue through sundown on Tuesday, Sept. 24. Yom Kippur, the Day of Atonement, will begin at sundown on Tuesday, Oct. 1, and will end at sunset on Wednesday, Oct. 2.

The JWB supplied Torah Scrolls, prayer books, prayer shawls, skull caps, ram's horns, kosher foods, Jewish calendars and inspirational literature for the Holy Days throughout the world and at all installations and Veterans Administration hospitals in the United States. The same items have been sent to Peace Corps personnel.

The Jewish blind throughout the U.S., Canada, Israel and other countries participated in religious services fully integrated with sighted members of their congregations. This had been made possible through braille editions of special prayer books for Rosh Hashanah provided free of charge by the Jewish Braille Institute of America.

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 to attend services in its many affiliated institutions.

Eshkol Urges Jews To Come To Israel; Shazar Cites Progress, Difficulties

In Israel, Prime Minister Levi Eshkol, in a message, urged members of the young generation all over the world to come to Israel to "savor its atmosphere and become acquainted with its people." He recalled that in 5728 Israel marked its 20th anniversary and said the year was a "good" one with "solid gains in a number of fields." He expressed hope that Jews in the Soviet Union will be allowed to play a part in Israel's renaissance. President Zalman Shazar cited progress during the past year, national difficulties, and declared that Israel has "withstood attack after attack not only in battle but in the world political arena." He expressed hope that "antagonists of many years" will "become good neighbors, perhaps even allies." At least 1,000,000 of Israel's 2,500,000 Jews planned to spend the High Holy Days away from their homes, with Jerusalem the most favored place where an estimated 300,000 Jews planned to stay for visits to the Western Wall for services. Orthodox Jewish settlers in Hebron were given permission to hold High Holy Days services at the Tomb of the Patriarchs in the West Bank town by Defense Minister Moshe Dayan, despite complaints by Moslem leaders. Gen. Dayan said that Jews had been barred from entering the Moslem mosque over the tomb on Moslem holidays even during the hours normally set aside for Jewish visitors. He said the Moslems should similarly respect Jewish holy days. The Moslem leaders had refused to allow High Holy Day services to be held at the tomb though the request had referred to hours when the mosque is usually closed.

In London, World Jewish Congress president Dr. Nahum Goldmann said in a message that during the past year new dangers have arisen to challenge the "right of Jews in Eastern Europe to live as Jews," and called upon world Jewry to make "strenuous efforts to secure" their "right to maintain their identity and develop their own life." The Central Council of Jews in Germany, in Duesseldorf, said it prayed that West German democracy will be strengthened in the coming year, noting that the radical right in West Germany is a cause of concern for supporters of democracy.

President Johnson, Hubert H. Humphrey And Richard M. Nixon Greet Jews On New Year

WASHINGTON, Sept. 22 (JTA)--President Lyndon B. Johnson today headed the list of national, state and local leaders who extended New Year's greetings to American Jewry. In a message from the White House, Mr. Johnson said "to my fellow Americans of the Jewish faith, I send my warmest wishes for health, happiness and spiritual refreshment on this eve of the High Holy Days." The President noted that "according to sacred tradition, this is the time when Jewish people reconsecrate their covenant with God...It is a time for meditation on the past and prayer to God for the strength and ability to do what is right in the future." The President said that "we have much to do before we can say, in good conscience, that all Americans live as brothers, that no man lives in want. I have faith that the day will come when this beloved land will know in fullness the true blessings of justice and equality and I have faith that Americans of the Jewish faith will continue to do their share in helping us reach this desired destiny. For the years ahead, I hope that all Americans may be inscribed in the Book of Life -- so that all may work in unity to help bring God's blessings to our country."

Vice President Hubert H. Humphrey, the Democratic Presidential nominee, and Richard M. Nixon, the Republican nominee, also addressed themselves to the American Jewish community. Mr.

Humphrey said, "As the Jewish people have faced challenges for 5,728 years, so the American nation is challenged today — at home and abroad." He warned that America's proven record of progress in peoples' lives cannot "be abandoned to slogans motivated by fear and hatred." The Vice President said, "Our choice is clear — whether this nation moves forward towards one society of opportunity and justice, or whether we abandon this commitment out of fear and prejudice and move backward instead... In this season let us resolve to move forward."

Mr. Nixon declared, "to my fellow citizens of the Jewish faith, I extend heartfelt New Year's greetings — I shana tovah — and join in your prayer that the year 5729 will bring peace, progress and prosperity to all mankind." The former Vice President went on to note that "according to Jewish tradition, the Commandments were given to the Jewish people not merely as a personal possession, but as a blessing for all mankind." He said, "for the people of Israel, we pray for a genuine and enduring peace. To the Jews behind the Iron Curtain, suffering the ravages of anti-Semitism and discrimination — as well as to the other oppressed citizens of those countries — we offer our prayers for freedom and equality."

Gov. Nelson A. Rockefeller of New York, in his message to the Jewish community, said that "the Jewish New Year is the oldest anniversary in the history of the human race... This is an historic fact whose implications inspire feelings of profound respect. It shows us a vast group of men and women for centuries scattered over the wide earth who, in the face of almost continuous persecution, have steadfastly adhered to the faith of their fathers, a faith whose canons were laid down nearly 6,000 years ago." Mayor John V. Lindsay of New York City extended greetings to the nation's largest Jewish community. "There is both joy and sorrow in the Jewish experience of the year past," he said. "Israel's people continue to build a strong and democratic nation in spite of the many formidable problems they face, yet in other areas of the world Jewish people have been denied their full rights and freedoms. Never has it been more true than in our own time that 'No man is an island.' We are all bound together in the same common destiny... and what contributes to the well-being of a single person contributes to the common good."

American Jewish Leaders Stress Burdens And Problems Of Coming Year

NEW YORK, Sept. 22 (JTA)—Leaders of American Jewry, in Rosh Hashanah messages to the community, stressed today the weight of the burdens and the gravity of the problems with which Jewry must continue to deal in the coming year of 5729.

Edward Ginsberg, general chairman of the United Jewish Appeal, stressed this continuity in his message, pointing out that "as we 'close the book' on the year 5728, we must immediately begin again; we must begin to write a proud new chapter in the history of the Jewish people. The shofar's call which heralds Rosh Hashanah 5729 is a call which must be heard and understood."

Louis J. Fox, president of the Council of Jewish Federations and Welfare Funds, said that the federations and welfare funds in American cities were the "living and growing expression" of the "spiritual values (which) have made not only for identification as a people but for commitment and loyalty to each other and to a just society for all." He pledged that in the coming year, the federations and welfare funds "will work even more earnestly to 'seek the welfare' of the community in which we live, to continue to make even greater contributions toward solving the social problems and the urban blight that afflict our cities; to give greater spiritual, cultural and moral depth to Judaism as a more powerful force for betterment of our pluralistic society; and to continue to meet the ever-broadening range of American Jewish humanitarian responsibilities to the people of Israel in the great strains of the continuing crisis in the Middle East, and to Jews everywhere else in the world."

Max M. Fisher, United Israel Appeal chairman, greeted friends of the UIA for having made possible the bringing of 1,350,000 Jews to Palestine and Israel since 1939 and declared that "today, Israel, faced with unprecedented need for security, more than ever needs the help of American Jewry so that this immigration and absorption program can be continued, so that programs of health services, social welfare and higher education can be maintained. Sadly, an emergency situation exists in Israel and we must continue to meet these pressing needs. To this, as we enter the New Year 5729, we pledge ourselves. It is our privilege as American Jews to do no less."

Louis Broido, chairman of the Joint Distribution Committee, voiced thanks to American Jewry for hundreds who had suddenly become "refugees" during past weeks and urged American Jews to remember "those thousands who may not celebrate but can only pray." He said that "many thousands of the harassed and the homeless have been helped to achieve independence and dignity" but he pointed out that "there still remain those other nameless thousands, in physical or spiritual want, fearful of an uncertain future."

Feinberg Urges Support For Israel's Economic Development

Abraham Feinberg, president of the State of Israel Bond Organization, warned that the New Year opens "in an atmosphere of grave doubt for Israel's development program" and noted that "Israel's economy, seriously strained during last year's heroic survival, has had to allocate additional funds for the nation's number one priority, defense, at the expense of the development budget." He said that "in the past, we have demonstrated that our support could affect the course of Israel's economic recovery from a crisis. We can do no less for Israel's economic development in the year ahead, when the pace of that development may quicken the pace of the efforts for peace."

Dr. Emanuel Neumann, chairman of the Jewish Agency-American Section, deplored the continued conflict in the Middle East, the "spectre of anti-Semitism and discrimination" in Poland and elsewhere behind the Iron Curtain, and the Soviet Union's "inexplicable refusal" to grant its Jewish citizens equal rights. He said that "as Zionists, we rededicate ourselves to the concept that Israel must not be allowed to stand alone." At home, he declared, "we continue to labor for full equality of opportunity for all peoples in the best tradition of American democracy." Other Zionist leaders, in messages received by the JTA, stressed the need for unrelenting efforts for Israel and to strengthen it as the focus of Jewish unity. Among them were Dr. Israel Goldstein and Mrs. Rose L. Halprin, co-chairmen of the World Confederation of General Zionists; Mrs. Max Schenk, president of Hadassah, the American women's Zionist organization; Jacques Torczyner, president of the Zionist Organization of America; and Rabbi Israel Miller, chairman of the American Zionist Council.

The leaders of American Jewish representative organizations also used the occasion to remind American Jewry of its achievements in the past year and its obligations for the future. Rabbi Herschel Schacter, chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, declared that "we cannot close our eyes to the sadness and concern which we feel for many of our people throughout the world." But, he declared, "the Jews are traditionally a people of hope."

Arthur J. Goldberg, president of the American Jewish Committee, said that the New Year "finds our country facing both challenges and uncertainties. Abroad, we have yet to fix on a course of action that will bring peace; at home, we have yet to devise ways of meeting our commitments to our own citizens. During the High Holy Days, when Jews feel a special affinity with their deep spiritual roots, each of us must again probe within himself to find a meaningful role in helping to meet our society's problems." Rabbi Arthur J. Lelyveld, president of the American Jewish Congress, stressed that "what is wrong with the world is a challenge to our conscience as Americans and Jews. As we renew our commitment to that human dignity which is central in Judaism's concern, we still confidently proclaim that 'the just will see and exult and the righteous will be glad when iniquity will be silenced and the government of evil and arrogance will have ended.'"

Rabbi Jacob Philip Rudin, president of the Synagogue Council of America, said that "we greet the New Year with confidence and renewal of strength, with new determination to create a nobler world in which none shall be hungry and none without shelter and home." He voiced greetings to Israel and to "our beleaguered fellow Jews in Soviet lands." Statements were also received by JTA from Jordan C. Band, chairman of the National Community Relations Advisory Council; Mrs. Leonard H. Weiner, president of the National Council of Jewish Women; Carlos L. Israels, president of United Hias Service; Dr. William Haber, president of American ORT Federation; Rabbi Joseph Karasick, president of the Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations of America; Henry N. Rapoport, president of the United Synagogue of America; Rabbi Zev Segal, president of the Rabbinical Council of America; Dr. Milton Aron, executive vice president of the Jewish National Fund of America; and Richard Korn, American Council for Judaism president. In New York City, special messages were issued by Rabbi Gilbert Klaperman, president of the New York Board of Rabbis, and Albert Parker, president of the United Jewish Appeal of Greater New York.

Question Wisdom Of Sending Officers Against Guerrillas Following Death Of 2

JERUSALEM, Sept. 22 (JTA)--Questions were raised anew in some quarters here today over the wisdom of sending high ranking Army officers into front line combat against Arab guerrillas. The policy was questioned as the nation mourned the deaths in action Friday of Lt. Col. Moshe Peles, a paratroop commander, and Maj. Doron Manor, who led their men in a brief but violent skirmish with an El Fatah gang in the hills near the West Bank town of Jenin. Six Israeli soldiers, including the two officers, were killed and four were wounded when their patrol was ambushed. A military spokesman said the El Fatah band was later wiped out.

Military sources said here today however that the Army officers will continue to lead their men and will continue to order "follow me" and not "forward." They maintained that the policy of officers-to-the-front was responsible in great measure for the high morale of Israeli troops and distinguished Israeli fighting forces from the armies of most other countries. But the feeling was growing in other quarters that Israel can ill afford to risk the loss of some of her best trained, most experienced officers in relatively minor clashes with guerrillas.

Lt. Col. Peles was, in addition to being a brilliant soldier, one of Israel's national heroes of the Six-Day War. He distinguished himself in the fierce battle to drive the Jordanian Army out of East Jerusalem and it was he who hoisted the Israel flag over the city on June 8, 1967, climbing to the cupola of the El Aksa mosque, the highest point in the old walled city, while snipers' bullets whistled around him. Maj. Manor too, was considered one of the most promising young officers. The son of a member of the Irgun Zvai Leumi, the military underground organization of the Mandate period, he rose in rank from private to major. He was married only a year ago.

Friday's battle in which the two officers died was acknowledged to have been the most serious encounter to date with guerrilla forces. The fact that it occurred 11 miles west of the Jordan River, deep inside Israel-occupied territory, was also regarded as serious. It gave rise to speculation here and abroad as to whether Israel would take retaliatory action, when and in what form.

Agnew Supports Military Aid To Israel, Calls It 'Imperative' As War Deterrent

WASHINGTON, Sept. 22 (JTA)--Gov. Spiro T. Agnew, of Maryland, the Republican Vice-Presidential nominee, declared today that United States military aid to Israel "is imperative to deter any threat of war" and to "preserve the equilibrium of peace." Mr. Agnew made his statement, his

first on the Middle East, in a letter to the American Israel Public Affairs Committee here. He asserted that "the security of America and the security of Israel's rights and freedoms are one and inseparable; that in supporting the cause of Israel in its search for freedom and the right to live in peace, Americans are supporting the cause of the United States in its involvement with all the world's nations."

Gov. Agnew criticized the Johnson Administration for alleged "lack of understanding and concern" which, he said, "has characterized our country's Middle East policies for at least the past 18 months. Instead of providing Israel with the military equipment she needs to counter the massive influx of modern armaments supplied by the USSR, our State Department clings to the hope that the Russians will join the Western powers in limiting arms." Gov. Agnew said America should "bring its full influence to bear upon the Soviet Union to end its present policy of propelling the Middle East toward a fatal confrontation."

'Times' Reports Moscow Rebuffs LBJ On Arms Curbs, President Expected To Sell Israel Jets

NEW YORK, Sept. 22 (JTA)--President Johnson has been rebuffed in his approaches to the Soviet Union for a curb on arms shipments to the Middle East and, as a result, "Mr. Johnson is now expected to permit the sale of 50 F-4 Phantom jets to Israel before the end of the year," Benjamin Welles reported from Washington in the New York Times today. According to Mr. Welles, the Soviets replied to the President's proposal that it would cooperate only when there is "peace" between the Arab states and Israel — presumably along Arab lines.

Mr. Welles reported that delivery of the jets, which were requested by Israel's Prime Minister Levi Eshkol at his meeting with President Johnson in Texas last January, will be authorized once the Presidential elections are over and the transaction can be divorced from local politics.

Today's report contradicted a report in the New York Times Sept. 15 that President Johnson had decided not to sell the planes to Israel. White House sources denied that report and cited the President's statements after Mr. Eshkol's visit in which he promises to keep Israel's defense needs "under active and sympathetic" review in the light of all relevant factors, including the shipment of arms "by others" to the area. "The Soviet Government's continuing refusal to cease rearming Israel's enemies is now a matter of grave concern here, Government sources said," according to Mr. Welles.

Eshkol Believes Johnson Will Sell Phantoms To Israel

JERUSALEM, Sept. 22 (JTA)--Prime Minister Levi Eshkol said in an interview with the newspaper Maariv published today that he believes President Johnson will supply Israel with Phantom jets. Mr. Eshkol said that if the President does not do so before the Presidential election, he will do so afterward. "President Johnson is a strong personality who never breaks his promises," Mr. Eshkol added.

The Prime Minister also advocated the continuation of the present Government of national unity. Regarding his relations with Defense Minister Gen. Moshe Dayan, he said that he believes Gen. Dayan would continue serving in a Cabinet headed by him after the elections just as Gen. Dayan is doing now.

Soviet Dredgers, Possibly For Use In Suez Canal, Arrive In Egyptian Waters

WASHINGTON, Sept. 22 (JTA)--The Soviet Union may be planning to dredge the Suez Canal, Congressional sources said here today. The Senate Armed Services Committee has been informed that boats used for dredging, flying the Soviet ensign, have arrived in Egyptian waters.

Samuel Leidesdorf Dies At 86, Was Philanthropist And Active In Jewish Affairs

NEW YORK, Sept. 22 (JTA)--Private funeral services were held today for Samuel D. Leidesdorf, who died yesterday at the age of 86. He was senior partner of S. D. Leidesdorf & Co., one of the nation's largest accounting firms, a civic leader and philanthropist. He was a former president of the Federation of Jewish Philanthropies of New York and treasurer of the United Jewish Appeal of Greater New York for 30 years. Mr. Leidesdorf was a director of the Joint Distribution Committee, held a number of Jewish posts.

17 New Settlements Established During 5728, And 20 More Are Planned

JERUSALEM, Sept. 22 (JTA)--Seventeen new settlements — kibbutzim, moshavim and nahal outposts — were established during the year 5728, the Jewish Agency announced today. Twenty more are planned for the new year.

Capture Leader Of Terrorists Who Placed Bombs In Tel Aviv, Jerusalem Streets

JERUSALEM, Sept. 22 (JTA)--The commander of the terrorist gang responsible for placing explosives in trash containers in Jerusalem and Tel Aviv has been caught. Abd el-Rahim Jaber of Hebron, who has been a fugitive since the group's members were apprehended after placing explosives at Tel Aviv's central bus station, was wounded and taken alive by an Army patrol in the desert south of the Dead Sea when he tried to cross into Jordan.

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Note To Subscribers: Owing to the Rosh Hashanah holidays, the JTA Daily News Bulletin will not be published on Tuesday and Wednesday. The next issue will be Thursday, Sept. 26.