

LONDON (WNS) Last June's Six Day War with its Arab neighbors cost Israel 1 billion, 120 million dollars it was disclosed here by Israel's Finance Minister Pinhas Sapir in the course of an address before 400 leaders of British Jewry at the national convention here of the Joint Palestine Appeal.

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Published Every Friday in Las Vegas, Nevada  
Price per copy 15¢ - Per Year \$6 - 2 Years \$10  
P.O. Box 549, Las Vegas, Nevada, 89101

Editor and Publisher . . . . . Jack Tell  
Business Manager . . . . . Bea Tell, 870-1255  
Vegas News . . . . . Helene Stadler, 384-3685  
Reno News . . . . . Diane Neiman, 1622 York, Sparks  
and Barney Glazer, Harry Golden, Percy Villa

2nd Class Mail, Las Vegas, Nev.  
Member American Jewish Press Association  
Member of Worldwide News Service

*JWB Brightens Servicemen*

NEW YORK -- In its worldwide Hanukkah arrangements for Jewish military personnel, the National Jewish Welfare Board (JWB) has given special attention to brightening the festival celebrations of Jewish men and women serving in Vietnam and of the Vietnam wounded who are in military hospitals throughout the Pacific area.

As gifts, the men in Vietnam will receive books, records, religious items, toiletry kits, games, decks of playing cards, paints and canvas, and other items which were sent to them by the JWB Women's Organizations' Services. Numerous requests for cameras, flashlights, battery-operated fans and even a television set for a small installation near the demilitarized zone were filled. For the Jewish nurses and other Jewish women on duty in Vietnam, there will be kits containing cosmetics, soap and other toiletries.

Jewish chaplains in Vietnam, Korea, Italy, Germany, Turkey, North Africa, the Aleutian Islands, several Pacific outposts and in all other overseas and domestic areas where Jewish servicemen are stationed will conduct candlelighting services during Hanukkah, the eight-day Festival of Lights which begins at sundown on Tuesday December 26. At many installations, chaplains will have "latke parties" for adults and special Hanukkah parties for the children of their religious schools. Holiday observances will also be held in Veterans Administration hospitals.

JWB's Hanukkah arrangements were started last August to make sure that Jewish servicemen and their wives and children will receive individually - wrapped gifts at Hanukkah time. JWB's Commission on Jewish Chaplaincy, Women's Organizations' Services and Armed Forces and Veteran Services spearheaded these plans. JWB "Serve-A" and Armed Services Committees, congregation sisterhoods, Jewish Community Center Women's Groups and B'nai B'rith Men and Women combined their efforts through the JWB Women's Organizations' Services, Local JWB Armed Forces and Veteran Services Committees will cooperate in organizing Hanukkah observances for Jewish men in uniform and their families on and off military bases. Hanukkah gifts, menorahs, candles and decorations have been sent to the 17 USO Clubs in Vietnam and Thailand to bring the holiday feeling to the Jewish men during their few leisure hours.

Chaplains Sholom Glksman, Gerry J. Rosenberg and Sheldon M. Kirsch, the three Jewish chaplains in Vietnam, will have the cooperation of chaplains of other faiths in the distribution of Hanukkah gifts which were sent to the men by JWB on behalf of the American Jewish community. Congressman Joseph Resnick of Ellenville, New York, will distribute hundreds of Hanukkah gifts in the name of JWB during his visit to Vietnam.

Jewish Women's Associations, the Jewish sisterhoods at military installations, received gifts for distribution and suggestions for Hanukkah programs and activities from the JWB Women's Organizations' Services, including recipes for home-made potato pancakes.

The Women's Organizations' Services is composed of the following nine national Jewish women's groups: Hadasah, National Bureau of Federated Women's Organizations, National Council of Jewish Women, National Federation of Temple Sisterhoods, National JWB Jewish Community Center Services, National Women's League of the United Synagogue of America, United Order of True Sisters, the Women's Branch of the Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations of America and the Women's Division of the American Jewish Congress.

JWB is the agency accredited by the U. S. Defense Department to meet the religious, morale and welfare needs of Jewish military personnel, their dependents and hospitalized veterans. It is a beneficiary of the Greater New York United Jewish Appeal and of hundreds of Jewish federations and welfare funds outside of New York, and is a USO member agency.

ISRAELITE ADS PAY

**TELL TALES**  
"One Man Plus The Truth  
Constitutes A Majority"

BY JACK TELL



(Continued from Page 1)  
natural course of history through the ages.

While Santa Claus is obviously a result of creative imagination, the thought was derived from and patterned after a real, historical person. During the 4th century, Nicholas, an eight year old orphan, but independently wealthy, spent his life being kind and generous to the less fortunate in his native town in Asia Minor. He was elevated to Bishop of Myra and in the 9th century was canonized. His Dutch name was Santa Claus.

The furthest reference to a Christmas tree is a legendary story of a wounded Swedish officer being cared for by the people of Lepsig during the 30 Years War in the 17th century. As an offer of gratitude, he set up a lighted tree in a church on Christmas Day.

The Christmas tree was introduced to America in 1747 by Germans settling in Pennsylvania. Five years later the Moravian sect decorated their trees with lighted candles. Catholic and Protestant colonists from Holland introduced the annual St. Nicholas visitation to America.

Early colonists were divided in the recognition of December 25th. Members of Church of England, Dutch Reformed, Lutheran, Roman Catholic, Episcopalian and certain German sects honored the holiday. Quakers, Baptists, Presbyterians and Puritans ignored the date. It was on the night of December 25, 1776, George Washington crossed the Delaware River to defeat the Hessians celebrating Christmas at Trenton.

Fantasy had Santa arriving in a cart, a wagon, on mule, drawn by goats and other means of transportation until Clement Moore's "A Visit From St. Nicholas" in 1822, and thereafter the popular conception was a sled drawn by reindeer. In 1847, the first classroom Christmas tree was decorated in a New York City Episcopalian Sunday School.

The individual states commenced declaring Christmas a legal holiday. Alabama, which, like all southern states celebrated Dec. 25 with fireworks a la Fourth of July, was the first, in 1836, and the rest followed suit; California, 1851; Nevada, 1861; Utah, 1882; etc., with Oklahoma being last in 1890.

As late as 1855, all religions were still not in accord in their tolerance of the holiday. The Dec. 26 edition of that year's New York Times stated: Churches of Presbyterians, Baptists and Methodists were not open yesterday. They do not accept the day as Holy one, but Episcopalian, Catholic and German churches were open. Inside they were decked with evergreens. However, by 1880, all evangelical churches were accepting Christmas.

Passing of Christmas gifts in those days was not emphasized, except the wealthy were expected to be generous to the poor. In the middle of the 19th century, due to the influence of Charles Dickens' writings, singing of Christmas carols became prevalent, and the sending of cards began in 1875.

The classic editorial which began, "Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus," in response to a child's query, was written by Francis Church for the New York Sun of Dec. 21st, 1897.

In recent years Santa Claus has become to be known as a communal folk figure. A Pennsylvania judge ruled in 1936, that any doubters of Santa Claus who appeared before him would be held in contempt of court. The court citation read: Santa is not a figment of the imagination but an actuality. He is the symbol of kindness, a token of smiling charity and a badge of all that is cheerfully benevolent.

Commercial exploitation of Christmas has become systematic and thorough, impelling Roman Catholics, Lutherans, Episcopalians and Jews, to band together in Milwaukee in 1949 and decree to put Christ back into Christmas.

Today Jehovah's Witnesses and members of the Christian Science faith oppose the tree, festive lights and Santa and other secularization of the holiday. But they have deep reverence for the religious observance.

Meanwhile millions of non-Christian homes in scores of non-Christian countries, including Japan and India, have taken unto their own the kindness and charity and cheer of Christmas and proudly display decorated and lit trees on December 25th.

All this proves the true sense of Christmas has not waned - its just that the Spirit of Christmas has overwhelmed and is about to inundate all humans in the four corners of the earth.