

Passover Message

BY RABBI ARTHUR J. LELYVELD
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The Passover tradition demands that each of us celebrate the ancient Jews' deliverance from bondage as if he himself had been a slave unto Pharaoh.

Never has the requirement of our faith been more fitting than this Passover.

The death of Martin Luther King recalls the prophet Moses who, was lost to his people before he could lead them into the Promised Land of freedom. Today, we are called on to act as if we ourselves were living in the black ghettos of poverty and despair -- and to renew our commitment to the cause of every man who is denied justice and dignity because of the color of his skin.

The moves toward a peace settlement in Vietnam remind us of the Prophetic utterance that spoke of the day when men shall beat their swords into plowshares, and make war no more. Today we are enjoined to act as if our homes were destroyed and our own loved ones lost in the awful destruction of war, and to reaffirm our support of every initiative of our government to bring the slaughter to an end.

The continuing attacks by Arab terrorists against Israel serve to keep ever in mind that no Sabbath has yet come after the Six-Day War. Today we are charged to reassert our dedication to Israel's people in their struggle to build an independent nation and create a new society. Passover thus offers every American Jew the opportunity

to make clear by acts of faith as well as words of worship that our heritage and our tradition are not only for remembering yesterday but for living today.

Right Man for Job

The report that General Rabin, commander of the Israeli army in the Six Day War is to be the new ambassador to Washington will be gratifying news to all Americans and especially to American Jews.

His presence in the diplomatic corps is certain to be conspicuous because of the interest naturally attached to him as one of the two major architects of Israel's recent great triumph. Added to his military capabilities are attractive personal qualities which enhance the suitability of the appointment.

To be sure, the field of diplomacy, is not one in which he has been trained, but we in America are used to the experience of making military leaders into statesmen. George Washington went from the battlefield to become Chairman of the Convention which formed the Constitution, and from there he went to the Presidency. Andrew Jackson, the victor of another war, was a very popular President and more recently we have had the case of Eisenhower.

The United States is the leading nation in the world today and its relations with Israel are of central importance. This country too has the largest Jewish population of any nation. It is incumbent therefore that Israel have a highly qualified representative here. General Rabin

recently said, "The Six days war is over but Israel is still not enjoying the seventh day of rest." No one has more succinctly stated the problem facing Israeli diplomacy at the present time and perhaps through the work of General Rabin, we may hope that Israel will obtain the sabbath of rest it naturally aspires.

NEW YORK (WNS) The National Women's League of the United Synagogue of America, on the occasion of culminating observance of its Golden Jubilee Year, was honored here by leaders of Conservative Judaism at a ceremony where the 200,000 members of the organization were given "alumnae" status by the Jewish Theological Seminary of America.

NEW YORK (WNS) The America-Israel Cultural Foundation this week presented its annual King Solomon Award to Mayor Teddy Kollek of Jerusalem, the first mayor of a reunited Jerusalem.

NEW YORK, N. Y. -- The Mizrahi Women's Organization of America, the major women's religious - Zionist organization in the U. S., will aid in the education of Arab students in two Arab vocational high schools for girls in East Jerusalem, it was announced by Mrs. Aaron L. Leifer, national president.

WASHINGTON -- Rabbi Richard Israel, director of the B'nai B'rith Hillel Foundation at Yale University, has been elected president of the National Association of Hillel Directors.

Willkomm!



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