

GOLDBERG: "No Anti-Semitism on Fortas"

NEW YORK (WNS) Arthur J. Goldberg, at his first press conference here as president of the American Jewish Committee, declared that he was "happy to take on a new responsibility" in his role as a member of the Jewish community.

Speaking to a huge gathering of newsmen that sought to elicit his views on a wide range of problems, the former U. S. Ambassador to the United Nations said of his new role that, "in a sense, this is an all-embracing role since my concern for justice, peace, enlightenment, morality all stem from the heritage of which I am the heir." In a mood of introspection, he spoke of himself essentially as a "peace maker," declaring that the path to attainment is in compromise and conciliation. His assertion that he considered himself a "peace maker" was reminiscent of decisions in rabbinic literature whose major motivation was "I'maan H'ashalom," for the sake of peace.

It was probably with this thought in mind that the former Associate Justice of the Supreme Court defended his intervention in the controversial issue over the naming by New York Univer-

sity of John F. Hatchett, a dismissed Harlem teacher and alleged anti-Semite, as director of its Martin Luther King Afro-American Student Center. Justice Goldberg said Hatchett had strongly denied that he was an anti-Semite although the expressions in an article he wrote, and which was sharply denounced by Jewish groups, "can be so regarded." Mr. Hatchett, he said, "now understands the injustice and dangers inherent in the kind of criticism he voiced." At the same time he acknowledged that there were differing views in the committee on his position, adding that the American Jewish Committee was a democratic organization in which there was room for disagreement.

In reply to a query whether anti-Semitism had been a factor in the controversy over the nomination of Abe Fortas as Chief Justice of the United States, Mr. Goldberg said no, pointing to the fact of his own confirmation to three important offices, as Associate Justice of the Supreme Court, as Secretary of Labor and as Ambassador to the United Nations. Anti-Semitism, he said, was no longer an issue in American political life.

Referring to the injection of "Zionism" into the Czech crisis by the press of Poland and East Germany, Mr. Goldberg said that the assertion that Zionists posed a threat to Czech socialism was "shocking, shameful and completely unfounded," adding that there "was no Jewish involvement in what was a national act by the Czech people." At the same time he denounced the "efforts to revive anti-Semitism in Eastern Europe," calling it a "portent of danger" to the whole world.

With respect to the situation in the Middle East, Mr. Goldberg said he hoped the peace mission of special UN

Envoy Gunnar V. Jarring would be furthered by what has happened to the Czechs. "I hope," he noted, "that the message will come loud and clear to the Middle East to Israel's Arab neighbors - that the Russians exact a price for aid and help," adding that "the dimension of that price was demonstrated by what was paid in Czechoslovakia." On the question of the Soviet Union filling the Arab arsenals with weapons, Mr. Goldberg said there were two answers -- providing Israel with U. S. supersonic Phantom jets and, more importantly, for all concerned states in the area to take up arms limitation.

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