

# NO "SIMPLE EQUATION" BETWEEN ISRAEL AND VIETNAM

NEW YORK - The President of the Synagogue Council of America charged tonight that it was "politically and morally reprehensible" to suggest that U.S. withdrawal from Vietnam "must inexorably lead to a betrayal of Israel."

Rabbi Solomon J. Sharfman told the annual dinner of the Jewish religious body that it was "an injustice to Israel no less than to our own country" to make any "simplistic equation" between Israel and Vietnam.

The Jewish leader, who heads the representative body of the congregational and rabbinic branches of Orthodox, Conservative and Reform Judaism in the U. S.

sharply criticized "public statements that Jews who are critical of the Administration's policy in Vietnam are doing a disservice to Israel."

He characterized as "political and moral blindness" the failure to distinguish between Israel and Vietnam, adding:

"The survival of Israel is a moral imperative that transcends the transient shifting grounds of short range strategies and inter-

ests. Sooner or later, American soldiers will be out of Vietnam, and it is the Vietnamese themselves who must inevitably determine their own fate. The issue for them is not whether there is or is not to be a Vietnam on the map. Rather it is what kind of government, coalition or otherwise, will govern them. There is no danger that Vietnam will cease to exist.

"For Israel, however, that indeed is the issue: Will Is-

rael stay on the map, with its 3 million inhabitants, the survivors of Auschwitz and their children, or will it be destroyed? For it is the destruction of Israel that remains the constant objective of Arab policy."

Rabbi Sharfman said he did not speak for or against President Nixon's Vietnam policy, noting that the organizations that made up the Synagogue Council were "as divided in their judgment of U. S. policies as the rest

of the American people." He continued:

"One one thing, however, we are all in agreement. Whatever our position, be it one of confidence in the Administration's policies or be it one of criticism and dissent, it is a position that flows from a profound concern that we have as American citizens for the long-range interests and welfare of this nation."

The Synagogue Council leader, who is spiritual

leader of Young Israel of Flatbush in Brooklyn, conceded that "the effect of a withdrawal from Vietnam on the security and survival of small nations who are dependent on our assistance is also a relevant moral and political concern. But it is both politically and morally reprehensible to suggest that an American disengagement in Vietnam, which in any event is the stated goal of President Nixon no less than of the dissenters, must inexorably lead to a betrayal of Israel."

## HADASSAAAAH

By BLANCHE STEIN

Las Vegas Hadassah presents a Country Fair at Temple Beth Shalom on Monday, December 15 at noon. Members and friends will be guests for a delightful belated Chanukah - style luncheon, after which they are asked to enjoy and partake of the home baked goodies, beautiful gifts from local merchants, hand work and art donated for sale to Hadassah by members.

Our quotas have been raised by National this year as the need in Israel of the hospitals and youth camps are greater under the constant threat of war; thus your participation is urged and welcomed.

Those wishing to contribute their favorite baked dish or hand-made creations are asked to contact Trudye Kassel, 735-2888. Come join us for lunch, laughter and lots of additional funds for our projects in Israel.



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