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Passover 1970

The words of the Rabbi in his pulpit always resound with the highest of principles. They echo the spirit of the fathers and call for the best in man. They can have the effect of primary paregoric; they both heighten and stabilize men. One of the highest and best sounding words is Freedom. The call to it startles us anew each time as if we suddenly realize we are not free, but trapped in a civilization which deranges each day.

The time of the Exodus restores to us a measure of sanity. By association with the heroic spokesman of God, Moses--we become almost chaste with independence, stripped to the essence of what man is; always just sprung from bondage. Passover reminds us of this time and that state, and that if we do not resist the twists and turns of time, we could be brought back to bondage. We will not necessarily be returned to Goshen or physical captivity (one Holocaust is enough in our era) but the spirit would become enthralled with Nothing, so much the hallmark of our time. The headlines tell the story of 1970; it is a tale of conflict wherever one looks on the human scene.

Dedication to a piece of our history is fine; rededication is even finer. Perhaps we ought to pass back and examine what the lessons were of that moment when Moses led a rag-taggle band out of Egypt and gave them salvation and humanity. The world has lost sight of this great moment and there is need for a re-declaration of independence. For salvation and humanity, Passover may be just the time to do it because if the Seventies are like the Sixties, there may be no Eighties.

Vietnam Prayer for Peace

NEW YORK -- "May the observance of the Festival of Freedom strike a responsive chord in our hearts and may all of us in Vietnam be enabled to celebrate next year's Passover safely at home with our loved ones."

With these thoughts which are part of a prayer for the early end of hostilities in Vietnam and an expression of deepest appreciation to American Jewry for its continued support of the religious and moral needs of Jewish servicemen, the four Jewish chaplains in Vietnam sounded the keynote of Passover observances which will be conducted all over the world of Jewish men in uniform through arrangements made by the National Jewish Welfare Board (JWB).

The Jewish chaplains in Vietnam - Chaplains Ira Bader, Sanford L. Dresin, Howard Shapiro and Gleen M. Stengel - conveyed their greetings through JWB's Commission on Jewish Chaplaincy. In addition to mass Seders which they will conduct for men in their sectors, smaller Seders will be conducted under their guidance at scattered installations for Jewish men who are unable to leave their posts.

This year, Passover begins at sundown, Monday, April 20 and ends at sundown, Tuesday, April 28.

In its worldwide Passover arrangements, JWB began shipping holiday supplies last December to enable Jewish

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OUR RENEWAL IS APPRECIATED

DAYENU BY HENRY LEONARD



men in Vietnam and at more than 600 other overseas and domestic military installations, their dependents and patients in Veterans Administration hospitals and other Federal facilities to observe the eight-day Festival of Freedom.

JWB is the government-accredited agency for religious, morale and welfare services to Jewish men in the U.S. Armed Forces and hospitalized Jewish veterans.

Thousands of Solo Seders - packaged Passover meals shipped by the JWB Women's Organizations' Services - have gone to the chaplains in Vietnam, Korea, Thailand and other parts of the world and to USO Clubs in those areas for distribution to the Jewish men.

These packages have also been supplied to men on duty in domestic communities where kosher foods are not available, to men at remote weather and radar stations, and Peace Corps and U.S. Diplomatic Corps Jewish personnel.

JWB's global Passover arrangements also entailed the coordinated efforts of the 300 full and part-time Jewish chaplains served by JWB's Commission on Jewish Chaplaincy, local JWB Armed Forces and Veterans Services Committees, Jewish Community Centers affiliated with JWB, regional JWB consultants, synagogues and other Jewish community organizations, as well as USO clubs in Vietnam and Thailand.

Installations outside the continental United States at which Passover observances will be conducted by Jewish chaplains and trained Jewish military lay leaders include those in Turkey, Greece, Italy, Germany, the United Kingdom, Spain, Hawaii, Japan, Korea, the Philippines, the Azores, Bermuda, Goose Bay (Labrador), Panama, Iceland, Greenland and Alaska.

To make the Seders more festive, the JWB Women's Organizations' Services sent the chaplains thousands of cans of macaroons, cookies, candy and other delicacies for distribution to the men. Passover tablecloths, napkins, matzoh covers, kiddush cups and Seder plates were sent to every installation planning a Seder.

JWB is a member agency of USO and a beneficiary of the United Jewish Appeal of Greater New York and of hundreds of Jewish federations and welfare funds outside of New York.

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TELL TALES
 "One Man Plus The Truth
 Constitutes A Majority"
 BY JACK TELL

(Continued from Page 1)

measures were needed. A plague brought death to every first-born Egyptian. Pharaoh was glad then to get rid of the Hebrews, who took off in a hurry. Three days later, Pharaoh changed his mind and set out after the Jews with the Egyptian army. The Israelites practically had to eat on the march as for prepared food didn't have time to let the dough rise so the short-baked bread came out unleavened - now known as matzoths.

Then came the incident at the Red Sea where the waters parted to let the Hebrews across, only to come together again to drown the Egyptians. After 40 years of wandering, the Israelites settled in Canaan, the Promised Land beyond the Jordan River. But Moses never got there.

It was God's will that Moses should get a look at the Promised Land from Mt. Pisgah before he died of old age. Exactly when Moses received the Ten Commandments from God is not clearly identified. Our belief is that Moses was in constant touch with God and all liturgical law was promulgated through him. From the Ten Commandments came all accepted criminal codes and mandates of human ethics practiced in civilized countries.

Leo Tolstoi, the Russian novelist and philosopher who died in 1910, came up with several answers to the question: "What is a Jew?" Some of his responses are appropriately significant to the story of Passover.

He wrote: "Let us see what kind of peculiar creature the Jew is, which all the rulers and all nations have together and separately abused and molested, oppressed and persecuted, trampled and butchered, burned and hanged - and in spite of all this he is yet alive."

"The Jew is the religious source, spring and fountain out of which all the rest of the peoples have drawn their beliefs and their religions."

"The Jew is the pioneer of liberty. The Jew is the pioneer of civilization. Ignorance was condemned in olden Palestine more even than it is today in civilized Europe."

"The Jew is an emblem of civil and religious toleration," wrote Tolstoi, who went on to quote Moses in remote and savage times when the principal ambition of the nations consisted of crushing and enslaving one another: "Love the stranger, Moses commands, "Because you have been stranger in the land of Egypt."

"The Jew is the emblem of eternity," wrote Tolstoi, who continued, "He whom neither fire nor sword nor inquisition was able to wipe off from the face of the earth, he who was the first to produce the oracles of God, he who has been for long the guardian of prophesy, and who transmitted it to the rest of the world - such a nation cannot be destroyed. The Jew is everlasting as is eternity itself."

After reading the writings of Tolstoi, who authored "War and Peace," "Anna Karenina," and other monumental works, you kind of get the unequivocal, indisputable feeling that the Jewish religion is here to stay. Let's keep it that way no matter how you celebrate Passover.

Incidentally, Tolstoi was not Jewish.

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