

**Golda Praises Zionists**

JERUSALEM--It is with considerable gratification that I send this message of greeting to the leadership of the Zionist movement in the United States which is assembling for the purpose of launching a country-wide Zionist Membership Drive. I know that this is part of a concerted endeavor to deepen the Zionist conviction and strengthen the organizational structure of the Zionist movement in every country where there is a Jewish community in the free world, and I would like to take this

opportunity of expressing my personal support of that undertaking.

We are all aware of the great attachment of Jews throughout the world - and particularly of American Jewry - to Israel, and appreciative of the material help afforded to Israel, which is one of the major expressions of that attachment. Without that help our position would have been grim indeed. This is a climactic period in the life of Israel and in the history of the Jewish people, and it may well be that under the stress of our immediate needs, and in the deep emotions engendered by our struggle, there is a tendency to overlook the abiding elements of the historic struggle of the Jewish people - our fundamental motives and ultimate objectives. The task of the Zionist movement is to stress those factors. To place present events in their true perspective and to harness the emotional and intellectual resources of the Jewish people for the fulfillment of Jewish destiny.

The establishment of the State of Israel is both a glorious pinnacle of Jewish historic achievement and a necessity for Jewish survival, and its defense and development are equally necessities for Jewish survival. Those are perhaps trite statements. What the Zionist movement stresses - and we need the Zionist movement to stress it, in Israel, as in the Diaspora - in that the State of Israel is not an end in itself but is an essential medium for the perpetuation of the Jewish people, for its development and for its continuance.

The State of Israel was the creation of the Zionist movement, but it belongs to all Jewry. In order that that should be more than a merely verbal formulation, the Jewish people generally, and American Jewry in particular, must assume the full range of those responsibilities which deserve the epithet "Zionist": the serious propagation of Aliyah as a means of personal fulfillment, an effective drive to make a sound Hebrew education available to every Jewish child, a realistic and active involvement in the fate of Jewish communities everywhere, and a far-reaching programme of Zionist education and information in order to ensure that the Jewish sentiment for Israel remains unabated even after, happily, as we hope, the State of Israel has emerged from the present critical

period.

It is in this spirit that I wish you success in the implementation of the Zionist Membership Drive, and that I associate myself - and my colleagues in the Government of Israel - with your endeavors. Do not under-estimate the present force and future potential of the Zionist movement. Both in Israel and in the Diaspora there is a deep need for an enrichment and re-invigoration of the Jewish spirit. To the extent to which the Zionist movement re-invigorates your own community, it will have contributed towards a re-awakening and re-invigoration in Israel as well.

**HAPPY HANUKAH**

To The Jewish Community



Hal Loew

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