

# Passover Message

by PHILIP E. HOFFMAN  
(President American Jewish Committee)

Once again, Jews the world over prepare to celebrate the Passover, marking history's first recorded liberation of an entire people from slavery and oppression. The symbols of the holiday Seder encompass images of sweetness and bitterness, reminding us of the joys of freedom, but calling to mind as well the sorrows of serfdom.

Today, some 3,500 years after the Exodus, we are once more experiencing great and joyous events of liberation and freedom, sweet and satisfying, tempered by the bitter taste of war and bloodshed, insecurity and continued oppression, threats and persecution.

Our hearts exult over the cracks that have begun to appear in the walls that have for so long encircled our brethren in the Soviet Union. We are grateful for the deliverance of those few whose prayers have been answered and who have been allowed to leave. At the same time, our hearts go out to over 3,000,000 Jews still there, who must continue to face a life that denies them the right to live their lives in the faith of their fathers, and simultaneously prevents their joining their co-religionists elsewhere.

We are grateful that the guns are silent

## LAS VEGAS ISRAELI

for the moment in the Middle East. Although we are only too conscious how far we are still removed from peace in the Middle East, we are thankful that the daily killings have stopped and that attempts are going forward to build a structure of peace in that troubled part of the world. We are deeply aware and acutely sensitive of Israel's needs for physical security, compounded by a long history of Arab hostility. Conscious as we are of the fruits of peace and hopeful that a modus vivendi eventually can come to exist between Israel and her neighbors, we understand Israel's overwhelming need to insure the survival of the state and the continuity of its existence.

We are certain that the cordial and sympathetic understanding that our America has shown for Israel's requirements will continue. We know that the commonality of interests of both countries, along with our mutual devotion to individual liberty and the dignity and freedom of man, will insure our traveling the same path in behalf of our similar goals.

Here at home, Americans are troubled by the unfulfilled needs of our democracy. We see that at long last, the overwhelming problems of our cities and our environment have begun to draw the interest and attention of our society, but we are still far from solving the gigantic problems of housing, education, crime, disease and pollution.

Exacerbating these problems is the continued tension in our pluralistic democracy between racial and ethnic groups, a tension that sometimes erupts in violent conflict and emotional irrationality. The American Jewish Committee

## HAPPY PASSOVER

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is devoted to strengthening the democratic sinews of the United States, building on the strengths that each of our great cultures contributes to our land. We will pursue the goal of building understanding between black and white, between Jews and Christian, between one ethnic group and another, knowing full well that it is only through mutual understanding and good will that our country can grow stronger and its inhabitants prosper and survive.

In our daily lives, as in the problems that affect great nations, we seek the methods of peace and forbearance. To the father of all mankind, we address an urgent plea to bestow understanding on all his children so that they may follow the paths of peace and freedom now and forevermore.

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Mon. - Thurs. 9-5:30  
Friday 9-6 P.M.  
Saturday 9-1 P.M.

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