

New Year's Greetings, 5732

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(Chairman, World Zionist Org. Amer. Section)

Last Rosh Hashanah, we expressed our gratitude for the newly arranged cease-fire arrangement in the Middle East that gave hope for a lasting peace. This year, we must express disappointment that such a peace has not yet been achieved; that, in fact, the peace for which

Israel so deeply yearns, and for which Jews throughout the world so earnestly pray, seems as far off, if not further away, than last year.

But Jews are an optimistic people, and at this annual Holy Day time of recommitment, we look forward to the coming year as the one that will finally achieve the peace for which we all aspire. We are not unaware of the dangers that lie behind the faltering cease-fire agreement, nor are we unaware of the sacrifices that are being urged on Israel, even by its friends, who unwittingly preach the acceptance of peace terms that can only lead to new and even more terrifying outbreaks of hostility.

Although we are most hopeful that President Nixon will continue his original pledge to maintain military parity for Israel with the Arab states, we can't help but express regret that the Phantoms so necessary to preserve the balance of air power so necessary for peace in the Middle East are at least temporarily being held up. But we are heartened that other military aid, and economic grants and loans, are being made to Israel in this time of its greatest need.

As the Shofar sounds again, we are more convinced than ever that peace in the Middle East---that veritably peace in the world--- is dependent upon a sincere meeting of the minds of leaders of the nations of the Middle East. If the money now being used for security--that is at best tenuous--were only used in the Middle East for the alleviation of poverty and the solution of the problems of the unhappy refugees who are the victims of indecision and conflict could be resolved, the foundations for a lasting peace could be established.

As American Jews, we reaffirm our unalterable support of the people and government of Israel. We pledge our continued aid, both economic and political. And we are firm in our conviction that countless Americans of all races, colors and creeds join with us on this Holiest of our Holy Days in a prayer for the peaceful solution of disputes without forced international appeasement that is at best just a temporary palliative and not the path to an honorable and durable peace.

JERUSALEM (WNS)--On returning from a visit to Russia, Professor Dan Miron of Tel Aviv University told newsmen that he had found two Jewish problems in the Soviet Union: That of Jews who wanted to emigrate to Israel and couldn't, which he said has been "over-emphasized;" and that of Jews who yearn for contacts with other Jews but are integrated into Soviet society.

TEL AVIV (WNS)--In two separate incidents, small groups of Israeli soldiers engaged infiltrating Syrian soldiers, for the first time in a long time.

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