

# JEWISH NEWS BRIEFS

**TEL AVIV**--Referring to the close ties of the Jews of America and Israel, Prime Minister Golda Meir stated, "Nothing has happened in Israel since 1948, in which you did not participate." The Israeli leader spoke before 300 American Jewish community leaders at the concluding dinner of the 1973 UJA Study Conference.

**NEW YORK**--The "Women's Lib" movement came to the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations with the election of five additional national women's groups, with a membership totalling over 510,000 in all fifty states of the United States, according to an announcement made by Jacob Stein, Chairman of the Presidents Conference. This raises to seven the number of women's organizations that are members of the now thirty member Presidents Conference.

**NEW YORK**--The role of the Jewish and Christian traditions in developing the concept of human rights, and the application of this religious understanding to the trouble spots of today's world, was the subject of a three-day conference involving 35 Jewish and Presbyterian scholars and religious leaders, in Greenwich, Conn.

**NEW YORK**--Fifty students, organized by the Jewish Student Coalition of Brooklyn College, demonstrated at the headquarters of the Committee for the Re-Election of the President in Manhattan on October 9th.

**BEERSHEBA, ISRAEL**--Amid laughter and brightly lit faces of dozens of small children, Mrs. Edra Rich of Phoenix, Arizona, unveiled a copper plaque dedicating a pre-kindergarten school which she and her husband donated to the people of Beersheba.

**NEW YORK**--The Jewish community in Argentina is worried and uneasy as a result of recent synagogue bombings and an upsurge of anti-Semitic manifestations, Bertram H. Gold, Executive Vice President of the American Jewish Committee, declared.

**WASHINGTON, D.C.**--An unprecedented outpouring of sympathy and solidarity characterized the campus response to the murders at Munich. Although most universities were not in session when the disaster struck, those few where studies had begun were scenes of intense emotion, identity of purpose, and resolute action, according to a study published by the B'nai B'rith Hillel Foundations.

## WASHINGTON LETTER

(Continued from Page 1)  
ington, D.C., called by the National Conference on Soviet Jewry because of the crisis facing Jews in the USSR. They sent the letter to the White House after President Nixon sought--unsuccessfully--to calm the profound fears of the U.S. Jewish community for the safety of their fellow Jews in the USSR.

President Nixon told a private meeting of 32 Jewish supporters (described by the White House as "Jewish leaders") that "no purpose would be served by entering into harsh confrontation with the Soviet Union over the issue of payments demanded of Jews for Soviet exit visas. He added that "politicizing or demagoguing" on the matter would not be in the best interest during the US election campaign; and that an approach through diplomatic channels would be more appropriate.

The President's statements to his supporters infuriated the Conference leaders. The letter to Mr. Nixon declared:

"Like all Americans, we awaited with expectation and high hope your visit to the Moscow summit. We felt confident that the plight of Soviet Jewry was understood to be an issue of such compelling urgency that it would be high on your agenda.

"Instead, during the last four months we have witnessed with growing anguish a steady increase in incidents of harassment and oppression of Soviet Jews, culminating in the imposition of an extortionate and inhumane emigration tax. That tax has effectively deprived many Soviet Jews of all hope of exercising their basic human right to emigrate. During these months of mounting peril for Soviet Jews, the American Jewish community has awaited a firm response by you as our President. We believe that the worsening condition of Soviet Jewry makes your response imperative...."

Richard Maass said that Mr. Nixon's assurances of handling the situation through "quiet diplomacy" with the Russians are "not sufficient."

Jacob Stein, in a later interview at The Mayflower Hotel, said: "I hope there will be an effort to rectify or improve the situation of Russian Jews who desire to emigrate, and that it will be supported by a strong public campaign urging Congress to insist on a repeal of the immoral ransom tax as a condition of expanded trade relations."

The Conference demanded more effective steps and more concrete action by the President to roll back the Soviet ransom.

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