

JEW'S PAY TRIBUTE TO LATE PRES. JOHNSON

NEW YORK -- Sharing the nation's grief on the death of Lyndon B. Johnson, 36th President of the United States, Mrs. Rose E. Matzkin, national president of Hadassah, the Women's Zionist Organization of America, sent the following telegram to Mrs. Johnson on behalf of its 325,000 members:

"WE CANNOT MITIGATE THE LOSS OR AMELIORATE THE SORROW FOR YOU. THE NATION AND THE WORLD - WE CAN ONLY SHARE IT. PRESIDENT JOHNSON FOUGHT FOR THE RIGHTS OF ALL MEN AND FOR THIS HE WILL BE MISSED AND REMEMBERED. THE MEMBERS OF HADASSAH, THE WOMEN'S ZIONIST ORGANIZATION OF AMERICA, SHARE A NATION'S GRIEF AND EXTEND PROFOUND SYMPATHY TO YOU AND YOUR FAMILY."

At a memorial service held in Hadassah House, New York, Mrs. Matzkin pointed up President Johnson's dedication to assuring equality for all citizens and emphasized the civil rights legislation he promoted during his administration. She expressed gratitude for his forthrightness and compassion. She noted President Johnson's friendship for Israel and understanding of its problems. He was President during the Six Day War, a time of crisis for Israel and his firm support at that time was a dramatic demonstration of United States commitment to the security and integrity of Israel.

WASHINGTON (WNS) -- Lyndon Baines Johnson, America's 36th President, who died Jan. 22 at his ranch in Johnson City, Texas, at the age of 64, is remembered here for blocking threatened Soviet military intervention against Israel during the 1967 Six-Day War and preserving Israel's rights to safe borders in the United Nations debate that followed. His support for Israel was manifested in numerous ways.

He encouraged Congress to vote substantial financial assistance to Israel. He demonstrated adroitness and courage in blocking the threat to Israel on June 10, 1967, when Soviet Premier Aleksei N. Kosygin was on the hot line from the Kremlin to the White House with threats of the use of Soviet force against Israel. President Johnson's decision that morning insured that the Soviet Union and the United States would keep their own forces out of the conflict.

In the United Nations debate, U. S. Ambass-

ador Arthur Goldberg, acting on Johnson's instructions, played a significant role in shaping United Nations Resolution 242 adopted on Nov. 22, 1967 and which continues as the basis for American Mideast policies. Agreement on the U. S. shipment of Phantom jets to Israel was reached during President Johnson's meeting at his Texas ranch Jan. 7-8, 1968, with the late Israeli Premier Levi Eshkol. Israeli President Zalman Shazar was invited to the LBJ ranch in 1966.

Although Johnson never visited Israel, he kept himself well informed on the Jewish State and its needs, and in 1964 urged the use of nuclear power for water development in the Middle East. After the 1967 Middle East crisis had abated, Johnson was quoted as saying, "I want to see that little country out there flying its blue and white flag high."

Jewish political support for Mr. Johnson was phenomenal. In the 1964 elections he is believed to have received 90 per cent of the Jewish vote -- considered the highest percentage of any presidential candidate in history.

Throughout his political career, from congressman to Senator to Vice-President to President, Mr. Johnson had Jews among his closest confidants.

WASHINGTON -- David M. Blumberg, president of B'nai B'rith, the 500,000-member Jewish service organization, stated: "B'nai B'rith mourns the untimely death of President Lyndon Baines Johnson. He was a towering figure in American government who gave the last full measure of devotion to the most difficult job in the world. With consummate political skill he helped make the American dream a reality for those millions of Americans denied their basic human rights. His accomplishments in liberating the oppressed and disadvantaged are a glowing chapter in American history."

"President Johnson had a fine sensitivity for the problems of Jews and a lively appreciation for their capabilities and contributions to the strength and progress of American society. We recall that at B'nai B'rith's 125th Anniversary,

he said: 'Our society is illuminated by the spiritual insights of the Hebrew prophets. America and Israel have a common love of human freedom and they have a common faith in a democratic way of life.'

NEW YORK -- The following statement was issued here this week by Herma L. Weisman, president of the Zionist Organization of America, on the death of President Lyndon Johnson:

"The Zionist Organization of America is deeply shocked and saddened by the sudden passing of President Lyndon Johnson. At every level of public service, in the U. S. Congress and the White House, he asserted his championship of Israel and the Zionist cause. Zionists will particularly remember his unstinting efforts in the Senate in assisting Israel during her fledgling years, and his forthright statesmanship as President in personally forestalling the possibility of Soviet intervention in the Six-Day War. History will record his courageous leadership in advancing landmark achievements in the field of civil rights. We extend our sincere condolences to Mrs. Johnson and to the family."

WASHINGTON (WNS) -- Israeli President Zalman Shazar paid tribute on behalf of his nation to the late President Lyndon Baines Johnson. He eulogized him for having written "a glorious chapter in the chronicle of friendship between the young State of Israel and mighty America," and for "establishing principles which still light our path." Among those accompanying Shazar to the funeral services at the National City Christian Church here were former Israeli Ambassador to the United States Avraham Harman, president of Hebrew University on Jerusalem, and Israeli Ambassador Yitzhak Rabin. In Jerusalem, Foreign Minister Abba Eban paid tribute to the late President Lyndon B. Johnson saying that during his Presidency he understood the need to strengthen Israel against the dangers which ensnared it. . . . Eban said that by approving the sale of Patton tanks and Phantom jets to Israel, Johnson "established the principle of the balance of power as the first guarantee of the advancement of peace in the Middle East." Eban sent cables of condolence,

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