

one day's distance away. Yet, in the very face of this inevitable decree of death, there was a determination to affirm life. A scheduled concert of the ghetto's symphony orchestra played to a tense, hushed audience of men, women and children. The courage to do this, strengthened by a sense of renewal from the experience itself, made for the inner quality of people who became the heroic resistors of the Warsaw ghetto. The spiritual life of men, created in God's image, prevails.

May, 1948, forty million Arabs of seven sovereign states, invade a newly established State of Israel with a population of less than one million. The Holy City of Jerusalem is besieged and totally cut off by the enemy. Starving, thirsting, unconquerable Jerusalemites seek ways to bring in the minimum supply of the bare necessities of life. And along with the clandestine columns which occasionally succeeded to come through with food and water, artists—a trio, a quarter of instrumentalists — are smuggled in to perform and lift the spirit of a people who derive inner fortitude for the outer struggle from the sound of a song, of a melody. The spiritual life of man, created in God's image, prevails.

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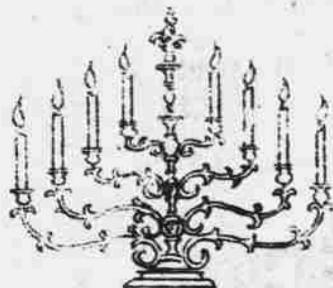


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*New Year Message*

BY RABBI LOUIS BERNSTEIN

(PRES. RABBINICAL COUNCIL OF AMER.)

"The Rabbinical Council of America calls upon the Human Rights Commission of the United Nations to step in and call a halt to the new effort by the Soviet Union to hold its intellectual Jews for ransom. We consider these actions of the Soviet Union in seeking to extort high sums of money from Jews with academic or professional training who desire to emigrate to any country an outrage to the entire civilized world. This latest move by the Russian authorities represents a modern version of ancient slavery."

ality ever to be practiced by man called for the incarceration of Jews in horrendous concentration camps, where they were starved, tortured, shot and gassed. In the Yad Va-Shem memorial in Jerusalem and the Museum of Locha-may Haghetaot near Haifa, are some of the etchings, pictures, poems created by Jews under these unbelievable conditions. Their involvement in these forms of cultural expression enabled many to hold on to and extend the thread of life, until for some, the redemption came. The spiritual life of men, created in God's image, prevails.

And now, in our own day - during this 25th Anniversary year of the State of Israel - what do we find? A Jewish State, smaller than New Jersey, with a bare three million people, and few vital resources, rejoice in its Israel Philharmonic Orchestra; Israel Chamber Ensemble; Kol Yisrael Orchestra; Haifa Symphony Orchestra; Youth Symphony Orchestra; Habimah, Cameri and Haifa Theatres; Inbal, Bat-Sheva, Bat-Dor dance Groups, Jeusalem, Tel Aviv, Haifa Museums; Rubin and Bezalel Academies; and so many, many more national and local institutions of cultural expression. Into all these are absorbed recent immigrants of great talent, especially of late, those finding freedom after their exodus from the oppression of Russia. Each day, again and again, Israel gives new life and fulfillment to the gifted youngster, the mature artist and teacher who can now openly give of himself and his talents for the enrichment of the lives of his own people in his own land. And again, the spiritual life of man, created in God's image, prevails.

Reflecting an insight into one of the deeper realities of life, it was said that a people that sings is a people that lives. The beginning of a New Year is a time to recall and revitalize this major source of life of the Jewish people in its many-faceted cultural creativity. It is one of the most certain and reassuring ways for our people to "Choose Life" for today and forever.

Rabbi Bernstein considered this action "a violation of fundamental human rights." He pointed out that "if there is a purpose to the United Nations then it is to declare mankind's outrage to this slavery and we call upon the Human Rights Commission at the U.N. to reaffirm its belief in the sanctity of man by denouncing this form of slavery by one of the great powers of the universe and calling a halt to this effort to require ransoming of individuals whose only crime is to be reunited with their people."

"We hope the Soviet leaders will reconsider their tactics of extortion and harassment, realizing that they are incompatible with the mutually desired aims of political detente and expanding commercial and cultural relations."

"Rosh Hashanah," Rabbi Bernstein explained, "represents the struggle between the spiritual and material for the possession of the hearts and minds of mankind. We live in a generation where the spirit is losing the battle to the material. The defeat of the spirit is bringing with it all the ills of crass materialism."

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