

## Face to Face

by Murray Kass

If the Egyptians are really interested in peace they can accomplish it only by face to face negotiations with the Israelis this month in Geneva, Avaraham Harman, President of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, stated at the 59th annual meeting of the Joint Distribution Committee at the New York Hilton Hotel.

"If they insist on indirect negotiations it can only mean that they don't want peace but a military victory without fighting," he told 400 Jewish community leaders from all parts of the U.S. and Canada. Mr. Harman was Israeli Ambassador to the U.S. from 1959 to 1968.

Stressing Israel's open door policy to Jews in the Diaspora, Mr. Harman said that "what we are defending in 1973 is not just the lives of three million Jews, but to keep Israel's doors open." He reported that 5,000 immigrants arrived during October, the month in which Israel was at war.

The Joint Distribution Committee, major American agency aiding needy Jews overseas, adopted a budget of \$30,400,000 for 1974 for a broad range of social welfare programs, aid to education and other humanitarian needs.

In presenting the budget, Edward Ginsberg of Cleveland, JDC Chairman, noted that it was the biggest budget in over a decade and reflected not only increased programs but also higher costs resulting from rising prices and the devaluation of the American dollar.

Approximately 35 per cent of the budget, over \$10,000,000, will go for programs in Israel, Mr. Ginsberg said. "Over \$8,000,000 will be allotted to Malben, JDC's health and welfare program in Israel. The budget for Israel also provides \$1,000,000 for aid to some 160 yeshivot, refugee rabbis and research projects. Mr. Ginsberg continued. More than half of the JDC's \$3,100,000 subsidy to ORT will go toward funding vocational training programs in Israel.

Of the \$5,500,000 allocated to Europe, Mr. Ginsberg said \$2,500,000 will go for programs in Rumania and Yugoslavia, aiding over 18,000 Jews, mostly aged, ill and handicapped, \$4,500,000 will be provided to aid over 41,000 needy Jews in the Arab and Moslem countries and another \$4,500,000 has been set aside for a special program to aid over 135,000 Jews who cannot be reached in the regular country programs, he added.

Mr. Ginsberg urged continued support for the campaigns of the United Jewish Appeal which provides the bulk of JDC's funds.

Referring to the Yom Kippur War, Mr. Ginsberg said, "The solidarity of world Jewry assured the Israelis that we stood shoulder to shoulder with them in their struggle for survival. In the meantime life goes on." He noted that immigrants were continuing to

## LAS VEGAS ISRAELITE

arrive in increasing numbers. "More Jews arrived from the Soviet Union during the month when Israel was at war than during any other single month since they were permitted to emigrate in appreciable numbers."

The JDC does not yet have full information on the effects of the Yom Kippur War on the Jewish communities in the Arab and Moslem countries, Mr. Ginsberg said. "JDC must be prepared for any contingencies in those countries," he said. "We must be prepared to assist those Jews who require help in Israel, the Arab and Moslem countries and Europe. The burden will be greater and so must our efforts."

### JDC Aided 385,000 in 1973

Reporting on JDC programs for 1973 Samuel I. Haber, JDC Executive Vice-Chairman, disclosed that by the end of 1973 the JDC will have assisted in one form or another 385,000 men, women and children overseas---from a handful in China to over 100,000 in Israel and over 200,000 in Western and Eastern Europe and the Moslem countries." Expenditures for these programs will come to \$29,600,000 by the end of the year, he added.

In Israel approximately 118,000 were assis-

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ted by JDC in direct and indirect services or by JDC-supported programs. This included 40,000 aided by the Malben program, 6,000 of them in institutions, hospitals or other direct services, and the balance in indirect services: 35,000 in JDC's traditional aid to religious and cultural institutions; and over 43,000 who were enrolled in JDC-supported ORT vocational training programs.

In Europe, Mr. Haber continued, over 80,000 needy Jews were aided in regular country programs and another 138,000 in special programs cutting across geographical boundaries. 41,000 were aided in the Arab and Moslem countries and 22,000 in other areas.

Although the JDC spent the highest amount since 1961, Mr. Haber said "...it still fell short of meeting the full range of humanitarian needs in the areas of JDC operation. Everywhere there was a gap between the funds available and the assistance required."

WASHINGTON (WNS) -- The House of Representatives adopted by an overwhelming vote of 364-53 the \$2.2 billion measure to resupply Israel with weapons lost in the Yom Kippur War.

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