

New Year Message

By Edward Ginsberg, Chairman
Amer. Jewish Joint Dist. Comm.

The Jewish New Year is traditionally a period of spiritual inventory, of introspection and a balancing of our moral judgments through the year just passed. For us at the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee this year is a special year. For us, it is a period of assessing the work of almost 60 years, sixty

LAS VEGAS ISRAELITE
years of fulfilling the sacred Jewish tradition of Tzedakah.

For six decades the Joint Distribution Committee has served as the living instrument of the American Jewish community in bringing life-saving aid and soul-saving courage to over two million Jews in some 75 lands across the seven seas. The JDC healed the sick, fed the hungry, educated the children, cared for the aged and the uprooted, helped to find havens for the homeless and helped preserve and perpetuate Jewish life by an uninterrupted program of aid to yeshivot and religious and cultural programs and institutions.

On Rosh Hashana, it is said, it is written in The Book who shall live and who shall die, who shall want and who shall prosper. In its own way the JDC has helped to move the pen across the pages of The Book adding names on one side that were meant for the other.

The rebirth of the State of Israel presented a new challenge to the JDC. Its role in easing the newborn state of its burden for caring for the aged, ill and handicapped newcomers enabled Israel to continue its policy of unrestricted immigration. More important, JDC provided vital services for the most vulnerable and the most helpless of the tens of thousands of refugees who joined in the ingathering during the early years of statehood. In recent years JDC has expanded its programs to include care of aged, not just the immigrants, also care of handicapped children, manpower training and the development of new services in areas of need thus far neglected.

It is with great pride that we look back upon our years of service. It must be a source of pride for the American community, which created the JDC and supported it through the years. It must also be a source of pride for the Canadian Jewish community, for the British community and for communities in South Africa and South America which have also mobilized support for the JDC.

It is with determination that we look forward to still more decades of service to needy Jews overseas. We have no illusions of the early arrival of an era of peace and plenty and as long as there will be Jews in need anywhere in the world, we of the JDC will be there with them, side by side, easing their

pain and renewing their hope. In the coming year we are mobilizing our resources to provide some form of assistance to some 400,000 needy Jews in 25 countries in Europe, North Africa and the Middle East and, of course, Israel.

In their name we offer most sincere New Year greetings to the hundreds of thousands of Jews whose generosity through the United Jewish Appeal enables us to provide these life-saving services and on behalf of the officers, directors and members of the National Council we extend to our less fortunate brothers abroad our fervent wishes for peace, health and serenity in the coming year.

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