

Rabin's Rosh Hashana Message

JERUSALEM (WNS) -- Premier Yitzhak Rabin in his first New Year's Message to world Jewry since becoming premier, said that peace in the Middle East can be achieved only if Israel remains strong "for our neighbors will agree to negotiate only with a very strong Israel."

Pledging Israel will continue to "probe every possible avenue that might lead to the end of the conflict," Rabin declared that "there is a limit beyond which Israel cannot go, dare not go. Israel will not surrender its vital security in return for palliative arrangements that go by the name of peace." Rabin added that "On this, the eve of the Jewish New Year whose intrinsic message is peace, I say to our neighbors Israel seeks the peace of our common region. It seeks reconciliation through dialogue and mutual compromise through negotiation."

Noting that it was almost a year ago that Israel was plunged into war, Rabin said: "Every Jew worthy of the name will surely be moved to pause on this Yom Kippur and remember what happened on that day of fasting and prayer a year ago when the nation of Israel, confronted by a terrible threat to its very life, rushed from its synagogues to meet the invading enemy. Let the 'Yiskor' of this Yom Kippur solemnly recall the awesome sacrifice of the sons of our people who, with their bodies, stemmed the onslaught, turned the tide of battle and swept the enemy back."

Rabin urged a continuation of Jewish support for Israel and called upon the Soviet Union and Syria to allow Jews to leave. He declared that the Jewish home and classroom, "our bastions against assimilation," must be protected and

strengthened, a task for Israel and the diaspora together. He urged "an increased aliya for the sake of what the newcomers can give Israel and for what Israel can give to them."

New Year Message

JERUSALEM (WNS) -- President Ephraim Katzir in his Rosh Hashana message to world Jewry declared that "We face the new year with new knowledge of how closely we are bound together, and how indeed we, both in Israel and abroad are exposed with particular vulnerability to the attack of those economic and strategic forces which are attempting to undermine the structure of the free world." Katzir said the Jewish will to survive "should enable us to nurture our tradition, continue to build and create and learn, strive for decent, peaceful relationships between Israel and its neighbors." He recalled with deep sadness the events that less than one year ago plunged Israel into its most costly war. "We in Israel and you abroad felt instinctively and with terrible force that we were fighting for the continuity of Jewish

history," Katzir said. "That the unthinkable did not happen was due, in the first place, to the courage of Israel's soldiers who overwhelmingly reversed the course of battle and so broke open the way to disengagement of forces and the possibility -- however complicated and remote -- of a peaceful political settlement in the Middle East."

Katzir said since the war "We in Israel have developed new appreciation of the family links binding us all and of the efforts made abroad for Israel, with such extraordinary dedication." He appealed to world Jewry to "work together to deepen the Jewish education of all our children and to bring more and more of the younger generation from abroad to Israel for shorter or longer periods of time and eventually even for the complete identification that is aliya. Jointly let us concern ourselves with the well-being and satisfactory absorption in Israel of the tens of thousands of immigrants from Soviet Russia and elsewhere for whose coming we hope."

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