

**New Year Message**

By Mrs. Charlotte Jacobson  
Chairman, World Zionist Org. Amer. Sec.

The Jewish people have just come through one of the most difficult and traumatic years in the last few decades. The open hostilities of the Yom Kippur War were followed by the sneak attacks on Kiryat Shmoneh, Ma'alot and Nahariyah -- all under the shadow of the Arab discovery of their ability to wield the "oil weapon."

Having discovered, too, that even a lost war can bring them political gains, the Arabs are threatening once again. Both Egypt and Syria are violating the spirit, as well as the letter of the agreements negotiated by Secretary of State Kissinger: neither country is restoring civilian life to the areas released to them by Israel and both have installed banned weaponry into proscribed areas.

Both Syria and Egypt have been rearmed massively, and Syria has been so strengthened by Soviet equipment that for the first time it is capable of starting a full-scale war against Israel on its own, without Egyptian participation. Given the known belligerence of Syria and its trouble-making proclivities, there is little basis for any kind of optimism.

Israel judged itself very harshly in the aftermath of the war, despite the brilliant rally of the Israel Defense Forces and the way they literally snatched victory from the jaws of defeat. The people of Israel demonstrated the strength and resilience the world has almost come to take for granted. And the world Jewish community rallied magnificently, displaying an almost unprecedented solidarity and extending massive support when it was needed most.

To meet the challenges of the year ahead, Israel must be strong enough militarily to deter renewed Arab aggression, or to defeat such aggression should it occur. At the same time, Israel must be strengthened economically as well, so that it may deal successfully with the social and human problems it has yet to resolve.

As we approach Rosh Hashanah, it is abundantly clear that American Jewry faces a year of increased challenge. Our response to that challenge must be a reaffirmation of our determination to aid Israel in every way we can - financially, and through increased aliyah - and we join with Jews the world over in prayers for a New Year of progress, and of peace.

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**SYLVA ZALMANSON "HOME" IN ISRAEL**

TEL AVIV (WNS) -- Sylva Zalmanson, who was freed from a Soviet labor camp after serving four of her 10-year sentence, arrived in Israel to be greeted with a kiss from Acting Premier Yigal Allon and an emotional welcome from relatives.

Mrs. Zalmanson was also embraced at Ben Gurion Airport by Ruth Alexandrovitch who had herself endured a term in a Soviet prison before she was permitted to leave for Israel.

Mrs. Zalmanson was presented with a sea of flowers and a silver star of David. Custom officials confiscated her gold necklace and Star of David at Moscow Airport.

Mrs. Zalmanson expressed her gratitude to the thousands in Israel and throughout the world who helped secure her release. She pledged to continue her struggle until the last "prisoner of conscience" is released from Russian prisons.

Her husband, Eduard Kuznetsov, whom she was permitted to see before leaving the Soviet Union, is still serving a 15-year sentence and her brothers, Vulf and

Israel, are serving sentences of 10 and eight years, respectively.

From the airport Mrs. Zalmanson was taken to her uncle Abraham Zalmanson's flat in Bat Yam from where she called her father, Joseph, in Riga. "Papa, it's me, Sylva, I'm home," she said.

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