ISRAEL'S 27TH (Continued from Page 1)

Katzir said he was convinced the nation would accept any burden that was required to bring it

closer to peace.

The Independence Day festivities came after a day of memorials for the soldier and civilian victims of Israel's four wars. President Katzir kindled a memorial light at the Western Wall where bereaved families assembled. Chief of Staff Gen. Mordechai Gur told them that Israel had not "wasted" the past year, that it was stronger now in weapons and spirit than ever and prepared to "face the political and military tests to which we may be put in the coming year."

year,"

The Memorial Day was ushered in with air raid sirens and all cafes and places of entertainment closed. Memorial services were held at all military cemeteries. Premier Yitzhak Rabin, at the Mt. Herzl ceremony, eulogized the fallen youth of Israel "who did not look forward to military conquests but knew how to hit the enemy deep in its territory." The day of the enemy deep in its territory." The day of mourning ended with sirens which also officially began Independence Day. The day of

ISRAEL HAS OWN JET FIGHTER

TEL AVIV (WNS) --Israel has unveiled a home - produced jet ighter plane. Kfir" (Lion Cub). fighter the

The delta - winged ngle-seat aircraft single-seat with a reported speed of Mach 2,2 (2,2 times the speed of_sound) and an operation ceiling of 50,000 feet was manufactured by Israel Aircrafts Industries. The plane wasdescribed as combination of the French Mirage, powered by the same jet engine that drives the faster American Phantoms Israeli Phantoms. Israeli officials said the plane will reinforce the Air Force's strength, providing an intermediate generation of fighter planes to fill gap between the American 12-14 Phantoms, now the back-bond of the Israel Air Force, until Israel acquires the more advanced American F-15

or F-16 jets. Meanwhile Defense Shimon Minister Peres said in Indepen-dence Day newspaper interviews that about

percent of the 30 equipment and weaponry used by the Is-raeli army is manuis manufactured locally.

Peres also said that the armed forces were in better shape than ever. He said the young men coming into the army today are the best the State has ever known." Peres ever said the lessons of the Yom Kippur War had been studied carefully and, he hoped, all the shortcomings had been remedied. n remedied, acknowledged Peres that Israeli cities were in the range of Soviet made "Scud" missiles in the possession of Syria and Egypt.

But he said Israel can retaliate for any harm it suffers and the Red Cross was aware that Israel is ready to agree to a pledge, on a mutual basis, to refrain from hitting civilian areas.

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US JEWS MARK ISRAEL'S 27TH ANNIVERSARY

NEW YORK (WNS) Jewish leaders in United States marked Israel's 27th anniversary with ex-pressions of solidarity with the Jewish State. awareness of Israel's problems and fidence in her ability to cope with them.

In New York, some 3000 persons attended the Amerizan Zionist Federation's annual anniversary celebration, They heard Yosef Tekoah, Israel's Ambassador to the United Nations, declare that if Israel had yielded to Egypt's demands to Egypt's demands in the recent negotia-tions conducted by Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger Henry A. Kissinger ed the Middle East to a process of Vietnami-zation." He said the He said the negotiations broke down because "Egypt was not ready to make the first step in the direction of peace. Egypt wanted territory but was not pre-pared to abandon the path of war and to begin to construct peace together Israel." with

Mrs. Faye Schenk, AZF president, said, "We, the Zionists of United States, pledge our continued support to the State of Israel." She said that "We will use all thar our resourcefulness to enable the public to from discern facts fiction, and in this way. develop an appreciaa strong and secure

David Rivlin, Israel's Consul General in New York, and other speakers noted that the celebration of Israel's independence is tempered with sorrow over the 10,000 10,000 Israelis who lost their

Israel.

lives in Israel's four wars. "We are a are a gene ration steeped with suffering and tears and blood," Riv lin said.

Israeli Premier Yitzhak Rabin in a filmed message to the AZI celebration said your assembly is in itself a celebration of our Jewish unity." Rabin declared that "to be a Jew means to want peace, to work endlessly to achieve peace and to take risks, if necessary, to advance its coming. For the past 27 years this has been the aspiration and objective of Israel.

Rabbi Israel Miller, chairman of the Conference of Presidents of: Major Jewish Organizations, stressthat only with strong Israel can peace be achieved in the Mideast. He said the Ford Administration must take this assessment into account in its "re-assessment" of American Mideast policy. In Washington.

ambassadors of at least to a least 40 countries and other public figures attended a reception at the Israeli Embassy hosted by Ambassador Mrs. and

Dinitz, In San Francisco, 500 persons attended an Independence Day celebration honoring the American Veter ans of Israel spon-sored by the American Veterans of Israel. Several Jewish lead-

ers issued Independence Day messages. Sam Rothberg, gen-eral chairman of the Israel Bond Organization, noted the intensified Arab economic warfare against Israel and that the Jewish State is still staggering from financial effects of the Yom Kippur Warwhich has been aggravated by an unprecedented defense budget and a very high rate of inflation.

Charlotte Jacobson, chairman of the World Zionist Organization's Amer-Section, deican clared. American Jewry been so united in support of Israel as it is today. The Jewish com-munity in the United States fully understands the Israel faces. the problems

Melvin Dubinsky chairman. Irving Kessler, execu-tive vice-chairman of Appeal, noted that Israel's long Israel's long search for peace "depends to, a large extend on the inner strength of Israel's people. We, the Jewish community of the United States, share in strengthening them."

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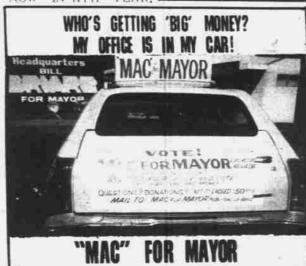
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