

STRONG U.S. STAND
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number of Western countries, including Sweden, Norway, Denmark, West Germany and Canada; the nine members of the European Economic Community (Belgium, France, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Ireland, Italy and West Germany); Yugoslavia and Czechoslovakia, and the European Socialist leaders, have all joined the United States in opposing any expulsion or suspension move.

"Undoubtedly," Mrs. Jacobson said, "these countries have been encouraged to support Israel's legitimacy as a result of the forthright declaration by Secretary of State Kissinger that the United States will take 'definite and clear action' if Israel is expelled from the U.N., and his earlier warning that 'those who seek to manipulate U.N. membership...may well inherit an empty shell.'"

"However," Mrs. Jacobson added, "it is of the utmost importance that the Arab bloc and their allies understand that Mr. Kissinger's warnings, and President Ford's forthright stand against expulsion, are not simply rhetoric or empty flourishes; the United States must specify just what it means by 'definite and clear action'."

"The 'nonaligned' countries are meeting in Lima, Peru, later this month, Mrs. Jacobson pointed out, and Arab efforts to win their support - and their crucial votes at the General Assembly - can be countered only by increased American effort to maintain the universality and integrity of the United Nations.

"During this period of celebration of the American Bicentennial, when Americans remember with justified pride the moral principles upon which this country was built and which constitute so significant a part of the American heritage and the American contribution to the modern world, our gov't. must assert and demonstrate its moral leadership of the free world; two hundred years of American history demand it; all that we are as a nation, and all that we hope to be, require it," she concluded.

2ND HADASSAH HOSPITAL ANNOUNCED AT 61ST ANNUAL NATIONAL CONVENTION

San Francisco... "Hadassah's medical organization budget for the next year will probably be increased one-third when its second hospital in Jerusalem reopens at the end of 1975," Rose E. Matzkin, national president of Hadassah announced at the 61st annual National Convention of Hadassah meeting at the San Francisco Hilton Hotel August 17-20.

It will be up to the 2,500 delegates of the 335,000-member voluntary organization which has 1500

chapters and groups in every State of the Union, including Puerto Rico, to approve the final budget and to set the quotas and goals to support Hadassah's programs in the U. S. and its network of health, education and rehabilitation services in Israel.

Last year's fund raising quota just for HMO maintenance was over \$7,000,000 with over an additional \$1 million for building and development. Hadassah maintains the Hadassah-Hebrew University Medical Cen-

ter at Ein Karem in Western Jerusalem, which is the largest medical complex for healing, teaching and research in the Middle East.

In October, it will reopen the Hadassah University Hospital on Mount Scopus in East Jerusalem, which is part of the Medical Center. The Mount Scopus Hospital was the original medical center, opened in 1939 and evacuated in 1948 when Israel lost access to it. It was returned to Hadassah in 1967 when Jerusalem was reunited.

HADASSAH DOCTORS REPLACE

JERUSALEM -- Although valve replacement is widely accepted as the treatment of choice for adult patients with severely damaged heart valves due to rheumatic disease, there has been some hesitation in performing this serious operation on children.

A team of scientists at the Hadassah-Hebrew University Medical Center here has found, however, that the replacement of damaged valves under open-heart surgery in children suffering from advanced rheumatic heart disease results in a striking modification of the disease: the majority of young persons operated upon show improvement in blood flow, volume and pressure to near normal values, so that they can lead completely normal lives, return to their studies, and later in life become gainfully employed.

Despite the young age of the patients, adult-sized artificial heart valves were inserted by the Hadassah surgeons, only one child requiring replacement of the original prosthesis by a larger device, some years after the first operation.

In developing countries such as Israel, the vast populations of the Indian subcontinent and southeast Asia, as well as in other underprivileged areas of the world, chronic rheumatic heart disease is associated with a high death rate. In these areas the disease frequently attacks children, and the course of the disease is much more malignant than in adults.

This results in severe damage to the heart valves from an early age, which may lead to life-endangering effects on the blood flow, volume and pressure, often necessitating valve replacement as an emergency measure.

The surgeons found that the most common indication for surgery was mitral insufficiency. Of the 33 cases operated upon, 28 were suffering from mitral insufficiency. Twenty-four children underwent single - valve replacement, eight had two valves replaced, and one a triple valve replacement.

Before being operated upon, all were classified Grade IV or late Grade III, according to the criteria of the New York Heart Association: they suffered from severely limited physical ability, shortness of breath on exertion, and cardiac failure, which responded poorly or not at all to therapy. They showed progressive

CHILDREN'S HEART VALVES

heart enlargement and lung congestion, and marked changes in blood flow, volume and pressure.

The team confirms that, according to their own experience, children with severe mitral insufficiency in whom the clinical condition was deterioration, show a high mortality rate. They, therefore, considered them to be candidates for urgent surgery, particularly if damage to a second valve was present as well. If possible, surgery was delayed until the patient was in optimal condition, even if this meant prolonged hospitalization.

During the follow-up period of up to eight years, checks were made of the children who had undergone valve - replacement under open-heart surgery. Twenty are now classified as Grade I and lead completely normal lives, and three are classified as Grade II. All have returned to their studies. The older boys are gainfully employed. Two of the older girls are now married and pregnant. Post-operative catheterization studies have shown improvement in blood flow, volume and pressure to near normal values.

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