

FIRST HAND FROM SOUTH AFRICA

Dear Jack:

I take this opportunity to write after reading your editorial in your August 1st issue on "Israel Not South Africa."

I spent 5 weeks touring South Africa last October and there has been much progress in what they are trying to do. First, and important to you, the Jews of South Africa are the largest per capita contributors to the UJA. The governments of both Israel and South Africa have excellent relations. Abba Eban is a South African.

I strongly believe if the outside agitators would let South Africa resolve their own internal problems it will be done in less time than it took our country to resolve theirs and we still have many problems.

The following note written by Bernard Postal in the recent issue of The Jewish Week and The American Examiner will be of interest.

"The synagogue in Calvina, a town of 5,200 people in South Africa, has been turned over to the municipality and converted into a museum because the once flourishing Jewish community hasn't a single Jew left. The first Jew settled in Calvina in 1855."

The problem in South Africa is complicated by the allegiance to a particular tribe. There are nine distinct languages among them and added to the Afrikanse and English, communication becomes difficult. One point of interest was my visit to The Bantu Broadcasting Co. where broadcasts are made to the natives in 9 different languages.

I am enclosing a copy of yesterday's page opposite editorial page with an article that emphasizes the importance of South Africa as an ally to the World.

I do hope all is well.

With all my very best wishes,

Always,

Nat Goldstein

(ED. NOTE: Nat Goldstein, retired executive with N.Y. Times for almost a half century, is a man who knows whereof he speaks. We respectfully defer to his opinion and we wish him long years and health. J.T.)

New Year Message

By Jack D. Weiler

Chairman, Amer. Jewish Joint Dist. Comm.

Rosh Hashana is a profoundly moving holiday, but above all, a deeply personal one. It is a time of reflection and assessment, when we judge our actions during the year that passed and pledge to act with greater justice and mercy in the year ahead. It is a time of prayer and spiritual renewal.

We are thankful that thousands of our fellow Jews found their way safely out of the Soviet Union in the past year, to build new lives for themselves in Israel and in the West. We are grateful that it has been possible for the Joint Distribution Committee to bring hope and material aid to over 400,000 needy Jews in some 25 countries across the face of the earth.

But much still remains to be done in the coming year and in the years ahead. We are aware that the day when the JDC shall no longer be needed is still far off. In Israel JDC will reach out to close to 120,000 men,



DINA ROITKOP - PODRIACHIK DIED ON AUGUST 28TH OF A CEREBRAL HEMORRHAGE. SHE TOURED THE U.S. THIS YEAR UNDER THE SPONSORSHIP OF THE NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON SOVIET JEWRY TO MOBILIZE SUPPORT FOR HER 26-YEAR-OLD SON, URI, WHO HAS NOT BEEN ALLOWED TO LEAVE RIGA.

women and children; in Europe about 85,000 still look to JDC for help; in the Arab and Moslem countries JDC will bring help to over 35,000 and in other countries still another 160,000 will be aided by the JDC.

During this Holy Season we seek renewed inspiration to face the tasks ahead. As long as there are Jews in danger, as long as there are Jews in need anywhere in the world, the JDC shall be there with them bringing help, hope and the solidarity of their fellow Jews.

In the spirit that we are our brothers' keepers, the officers, directors and staff of the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee send Rosh Hashana greetings to the Jews of America who make our work possible through their generous gifts to the United Jewish Appeal, from which we derive most of our funds. We send greetings to the Jews of Canada, England, Europe, South Africa and South America, to all those who support our work. And in their name we send Holiday greetings to the hundreds of thousands of needy Jews overseas who are helped to life and hope by our efforts.

Incident Prior To Helsinki

By Robert E. Segal

On the historic road to Helsinki, President Ford's touching visit to Auschwitz stirred memories almost too bitter to bear. One recalled the unmeasurable crime against the Jewish people at Auschwitz just as one recalled the unspeakable and obscene deeds of Nazi criminals at Bergen-Belsen during the visit in mid-July by Premier Yitzhak Rabin.

The President of the world's most powerful republic was obviously shaken, profoundly impressed, as he walked through the ruins of the gas chambers. "Horrible, unbelievable." His own words came with sincere spontaneity, followed by a timely appeal for peace and security for all peoples.

Mr. Ford is a religious man. He prays not publicly at the White House, but unobtrusively, without fanfare, in dignity, with one or two friends. We have reason to believe that his

journey to Auschwitz will prove memorable.

That visit, indeed, may lead to a re-examination by many well-intentioned Christians of the evil embodied in the concept of somber reality of the Nazi death camps. Alice Eckardt, brilliant church scholar, has asserted that Christianity has failed to grasp the crucial nature of the questions raised for its own theology and future by Hitler's crimes against the Jews. She has written that many had assumed that the Holocaust was a Jewish problem whereas in fact it is, in far deeper respects, a Christian problem. Her Christian contemporaries, she declared, have thus far failed to understand that everything has been changed by Auschwitz.

Those now awakened by challenges like that of Alice Eckardt and by President Ford's dramatic stop at Auschwitz should place the frightful words of Nazi death camp architect Heinrich Himmler before them: "An S.S. man must adhere absolutely to one principle: he must be honorable, decent, faithful, and comradely to members of his own race, and to no one else... Whether other nations live well or die of starvation interests me only in so far as we need slaves for our culture -- other than that it holds for me no interest. Most of (my Nazi comrades) know what it means when 100 (Jewish) corpses lie next to each other, or 500, or even 1000. To experience this, and --- apart from human weaknesses -- to remain decent, that has made us hard. This is a glorious page in our history...."

The President's visit to Auschwitz, then, was on the road to Helsinki. And at Helsinki there gathered the leaders of 35 nations to sign a declaration many months in the making. This declaration had to do with European security, trade, tourism, cooperation in such fields as economics, technology, environment. One obvious objective was "to broaden, deepen, and make continuing and lasting the process of detente." Fine words are set forth in the declaration regarding cooperation in humanitarian fields. Even finer words are spoken about the equal rights of peoples.

All peoples? One would hope so. How then will Leonid Brezhnev reconcile those fine words with the startling truth of the denial of rights to those thousands of Russian Jews who find nearly all egress blocked when they desire to emigrate to Israel?

And how are the rights of nations going to be secured by the Helsinki declaration when the USSR sees in the new pact affirmation of her annexation of great sectors of Europe? How does Moscow find consistency in asking world opinion to place the seal of approval on her grab of territory in World War II while the Kremlin demands constantly that Israel yield land she took, when attacked and now needs desperately as bulwark of defense against further assaults?

Premier Rabin might well have been thinking of this phase of Helsinki when he visited Bergen-Belsen. Did Gerald Ford have similar thoughts when he visited Auschwitz?

MIAMI (WNS) -- American Jews were warned that Israel may not survive unless Jews everywhere are jolted out of their complacency, by Robert St. John, the hard non-Jewish author, foreign correspondent and broadcaster, to the 46th annual convention of the National Federation of Jewish Men's Clubs.

NEW YORK (WNS) -- The American Jewish Congress has been assured by a consortium of Arab, American and European banks seeking a charter for a new bank in New York State that it will "adhere to principles of equality and non-discrimination" in its lending and hiring policies.

WASHINGTON (WNS) -- The House by a 355-41 vote approved the United States-Rumanian trade agreement.

Alan J. Arnold M.D.

announces the opening of his office for the practice of

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