

Behind The Scenes

At The United Nations

By DAVID HOROWITZ

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Herzog's New Book

UNITED NATIONS (WUP) -- It is rare that an Ambassador, in assuming his new post as the spokesman of his country here at the UN should have a political work published dealing with the intricate problems of his region simultaneously with his appointment.

This is the case with Chaim Herzog, Israel's new envoy to this world organization, whose 300-page book, "The War of Atonement -- the Fatal Implications of the Arab - Israel Conflict," came off the press the very week Israel's former Major-General presented his credentials to Secretary-General Kurt Waldheim.

In "The War of Atonement," Herzog has given the world a masterful albeit candid account of the Yom Kippur conflict in all its intricate and perplexing details -- and not without some rather harsh criticisms of his own Government leaders.

"The origins of the war," he notes at the outset, "can be found to a very considerable degree in the Six Day War, which had a profound effect on both sides to the conflict, changing in no small measure Israel's social and political life and dictating basic changes in its strategic thinking." Moreover, he points out that "it acted as a catalyst in the Arab world and gave rise to a complete re-evaluation of

the military posture of the Egyptians, who drew conclusions from every aspect of their defeat and set about putting their military house in order with active Soviet support."

"The Israelis, on the other hand," he discloses, "swept under the carpet all the shortcomings that had been revealed in the war but had been overlooked in the euphoria of victory; consecrating mentally the military concepts that had emerged from the six days of war, they prepared for the next war as if it were to be the seventh day."

The entire book is based upon first-hand information. Indeed, as his publishers, Little Brown, state, the author's "dramatic description of the course of the war on the two fronts -- based upon interviews with the combatants -- is characterized by a sharp sense of immediacy, punctuated by harrowing scenes of battle and moving incidents of heroism alike." In dealing with the Israeli counterattacks in the Golan Heights, in the Sinai and in Egypt proper, Herzog presents a picture that is both soul-stirring and inspirational -- and once again, as in 1948, 1956 and in 1967, the Jewish nation could say that it was blessed with a nes, a miracle. Once again, Cairo and Damascus, crying out 'enough,' beseeched the United Nations and especially Henry Kissinger to rescue them from total defeat.

The descendants of Joshua and Gideon had

ISRAEL DEVALUES POUND BY 2 PERCENT

TEL AVIV (WNS) -- In a continuing attempt to increase exports and discourage imports, the Israel Pound was devalued by 2% for the second time since June so that it now takes IL 6.24 to buy one U.S. dollar.

The devaluation was made by a special ministerial committee which last June was given the authority to devalue the Pound by 2 per cent every 30 days. A larger devaluation requires the approval of the entire Cabinet. Israelis had expected the devaluation and many feared it would be as high as 10 percent.

Importers had been trying to get foreign currency needed to clear goods from customs, and many people who expected to travel abroad rushed to get foreign currency earlier than needed. In addition, there was a rush for dollar-linked bonds on the Israeli Stock Exchange pushing up their prices. The government's action

was seen as an attempt to prevent such speculation.

done it again, and the nations of the world stood aghast at the predicament in which the Egyptians and the Syrians found themselves. In his criticism of the leadership of some of the Israelis, the brunt of it fell heavily on Moshe Dayan. Although Herzog praised Dayan as "a man of unusual ability," he charges that he "preferred to focus in certain aspects of his job and ignore all others."

In his concluding chapter, entitled "Lessons and Implications," Chaim Herzog warns that the Middle East "faces not only dangers but great challenges. The basic issue," he reminds the world, "remains as it always had in the past: do the Arabs want peace? Do they recognize Israel's right to exist?"

Major-General Herzog concludes his historic volume with this warning: "Only when the Arab actions indicate a willingness to modify their attitude to the basic issue of the existence of the State of Israel will it be possible for Israel to make concessions."

As regards Israeli-Arab negotiations, Jerusalem's new Ambassador to the UN states, "only time can tell whether or not these will succeed."

"The War of Atonement" -- a classic military document which reads like a fascinating novel -- closes with these words:

"Many of the great events in a 4,000-year-old history pale into insignificance beside what was achieved on the battlefield in the Yom Kippur War. Israel has every right to draw courage and faith for the future from its performance in what the Israelis may well remember as their war of atonement."

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