

**MACHPELA FOR BOTH JEWS AND MOSLEMS**

UNITED NATIONS (WUP) -- Ambassador Chaim Herzog's first official communication to the UN, submitted here the day after he had presented his credentials, deals with the issue of the rights of both Jews and Moslems to worship in the Cave of the Machpela, the burial site of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob and their wives. The letter, addressed to Secretary - General Waldheim, counters Jordanian charges made a week earlier to the effect that the "Israeli authorities have perpetrated serious and flagrant violations against the religious sanctity and physical integrity of one of the most prominent Islamic shrines..."

In his communication to Waldheim, General Herzog let it be known that "the Cave of Machpela is a Jewish Holy Place

housing as it does the tombs of the Jewish patriarchs Abraham, Isaac and Jacob and their respective wives, Sarah, Rebekah and Leah, a fact conveniently ignored by the Jordanian Demarche."

Ambassador Herzog went on to note that "the story of the purchase of the burial plot by Abraham is recounted in the Old Testament (Genesis 23)," adding that "it is ironical indeed to note that this matter was raised by Jordan which behaved with a complete lack of respect for the Holy Shrines under its prior control prior to 1967."

"For nineteen years," Herzog continued, "Jews were denied access for prayer to the holiest of Jewish Shrines, the Wailing Wall, by the Jordan occupation authorities in Jerusalem in con-

travention of its international obligations. Their troops set fire and destroyed Jewish synagogues and centers of worship in Jerusalem. The ancient Jewish cemetery on the Mount of Olives, hallowed by thousands of years of history and dating back to biblical times, was desecrated by the Jordanian authorities, who defiled the graves and tombs, uprooted the tombstones.... Jewish access to the subject of this note, the Cave of Machpela was forbidden. The Jordanian Government's record in respect of Holy Places under its control surely denies it any moral standing in such issues."

Ambassador Herzog then told Waldheim that "the overriding principles guiding Israel's policy regarding all the Holy Places have been and are to guarantee free access to members of all faiths and to ensure orderly conditions of

worship to members of every religion. This principle also applies to the Cave of Machpela and the sanctity of this Holy Shrine is strictly observed.... Israel is proud of its record in respect of the Holy Places of all faiths....

"As the Cave of Machpela is holy to both Judaism and Islam," Herzog stated, "arrangements have been made which enable both Moslems and Jews to worship and pray in an orderly manner

based on mutual respect.... Jewish worshippers pray in the Abraham and Sarah Hall and Moslems in the Isaac and Rebekah Hall -- the largest and

the most important hall to all religions, which contains the Imam's Pulpit or Mimbar. It is kept exclusively for Moslem prayers..."

On Saturday, October 11 at 8 p.m., Channel 10 will air "Closing the Gap," another look at the newest arrivals to the United States, the Vietnam Refugees.

"Lowell Thomas Remembers" the year 1932, Sunday, October 12 at 7:30 p.m. on Channel 10.

"Bukowski Reads Bukowski," a candid look at gruff, hard drinking American poet, Charles Bukowski, will air Thursday, October 16 at 10:30 p.m. on Channel 10.

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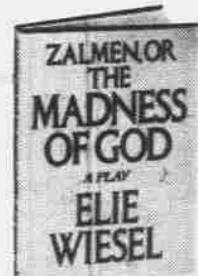
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