

# Passover Message 1976

By Mrs. Charlotte Jacobson  
(Chairman, American Section  
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On Passover we celebrate the birthday of the Jewish people as a nation.

The push from Egypt and the pull of the Promised Land, were the twin forces that welded the "mixed-multitude" into a nation and launched the millenia-long adventure. Those same forces have operated throughout our history to bring Jews back to the Land of Israel, and are operative today as the motivating forces behind the turmoil among Jews in the Soviet Union, fighting for the right to Aliyah.

The Second Brussels Conference, this past February, dramatized the urgency of Jewish demands to leave the Soviet Union and of the unity of world Jewry in support of those demands. What we are all fighting for is nothing less than a modern counterpart to the Passover story: an exodus which would permit the second - largest concentration of Jews anywhere in the world to rejoin their people and resume their place as part of the Jewish nation.

Like the ancient Egyptians, who first permitted the Israelites to leave and following a change of heart pursued them, in a vain attempt to bring them back, the Soviets have once again closed the doors. But the exodus cannot be stopped once started, and Russia's modern Israelites will also make their way to the Promised Land.

In Syria, however, the modern Pharaoh is still saying "no" to all Jewish pleas for permission to leave. The oppression is total and unrelieved. We Jews in the free world will not rest until that oppression ends and the Jews of Syria, too, are delivered.

Passover is more than the celebration of one liberation millenia ago. As the Haggadah has it, every one of us, in every generation, must consider himself as having been among those who were freed from Egyptian bondage: freedom is never fully achieved, for all time, but must be struggled for in every generation.

Our Passover celebration this year, the American Bicentennial Year, has an added dimension: recollection of the successful American quest for freedom, and of America's traditional devotion to the cause of freedom throughout the world.

As we observe the Seder ritual and drink to the ancient liberation, we rededicate ourselves anew to increased financial aid to Israel, through the United Jewish Appeal and the Israel Bond Campaign; we reaffirm our commitment to support Aliyah -- the highest form of personal participation in Israel's struggle to remain free.

## ISRAEL LAND REQUISITION IN GALILEE

JERUSALEM (WNS) -- Authorization for the requisition of 5000 acres of land in the Galilee -- half of it from Arab landowners -- has been approved by the Cabinet.

The land will be used for housing projects aimed at increasing the Jewish population of the Galilee. The decision is expected to stir serious opposition from Arab landowners even though they will be paid for the land's potential as housing sites and not for its present condition on which there has been no cultivation or building.

Housing Minister Avraham Ofer and Shmuel Toledano, the

government's advisor on Arab affairs, said the 5000 acres was the minimum area feasible for the new development. The land which the government intends to requisition is located near Nazareth and Illith (Upper Nazareth) and at Carmiel. Ofer said Carmiel is to be built up from a population of 8,000 to 35,000.

About 625 acres is being planned for Arab housing at Maker, a village near Acre. Another 1000 acres belonging to Jews on the outskirts of Safad will be taken over for new housing projects. The Jewish owners are expected to object as much as the Arabs.

The Cabinet approved the plan without a vote although Mapam minister raised some "technical" objections at the timing of the decision. However, Mapam sources reported the party supports the plan since it is interested in developing the Galilee.

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