

A World of Terrorism

By Rabbi Stanley Rabinowitz

The Shofar of Rosh Hashanah this year is tragically a sound of alarm and a call to vigilance, for terrorism threatens to destroy the very fabric of civilization. The explosion of bombs and the obscenity of hijacking threatens to plunge the world back to the chaos and void from which we sometimes think we have emerged.

The acceptance of terrorism, by otherwise decent people who seek to understand the motives of terrorism, is tantamount to justifying the technique of terrorism. It violates the basic pre-

LAS VEGAS ISRAELITE

mise of faith: that every human being is sacred, a religious concept which translates into a warning that no human being may be used as a tool to achieve a political goal. Human life must not be destroyed merely to make a statement of protest.

In the context of the ongoing struggle between civilization and the jungle, the time has come for Jews to be less concerned with the question, who is a Jew, and more concerned with the question, what does it mean to be a Jew?

The rescue at Entebbe Airport, which wondrously took place on the anniversary of U.S. independence, asserts that to be a Jew today means to be numbered among those who respect the sanctity of life and who are willing to die to affirm its holiness.

In a world increasingly deaf to the sound of terrorist bombs, being a Jew today means to be included among those who will do everything possible to widen the distance between mankind and the jungle from whose dust it has so painfully emerged.

To be a Jew today means to make common cause with decent peoples of all faiths and all nations to broaden the blessings of democracy and to preserve the implications of the Bicentennial celebration which clearly proclaimed that the furtherance of freedom is America's sacred mandate. This is the meaning of our prayer: "May all the children of God unite in one fellowship to do His will with a perfect heart."

The people of Israel remain an instrument of the divinely-inspired thrust to make the universe a dwelling where nations shall not lift up sword against nation. And because there are forces who deny this goal, to survive as a Jew today means to be caught up in the unending grip of Jewish history with its traumas and dangers, its challenges, achievements and glories.

It is the purpose of religion to help mankind rise above its animal origin, to emerge from the morass of the jungle from which he has stemmed, and to aspire to reach the gates of heaven. Rosh Hashanah is the birthday of the beginning of that aspiration.

May our New Year be one in which the peoples of all nations may come closer to the long-sought goal of civil tranquility and universal peace.

WASHINGTON (WNS) -- David Lissy, associate director of President Ford's Domestic Council, saying that he is very encouraged by the potential support in the Jewish community for the President, stressed that the goal of 40 percent or more of the Jewish vote for Ford is "certainly attainable."

LOS ANGELES -- The landmark decision of the California Supreme Court in the case of Bakke vs. University of California was hailed by the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith as a key victory in the fight against quotas and reverse discrimination.

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