

JEWISH NEWS BRIEFS

PROMISE, FUFILMENT OF BALFOUR DECLARATION AFTER 60 YEARS

By Charlotte Jacobson

Chairman, World Zionist Org. Amer. Sec.

NEW YORK (WUP) -- Dr. David Hyatt, a Catholic who serves as President of the National Conference of Christians and Jews, has cautioned President Carter that "we are playing with dynamite when we actively involve the Soviet Union in any U.S. efforts toward peace in the Middle East."

UNITED NATIONS (WUP) -- In a unique ceremony last week, a mezuzah was affixed for the first time in a U.S. Delegation office at the United States Mission building across the street from the UN. The office was that of Congressman Lester Wolff.

TEL AVIV (WNS) -- The government of India has denied permission to the Israel Philharmonic to tour the country despite indications that the new government had indicated a change in attitude toward Israel, compared to that of Indira Ghandi's government.

JERUSALEM (WNS) -- A bomb explosion in the Old City market October 15 injured two persons.

NEW YORK -- Louis Winer of Chicago and Gerrard Berman of Paterson, N. J. were named to head the upcoming National Camp Ramah Campaign with a goal of \$3,600,000 for modernization, capital improvements, scholarship funds and increased programming at the various camps.

NEW YORK -- Mrs. Edith Alexander, active in the Greater New York Jewish community for over a quarter-century, has been named director of the Women's Division of HIAS.

NEW YORK -- At a specially convened meeting of the American Zionist Federation National Board, the Association of Reform Zionists of America was officially welcomed to the ranks of the AZF.

NEW YORK -- ZOA President Rabbi Joseph P. Sternstein accused former Senator J. William Fulbright of blatant anti-Israel and anti-Jewish bias "which he cloaks in patriotism while carefully failing to mention that his law firm is in the employ of Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and the Arab Emirates and that he, himself, is registered as a Foreign Agent."

NEW YORK -- In an address before the Plenum of the Synagogue Council of America, Israel's Ambassador to the United Nations, Chaim Herzog, expressed the fear that "a major attack on Israel is being mounted in the United Nations."

NEW YORK -- "Over 893,000 adult Jews are members of the Zionist movement in the United States," according to Mrs. Faye Schenk, President of the American Zionist Federation.

NEW YORK -- The First International Conference of Jewish Culinary Art will take place in Jerusalem January 23 - 27, to highlight the different aspects of Kosher cuisine.

NEW YORK -- Representatives from some 15 major Jewish women's organizations met at the office of the National Council of Jewish Women to discuss their participation at the forthcoming International Women's Year Conference to be held in Houston from November 19 - 22.

NEW YORK -- Teacher salaries in Jewish day and supplementary schools are "too low to afford a head of family a decent, comfortable standard of living as the sole wage earner," according to a nationwide study conducted by the American Association for Jewish Education, national coordinating agency for Jewish education in the United States.

NEW YORK -- The 63rd Annual Meeting of the Joint Distribution Committee will be held December 6 and 7, 1977, in New York City.

NEW YORK -- Americans & Israelis will have intensive dialogue next year in Jerusalem at the Second Jerusalem Conference of Christians and Israelis which will take place from January 23 to 31, 1978.

NEW YORK -- The Balfour Declaration was not issued as a reward to Chaim Weizmann for his contribution to the British war effort, nor was it a bribe with which to buy the support of the Jewish community for the Allied cause. And it was not, as some would have it, a purely British formulation of policy; it came out of long deliberations between the principal Allied Powers.

In February and March of 1918 the French and Italian Governments, respectively, issued parallel statements in support of the Balfour Declaration. President Wilson not only followed the negotiations and encouraged issuance of the Declaration; our government insisted on having a hand in the drafting of the mandate itself. The Balfour Declaration was unanimously adopted, and embodied in the Mandate for Palestine, at a meeting of the Supreme Council of the Allied Powers at San Remo, in April 1920. And after the Council of the League of Nations unanimously ratified the British Mandate, including the Declaration, the United States Congress adopted a resolution of endorsement and support.

The Balfour Declaration did not establish or create the connection between the Jewish people and Palestine; it did recognize and affirm that historical connection, which goes back three millennia. Because of that connection, the Allied Powers -- and the United States government -- all agreed on the creation, or reconstitution of a Jewish homeland in Palestine as world policy.

At the time, the meaning of the Declaration was clear enough; -- "Arabia for the Arabs, Judea for the Jews, Armenia for the Armenians," was the way Lord Robert Cecil, Balfour's deputy at the Foreign Office, put it. And that was the way the world understood it, despite the subsequent whittling - away of Transjordan -- which had been part of the original mandated area -- and Britain's later attempts to scuttle the Jewish homeland altogether

in response to Arab pressures.

Despite these attempts the Balfour Declaration was a turning point in Jewish history: it provided world - wide sanction and encouragement to the struggling young Zionist movement, and was fulfilled in the creation of the State of Israel.

Today, sixty years since the Declaration was issued, we are aware that it represented not only a great moment in the history of the Jewish people, but in that of the civilized world as well. It symbolized the conscience of the world responding to the suffering it had inflicted upon a helpless people and its welcoming them back into the family of nations.

The Balfour Declaration, and the Mandate for Palestine, were the products of vision and statesmanship; perhaps our observance on this sixtieth anniversary will help reawaken that vision and encourage similar statesmanship today; and help assure security for Israel and peace for the entire Middle East.

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