Rosh Hashanah Message 5739-1978

By Mrs. Charlotte Jacobson. Chairman World Zionist Org. Amer. Sec.

NEW YORK -- This is, inevitably, the year of Camp David. The agreement signed by Prime Minister Menachem Begin of Israel and President Anwar Sadat of Egypt -- and witnessed so dramatically by President Jimmy

Carter -- in an impressive ceremony at the White House, came as a fitting climax to a pro-

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cess which began with President Sadat's historic and stunning visit to Jerusalem last Novem-

The promise of that visit and the euphoria which followed it faded with Egyptian withdrawal from subsequent talks, and it was with the most pessimistic prophesies that the world greeted the convening of the Camp David Summit Conference.

Camp David, and the agreements it produced, Camp David, and the agreements it produced, have not produced a comparable euphoria. There is the lesson learned from the previous excitement and the reminder by the architect of the Conference itself. President Carter, that there is still a long way to go before the historic transformations implicit in the Camp David agreements are realized.

But Camp David has already transformed the atmosphere in which further negotiations on unresolved issues will be held.

Camp David has opened an era of newpossibilities and great hopes for the Middle East: the possibility of real peace between Israel and Egypt; the possibility of real peace between Israel and Jordan, and the opportunity for constructive, creative cooperation between Israel and at least these two of her immediate neighbors for the benefit of the area and its

Camp David opens an era of challenge to the Zionist movement itself. Aliyah, the quality of life in Israel and the fulfillment of the Zionist dream, to build a strong and healthy Zionist State, are once again viable prospects,

Even before Camp David, Israel itself was experiencing a resurgence of spirit and striving to alleviate the social and human problems within its society. An ambitious program to rehouse some 45,000 families, in "Project Renewal" had been launched and should begin to show re-

sults in the coming year or two.

And the Zionist movement had taken a decisive step forward, too: at the recent tumultuous 29th World Zionist Congress it moved to recognize the religious pluralism of Jewish life and voted for equal treatment of non-Orthodox elements in all areas of Movement activity.

As we approach Rosh Hashana, it is clear that American and world Jewry face a year of increased challenge on every front, Our response to that challenge must be reaffirmation of our commitment to the cause of Israel through membership in a Zionist organization and reaffirmation of our determination to aid Israel affirmation of our determination to aid Israel in every way we can: financially, through increased aliyah, and through alertness to political developments.

We join with the Jews world over in prayers for a New Year of peace, and of progress.



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BEST WISHES FOR A very happy New Year





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