

LETTERS

Dear Friend:

In his acceptance speech at the Nobel Peace Prize Ceremony in Oslo, Prime Minister Menachem Begin called attention to the great Swiss Humanitarian Jean Henri Dunant, who was the first recipient of the Nobel prize for peace in 1901. Mr. Begin mentioned the fact that Dunant was the founder of the International Red Cross. Dunant was also one of the first Christian supporters of a Jewish Homeland, later envisaged by the great Zionist leader Theodor Herzl.

At this important juncture in Israeli history, when the leader of the government of Israel joins Henri Dunant as a Nobel Peace Laureate, it is ironic to have to remind your readers that the Magen David Adom (Red Shield of David) Society is denied recognition by the International Red Cross. In spite of its continued pronouncements that it is founded on the principles of humanitarianism, universality and brotherhood, the Geneva - based Red Cross organization refuses to grant membership to the Israeli Magen David Adom organization.

This is all the more outrageous when all qualified experts, including those from the Red Cross itself readily agree that Israel fulfills 9 of the 10 criteria for admission. The only condition Israel cannot follow is giving up the use of its Magen David Adom emblem. Fair - minded people the world over under-

stand that Israel should not be forced to use the Christian Red Cross, the Arab Red Crescent or the Red Lion and sun that is used by Iran.

This year marks the 100th anniversary of the birth of Dunant, the great friend of the Jewish people and the founder of the International Red Cross. Operation Recognition has accepted the responsibility to coordinate worldwide efforts on behalf of MDA recognition with cooperating committees in 40 countries. Your readers can help right this dreadful injustice by sending their protests to President Alexandre Hay, International Committee of the Red Cross, United Nations Office, 815 Second Avenue, New York City 10017. Thank you.

Sincerely,
Rabbi Ruben R. Dobin
International Chairman
OPERATION RECOGNITION

NEW YORK CITY -- The first group travel combining Egypt and Israel was announced by the American Jewish Congress to start April 26.

My dear Mrs. Tell:

Since its inception, you have favored me with sending me the issues of the LAS VEGAS ISRAELITE of Nevada. It gives me great pleasure, not only to extend my felicitations upon the 15th anniversary of the existence of your newspaper, but, also, the opportunity of thanking you for seeing to it that I am blessed with a copy every week.

When I say "blessed," I really mean it. For rarely does a weekly bring such a great amount of vital news and, at the same time, allows independent opinions to express themselves in the spirit of our cherished American tradition.

May your paper, and your staff and you, grow from strength to strength for the benefit of our people.

Warmest regards and many thanks again.

Shalom!
Dr. Kurt L. Metzger
Rabbi, The Monroe Temple
of Liberal Judaism,
Monroe, New York 10950

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