

Passover Message

By Donald M. Robinson, Pres.
Amer. Jewish Joint Dist. Comm.

We of the Joint Distribution Committee join with our fellow Jews all over the world in hailing the signing of the peace treaty between Israel and Egypt. In our Passover Sedarim we will celebrate with special joy the liberation of the Israeli people from 30 years of war in the selfsame desert where Moses wandered for 40 years in search of the Promised Land.

To help Jews everywhere celebrate the holiday the Joint Distribution Committee shipped over 428,000 pounds of matzot and other Passover supplies and 30,000 bottles of Passover wine

to Europe and North Africa. In other countries, where Passover products are available locally, the JDC issued cash grants to enable the poor to buy Passover supplies.

As our children recite the four questions and as we begin to respond from the Haggadah, our thoughts will turn to those who must still hide their joy and mute their prayers, who must still conduct their Sedarim behind closed doors and shuttered windows.

To them and to Jews everywhere we send Passover greetings and to the Jews of the United States, Canada and other countries who make our work possible through their contributions to the United Jewish Appeal, we send special greetings on behalf of those who must still look to us for assistance.

JUSTICE DEPT. TO PROSECUTE NAZIS

WASH. (WNS) -- Associate Attorney General Michael Egan has announced that a special investigating unit to hunt and prosecute Nazi war criminals living in the United States has been moved from the Immigration and Naturalization Service to the criminal division of the Justice

Department. The Department will fund the unit with \$2 million appropriated for this fiscal year instead of the \$900,000 allocated by the INS. Rep. Elizabeth Holtzman (D. NY), chairman of the House Judiciary subcommittee dealing with the investigation of Nazis, expressed satisfaction with the move. Egan had agreed to meet the requirements set by the subcommittee which had long accused the federal government of moving slowly and inadequately on the problem.

The new funds means that the special unit which now has 13 persons, will have 38 lawyers, investigators and other personnel. The subcommittee said no new cases have been filed since August, 1977. There are presently 12 cases in litigation and 175 more are being investigated. Holtzman said she was "gratified that the Justice Department is committed to fully funding and staffing the special litigation unit and to removing bureaucratic obstacles which have hindered its effectiveness." She said that if the Justice Department's commitments are kept, "the result will be the most concentrated and intensive effort since World War II to bring Nazi war criminals to justice."

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