

Independence Day Greetings

BY YITZHAK NAVON
PRESIDENT OF THE STATE OF ISRAEL

This year we celebrate 32 years of our Independence: not very much in terms of time elapsed -- yet a great deal in terms of national achievement. What, after all, are 32 years for a nation with a history of thousands of years? And yet, what the Jewish people has succeeded in doing in this brief span of time is unparalleled in the history of any other nation, in any other country.

In this short period, four bitter wars have been forced upon us -- the few against the many. In the nature of things, such achievements do not make the headlines -- only problems and difficulties. Thus, while we should not underestimate the importance of these accomplishments, we must be aware of the fact that our image abroad is not a properly balanced one.

Here, in Israel, we face a number of weighty tasks:

(1) to complete the peace - process with our neighbors in continuation of the Peace Treaty which we have signed with Egypt;

(2) to make a supreme effort to improve our economy and our balance of payments;

(3) to continue to absorb new immigrants, settle desolate parts of the country and establish constructive enterprises;

(4) to continue the effort to build our society on the sound basis of morality, justice, equality, democracy and our unique cultural heritage.

The Jews of the Diaspora, it seems to me, face three principal tasks:

(1) to deepen Zionist education in the Diaspora;

(2) to strengthen the State of Israel in every way, and in particular through Aliya to Israel;

(3) to strengthen Jewish solidarity and the responsibility of every Jew toward his fellow-Jew.

We would very much like every Jew who has not yet done so to come to visit Israel, to experience the country at first hand, and to feel its special pulse:

Every Jewish boy and girl should celebrate his or her bar - mitzvah in Jerusalem;

Every young couple should spend their honeymoon in Israel;

Every high school graduate should come for at least one year's study in Israel.

If we look to our past, we can observe that, when we determine to do so, we are capable of accomplishing difficult and fateful tasks. We have been privileged to be the last generation in servitude - and the first in redemption.

Let us be worthy of this great privilege.

ASTRONAUT SEES SPACE-INSPIRED MEDICAL MACHINE



Jerusalem.....Astronaut Charles M. Duke, Jr. of San Antonio, member of Apollo 16 moon-landing mission, visits Biophysical and Nuclear Medicine Department at Hadassah-Hebrew University Medical Center, where Dr. Larry Samuels demonstrates Israeli-developed scanner based on space research. This machine makes early tumor and other diagnosis possible.

TEL AVIV (WNS) -- Many businesses throughout Israel were closed April 9 in a one-day protest called by the Israel Chamber of Commerce against what it termed "unbearable taxation." The chief target of the businessmen's anger is what they call the "inflation tax" whereby they are assessed on the increased value of their stocks caused by inflation.

ARABS BUY ISRAELI COLOR TV SETS

TEL AVIV (WNS) -- One thousand Israeli-made color television sets have been bought by an Arab country hostile to Israel, it was revealed here. The Arab country, which paid for them in full, was unnamed at the request of the manufacturer in order not to jeopardize similar transactions in the future.

The half-million dollar deal was

reportedly arranged by a London-based firm which has already received 200 of the sets to be shipped to the Arab importer. The Arab company demanded that all signs of Israeli origin be obliterated from the sets.

Israel manufactures color television sets adaptable to the America, West European and East European systems.

SARTRE WAS KNOWN AS SUPPORTER OF JEWS

PARIS (WNS) -- Jean-Paul Sartre, the French philosopher, novelist and playwright, who fought many battles in support of persecuted Jews, died April 15 at the age of 74. Sartre first dealt with the Jewish problem in 1946 in a book, "Thoughts on the Jewish Problem" in which he said there is no Jewish problem but a problem of anti-Semitism. He said a Jew is someone considered as such

by anti-Semites. The Jewish theme was present in many of Sartre's books and plays, even if only hinted at. By the late 1950s he had become interested in Israel and was a strong supporter of the Jewish State. After a visit to Israel in early 1967, Sartre supported Israel's pre-emptive strikes, saying "Each country has the right to defend itself the way it thinks best suitable."

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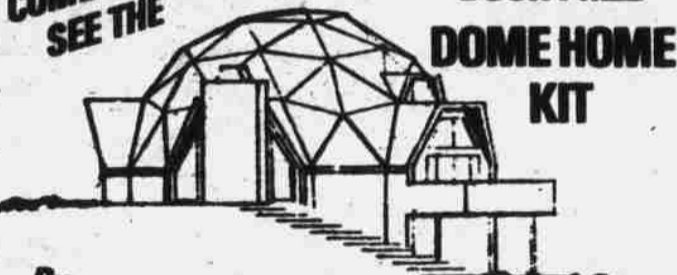
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