

REFLECTIONS FOR ROSH HASHANAH

Rosh Hashanah is a time for reflection, for taking stock of the year ending and for projecting plans for the year ahead. For Jews in the diaspora there are numerous vital issues affecting their security and well-being, as well as the security and well-being of Israel. For Israelis, the vital issue is to maintain and develop further a viable social structure that will enhance their lives and attract even greater numbers of Jews from around the world to come and settle there.

The issues confronting diaspora Jewry and Israelis are entwined, but distinct. The people of Israel face the enormous task of making certain that its enemies outside its border are prevented from destroying the Jewish State. The Jews in the diaspora face the task of preventing the forces of assimilation and intermarriage from decimating its ranks. A strong and self-reliant Israel can provide world Jewry with a creative central focus; a strong and viable world Jewish community can ensure Israel's continued existence.

The protection of Israel from the enemies which surround it and from Western powers which mouth pious phrases about defending Israel as a "strategic asset" in the Middle East but which lie supine at the altar of Arab oil barrels, must

be a united effort on the part of Israel and world Jewry.

Israel, which is isolated on the international arena, is limited to conducting diplomatic campaigns on its own behalf. It cannot, by the very nature of diplomacy and the sovereignty of states, interfere in the domestic politics of other nations. The task of presenting Israel's cause -- and needs -- can, in the final analysis, be done only by the Jewish people in the countries where they live.

Jews, as a social, economic and political community can exert the necessary pressure on their own governments and public opinion to be sensitive to Israel's needs; not to accept Israel merely as a "strategic asset" or as "a reliable ally," but as a nation which has a right to exist like any other nation -- without any qualifications, without any reservations, without any apologies. There should be no equivocation about this right.

JEWISH VICTIMS MUST FILE CLAIMS

NEW YORK (WNS) -- The Conference on Jewish Material

Claims Against Germany announced that all Jewish victims

of Nazi persecution who may be eligible to receive grants from the Claims Conference Hardship Fund must file their applications no later than December 31, 1981. More than 30 million DM has been already paid out to eligible claimants, a Conference spokesman said.

The Hardship Fund is intended primarily to handle applications from such Jewish victims of Nazi persecution who left Eastern Europe after 1955 when the deadline for filing claims under the German indemnification laws expired, the spokesman explained. Other persecutees who failed for very valid reasons to file timely indemnification claims in the

past years may also apply to the Hardship Fund.

The Claims Conference assumed the responsibility for the administration of the Hardship Fund, which is funded by the West German government and distributed under German government guidelines. The guidelines limit individual payments to 5,000 DM per person. Applications may be obtained from Claims Conference Hardship Fund, 225 Park Avenue South, 10th floor, New York, N. Y. 10003.

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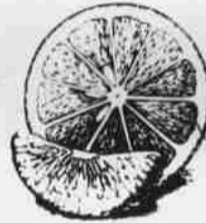
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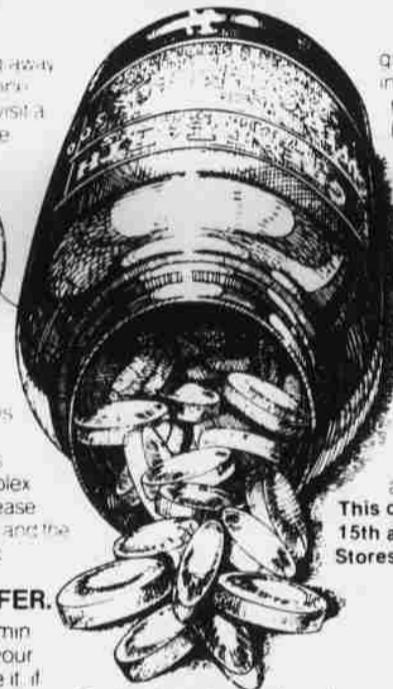
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