

New Years Message - 5743 - 1982

NCJW Responds

BY RABBI JOSEPH P. STERNSTEIN
PRESIDENT,
AMERICAN ZIONIST FEDERATION

NEW YORK -- On the eve of the Jewish New Year, 5743, Rabbi Joseph P. Sternstein, President of the American Zionist Federation, the umbrella agency of the American Zionist movement, appealed for both Jews and non-Jews to band together to break the backs of the new anti-Semites and to increase support for Israel simultaneously, against the growing web of anti-Semitism promulgated by the Soviet - Arab bloc.

"The war in Lebanon proved suspicions that the Soviet - Arab bloc has succeeded in eroding Western support for Israel and rekindling primitive anti - Semitic passions throughout the world," Rabbi Sternstein stated.

"Israel remains the Jewish people's ultimate refuge against anti - Semitism. Zionism this year is more important than ever," he said.

"In every corner of the globe, anti - Semitic attacks increased: In Switzerland, Austria and West Germany, where people swore on millions of tombstones that it would never happen again, and in France, where pleas for tighter security against a rise of anti - Semitic attacks that trebled since 1975, could not prevent the worse massacre against Jews in that country since World War II," he noted.

"More than 100 were hurt and several killed during an attack on a synagogue in Antwerp. In

Rome, grenades were thrown at a Jewish synagogue. In Jewish communities in Los Angeles, Detroit, London and Milan, violence became commonplace. In Milan, where a handful of Jews eke out a hand - to - mouth existence, the military regime used anti - Semitic agitprop to bolster its support among the masses while Polish Holocaust survivors trembled with recollection."

"In Ethiopia, Iran and Syria, Jews died or languished according to government policy. From Buenos Aires to Berlin, Nazi newspapers and books sold as briskly as they did in the forties. Anti - Semitic quotas reduced the number of Jewish students attending universities in the Soviet Union to their lowest level ever. At the same time, immigration from the Soviet Union this year is 100% lower than last. Only 2283 Jews have immigrated to date, against an overall figure of 9,477 last year; 21,471 in 1980; 51,320 in 1979."

"The Soviet Union is the chief agent of the world's anti - Semitic hatred," he declared. "And radical Arabs are the Soviets' chief spokesmen in the West. As long as the two act in tandem, the situation will worsen during the next year. We pray for peace in the Middle East, but we realize that there is no fast solution to the problems of that region which have been exploited by Arab governments for more than three decades. Israel and Zionism are vital to the survival of Jews everywhere. If there is a single message to glean from the year's events, it is that Zionism -- Jewish national identity -- is the best antidote to the problems of Jews."

NEW YORK -- The following is the text of a telegram sent by Shirley I. Leviton, National President of the National Council of Jewish Women (NCJW) to President Reagan:

Although the National Council of Jewish Women is encouraged by your Administration's commitment, expressed in your televised address last night (September 1), to once again become active in the Camp David peace process, we are distressed that you have chosen to make specific proposals which go beyond the accepted accords and which put pressure on Israel. These proposals have been universally interpreted as biased toward the Arab position. It is our opinion that the United States should be a facilitator in the peace process and that the most effective way to fulfill that role is for our President to secure full recognition of Israel by all parties involved before negotiations can begin. Peace can be possible only when all nations concerned can sit together on an equal diplomatic basis and consider specific proposals placed on the negotiating table.

Established in 1893, NCJW is America's oldest Jewish women's organization with more than 100,000 members in some 200 Sections nationwide.

NCJW volunteers are active in the organization's priority areas of aging, children and youth, women's issues, Jewish life, and Israel.

forces aimed at the total destruction of Israel.

As the sound of the shofar is heard during these High Holy Days in our synagogues, we pray that it will serve as a clarion call for the beginnings of a new stage in the Middle East peace process in which Israel and her Arab neighbors will sit down face to face in an attempt to resolve the problems confronting them.

We are encouraged that the American leadership continues to recognize Israel's contributions as a bastion of democratic ideals. We pray that the year ahead will bring us closer to a resolution of social tensions so that an era of peace and security for all will indeed become a reality.

Holy Day Message

BY RABBI ARNOLD M. GOODMAN
PRESIDENT OF THE RABBINICAL ASSEMBLY
ATLANTA, GEORGIA

As Jews all over the world mark their most sacred period in the calendar -- the observance

of Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, all of us will reflect upon past deeds and challenge our conscience for the year ahead -- the Jewish New Year of 5743.

This has been a year of tremendous sacrifice for our people in Israel whose sons and daughters defended themselves against terrorist

Holiday Wishes

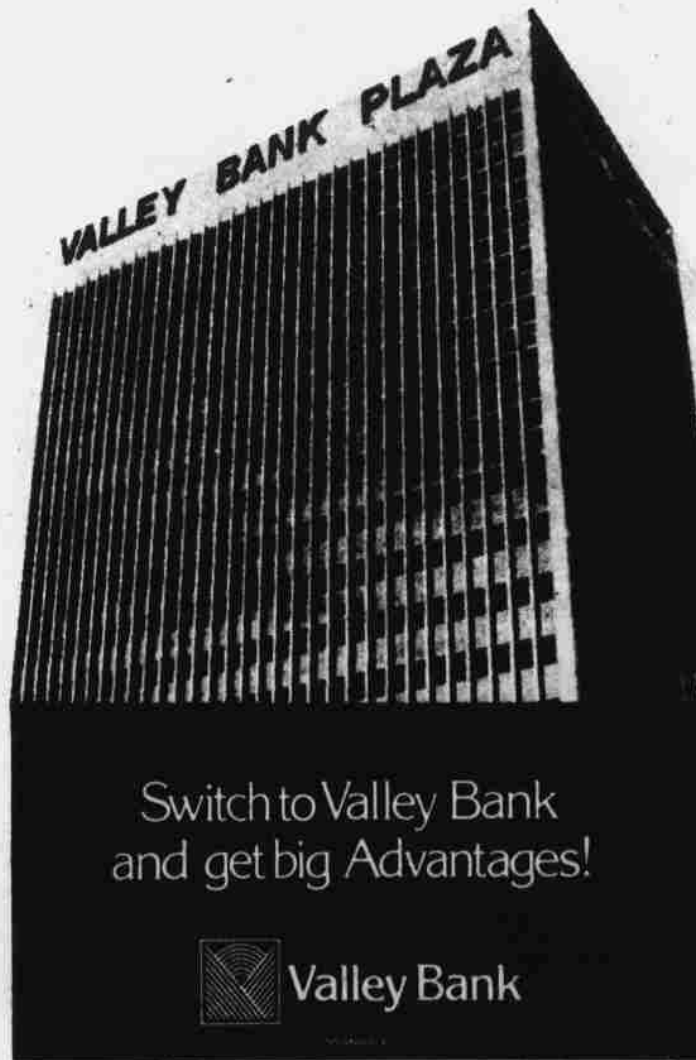
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