

# A New Commitment to Israel

BY MORRIS DWECK

The holiday services may be Orthodox, Conservative or Reform but they will have in common a new dimension of commitment to Israel this year.

That dimension is reflected in High Holy Day appeals that mark the culmination of State of Israel Bonds' Emergency Development for Peace campaign aimed at injecting funds into Israel's development and at relieving the economic strains imposed by the war in Lebanon.

As part of the appeal, congregants in 1,100 synagogues will drop their tab cards indicating their Bond pledges into a "ballot box," symbolically casting a vote for Israel and for United Jerusalem, which this year marks the 15th anniversary of its reunification, in contrast with the series of anti-Israel votes passed by the United Nations during the hostilities in Lebanon.

Israel Bonds annually sells about \$35 million as a result of the High Holy Day appeals. These sales represent 20 percent of the low-interest loans which Bonds provides for Israel's development. Monies go to a range of projects in industry, agriculture, communications, energy and construction, all channelled through Israel's Development Budget.

An estimated one million worshippers hear Israel Bond appeals in synagogues on the High Holy Days. Many of these congregants are remote from an Israel focus during the rest of the year.

In their concern for Israel's economic development, rabbis and synagogue lay leaders bring a deep dedication to the appeal. At Congregation Beth Am in Los Angeles, Rabbi Jacob Pressman last year "called cards" for 2-1/2 hours and sold \$1,100,000 in Bonds. Rabbi Isaiah Zeldin of the same city schedules meetings at his home every night between Rosh Hashana and Yom Kippur to press Bond sales.

Their enthusiasm helps explain why Los Angeles Jewry bought \$6,250,000 in Bonds at

last year's High Holy Day appeal. Other cities prominent in the campaign are Baltimore and Boston, which boast almost total synagogue participation. Toronto too enjoys a wall-to-wall synagogue campaign and sold \$3 million in Bonds last year.

Overseeing the campaign is a national rabbinic cabinet chaired by Rabbi Leon Kronish of Miami Beach.

A look back at 5742 reveals the ugly signs and symptoms of anti-Semitism, usually masked as antizionism whether in England, Greece, France and elsewhere. At the same time, the year still saw Jews seeking freedom in the Soviet Union, Syria, Ethiopia, to cite a few glaring examples. Sad to tell, within our own United States, more reports emerged of anti-Semitic incidents. Whether they be the actions of adolescents or crackpots, they attracted our attention, and alerted us to the dangers of anti-Semitism unchecked. 5742 will also be recalled as a time of the AWACS battle, in which vigorous, valiant efforts were made to stop this dangerous sale. Most disturbing in the debate was the attempt by some to try and raise the old, discredited bugaboo of dual loyalty in order to stop American Jews from their constitutional rights as citizens to voice their concerns and opinions on U.S. policy in the Middle East.

As we face 5743, what can we anticipate? It is to be hoped that this will be a year in which peace will come to a free Lebanon, allowing Israel to sign a second peace treaty, this time with a Northern neighbor. At the same time, it is to be hoped that with a disintegrated PLO, the moderate Palestinians may venture forth, without fear of assassination in order to participate in the autonomy talks. Indeed, perhaps 5743 will also see the entry of Israel's eastern neighbor, Jordan, into the Camp David peace process.

All in all, we can hope that the bonds between the U.S. and Israel, her single, reliable, demo-

cratic ally in the region, will be strengthened and secured. At the same time, as Americans we must continue to urge our government to influence so-called "moderate" Arab nations to follow Egypt and join in the peace process. And as always we must continue to battle against the forces of hatred from whatever quarter they emanate.

Much work remains to be done on the external front. Yet as Jews, we are bearers of an ancient history, which testifies to our ability to withstand and overcome all the vortexes of history. So we have in the past -- and so we shall do in 5743.

## High Holy Day Message

BY ROBERT H. ARNOW, PRESIDENT AMERICAN ASSOCIATES, BEN-GURION UNIVERSITY OF THE NEGEV

During the holiest period of the year, on Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, Jews all over the world reflect upon the past year.

We pray not only for personal atonement and the well being of our families and friends, but for all of mankind.

This year more than ever we must work harder to assure that Israel will at long last live at peace and the sacrifices made so dearly by her sons and daughters will not be in vain.

We must match this sacrifice with an even stronger commitment to Israel than ever before. We hope and pray that the United States will continue to be the staunch friend of Israel and dramatize to the nations of the world that Israel's contribution to the family of nations can be beneficial to all the world.

As we begin the year 5743 let all of us dedicate ourselves to this task.

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