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Celebrating The Festival Of Lights

Jews throughout the world, those in Western-style democracies, others living under oppressive societies like the Soviet Union, join in celebrating the eight day holiday of Chanukah, the Festival of Lights. The candles burned in elaborate, and sometimes simple menorahs in homes of Jews everywhere, symbolize the miracle of the cruse of oil which burned for eight days.

The holiday also marks the victory of Judah and the Maccabees over the oppressive Syrian monarch, Antiochus Epiphanes. The revolt in ancient Palestine was to eliminate what was a repressive society, where the practice of Jewish culture was prohibited as Antiochus tried to break the will of the Jewish people. He failed and now many, many years later, the revolt is remembered, for it still goes on today.

In the Soviet Union, Syria, Ethiopia and other places where Jewish people have been persecuted, where authorities have tried to break their spirit and commitment to Judaism, Chanukah symbolizes their affirmation to strive to overcome this oppression, and live in freedom to practice their faith.

As Jews in the United States and elsewhere settle down to prayer and festivities related to the holiday, the revolt of Judah and his followers should be remembered. Not so much for the military victory, but for the spirit of freedom for which the Maccabees had dedicated themselves. This dedication should be reaffirmed during Chanukah.

Behind The Scenes

At The United Nations

By David Horowitz

A World-Union Press Feature

Netanyahu Confronts U. N. With A Lesson In History

UNITED NATIONS (WUP) — The Arabs and their many bedfellows here may have had their field-day during the two main closing debates related to the Middle East and the Question of Palestine — a period marked by a succession of diatribes and condemnatory anti-Israeli resolutions.

But this 39th session of the General Assembly did not adjourn without having heard in powerful rebuttal from the new dynamic spokesman of the Third Hebrew Commonwealth, Ambassador Benjamin Netanyahu. And a mighty and forceful voice it was that resounded through the hall penetrating the ears of even the most stubborn and hostile listeners. It gave the lie to all the vicious voices that had preceded it.

In a tone unmistakable, Netanyahu confronted the delegates with a chronological record of the real facts and figures relating to the whole problem revolving around the Israeli-Arab conflict since the earliest days of the conflict. Without mincing words, he put this picture before them:

"In May of 1967 Syria, Jordan and what was then a different Egypt, prepared to attack my country... Israel asked the Jordanians to stay out, but King Hussein had his troops shell Jerusalem and, apparently, putting his faith in Nasser's, attacked. On June 8 Hussein broadcast this to his army: 'Kill the Jews wherever you find them. Kill them with your arms, with your hands, with your nails and teeth.' The result was that he lost control of all the territories his troops has forcibly seized in 1948 — Judea, Samaria and Eastern Jerusalem. Egypt lost the Gaza and Sinai.

"The shock of the 1967 defeat led the Arab leaders to rethink their tactics. Having lost areas strategically vital to waging war against Israel... they realized that no easy military solution lay in view without first forcing Israel to retreat to the vulnerable pre-1967 lines. The Arab states would have to win over public opinion by a lengthy, sophisticated and comprehensive campaign... Obviously it would not do to speak again of driving the Jews into the sea, not of continuing to demand the annihilation of Israel. To much of the world, this was simply unacceptable.

"New arguments would have to be marshalled to justify continued hostility against Israel. All of the territories the Arabs had lost in 1967, territories which had been used by Arab leaders as staging areas for a war they themselves brought on, were now held up as examples of unbridged Israeli expansionism. The Arab leaders now demanded that these territories be handed over to them...

"Never before have states which have lost territory in wars of aggression been able to assume so easily the mantle of the aggrieved party. Germany after World War II certainly did not. Neither did the other aggressor states from that same year. In fact, there is hardly a case in which a repelled aggressor could demand anything, much less territory.

"But what is even more amazing is that the Arab-inspired myth of 'Israeli expansionism' persists, despite the fact that Israel, in the pursuit of peace, recently ceded, willingly, fully 92 percent of the territory won in a war of self-defense, territory containing billions of dollars of investments, and what is more, a secure supply of oil. No victor in recorded history has behaved similarly..."

Ambassador Netanyahu went on to the question of refugees declaring that neither the territories nor the Arab refugees were the cause of the conflict. "There was no such thing as an Arab refugee problem when the Arabs launched their four-pronged attack against a fledgling

Israel," he stated. "It is an uncontested fact that during the 19 years of the HASHEMITE OCCUPATION OF Judea-Samaria, the Arab leaders, the Arab media and Arab propaganda said next to nothing about a 'homeland or 'legitimate rights' in Judea-Samaria. When 'Palestinian rights' were spoken of, it was always in reference to Israel behind its 1967 lines, and the message was crystal-clear: Israel was to be destroyed for those rights to be obtained..."

Referring to Jordan as a British-manipulated 'Palestinian state,' he told the Assembly that "in Eastern and Western Palestine there are only two peoples, the Arabs and the Jews. Just as clearly, there are only two states in the area, Jordan and Israel. The Arab state of Jordan, containing some 3 million Arabs, does not allow a single Jew to live there. It also contains 4/5 of the territory originally allocated by this body's predecessor, the League of Nations, for the Jewish National Home. The other state, Israel, has a population of over 4 million of which one sixth is Arab. It contains less than 1/5 of the territory originally allocated to the Jews under the Mandate..."

It's Hanukkah 5745 and it is good to know that reborn Israel's spokesman here stands forth in the true spirit of the Maccabees in the defense against the modern Antiochuses.

Appeal From Russia: "Shout About The Danger We Are In"

Stating that "we do not know who the next victim will be," 67 Jewish activists from five Russian cities have issued an urgent and dramatic appeal to Jews of the free world, the Student Struggle for Soviet Jewry reported. The SSSJ said the declaration was prompted by the continuing KGB terror campaign to liquidate the unofficial network of Jewish teaching in the USSR.

"We appeal to you in this extremely difficult hour for us," the activists stated. "Many of our friends have been arrested. We do not know who the next victim will be.

"Do not remain indifferent to our fate! The lot of many of you could have been the same as ours if your ancestors had not left Russia.

"These decades of living in separate conditions have left an imprint on each of us. Today we differ from each other, but does this have to divide us? Can this blot out the experience of 2000 years and overshadow that which is most important, our common, tragic and glorious past and our historic responsibility for our common future.

"Remember! We have a common future!

"When you send your children off to a Jewish school, remember that we do not have Jewish schools. When you pick up a Jewish book, remember that we do not have Jewish books. When you lovingly touch a mezuzah, remember that here mezuzot are being torn off during (KGB) searches. When you study our beautiful ancient language, remember that here Hebrew teachers are sent to prison on trumped-up charges of hooliganism and possession of arms or drugs.

"Jewish mothers, remember! Dora Zunshein, the mother of Prisoner of Zion Zachar Zunshein, could not bear the hardship of seeing her son arrested and sent to prison. She died suddenly after hearing about his suffering.

"Remember! Anatoly Sharansky, Joseph Begun, Yuli Tarnopolsky and Moshe Abramov might be beginning this day in an isolation cell or punishment ward. Your fate could have been similar if you were a Soviet Jew wishing to repatriate to Israel.

"Remember! The day may come when you sorely miss the hundreds of thousands of your brethren doomed to extinction in the USSR.

"Remember! Forty years ago, you were silent. Now, speak out about us and for us. Speak out in spite of the gags they have put in our mouths and shout about the danger we are in. Remember — we are deprived even of this."

King of One Liners



HENNY YOUNGMAN

...Man of Many Talents.

I said to this man, "What's the latest dope on Wall Street?"
 He said, "My son."