

JDC Sends Rosh Hashana Greetings From U.S. Jewry To Communities In Thirty Nations

In a Rosh Hashana 5746 message to Jewish communities around the world, the newly installed leadership team of the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee (JDC) rededicated itself to the task of "serving as American Jewry's instrumentality for providing moral and material sustenance to needy Jews and Jewish communities."

Extending "warm New Year greetings to American Jewry, which supports the work of the JDC through United Jewish Appeal/Federation campaigns, and to the world Jewish community we serve," Heinz Eppler, JDC President; Henry Taub, Board Chairman and Saul Cohen, Executive Vice President, noted that "the Holy Days ushered in by Rosh Hashana have traditionally been set aside as a season of spiritual inventory and stock taking. "The New Year," they added, "presents us with a unique opportunity to renew ourselves that we may then go forward with confidence to meet the

QUESTION: What Is The Reason That The Shofar Is Not Blown On Rosh Hashanah When It Falls On The Sabbath?

ANSWER: In order to fully appreciate the reason for not blowing the shofar (ram's horn) when Rosh Hashanah coincides with the Sabbath, it is necessary to acquaint oneself with some of the basic principles governing the ob-

challenges that lay ahead. And what applies to us as individuals is possibly even more true for us as a collectivity, as Jews and on the organizational level."

According to the New Year statement the 1985 JDC budget of \$48.3 million is helping more than 500,000 people in 33 countries. JDC devotes 56 percent of its budget to the relief and welfare of needy Jews and Jewish communities, and 23 percent to Jewish education. The remainder covers services to the aged, health and other program areas.

The leaders noted that "a highlight of the year under review had been the strides JDC had made in providing help in Ethiopia." A total of \$2.3 million in cash and \$2 million in donated medicines and medical supplies had been received from the general public and the Jewish community for JDC relief work in Ethiopia. "We are pleased to announce that the regional medical center whose construction we have funded in the city of Tedda in the Gondar region, is nearing completion," they said.

Greetings were sent to communities in North and South America, Eastern and Western Europe, Africa, Asia and Israel.

servance of the Sabbath.

In the Mishnah (tractate Sabbath 73a), the Talmud enumerates 39 major classes of work the performance of which are prohibited on the Sabbath. These categories and their derivatives are further discussed and elucidated in subsequent chapters of the above-mentioned Talmud tractate.

It should be noted that the term "work" as employed in relation to the Sabbath does not necessarily carry the usual and popular connotation but encompasses any constructive or creative activity even if it required but little physical exertion.

Among the 39 categories of "work" there is one that is germane to the prohibition of blowing the shofar on the Sabbath. And that is the Biblical injunction not to carry any object on the Sabbath from the private domain (one's home, a private yard, etc.) into a public domain (streets, roads, etc.) or vice versa. The same rule applies to carrying articles just within a public domain.

However, since the Talmudic sages do not regard the blowing of the shofar as work but rather as a skill, on what Halachic grounds does the restriction then rest?

The response to this question is found in the tractate Rosh Hashanah 29b where Rabbah ruled that even though the sounding of the shofar on Rosh Hashanah is a positive command, prescribed by Law of the Torah, yet it is forbidden to handle the shofar and use it on the Sabbath, lest it be carried in a public domain.

This ordinance was enacted as a precautionary measure in order to prevent the violation of the Sabbath which is the very heart-beat of Judaism.

Reagan's Rosh Hashanah Message

WASHINGTON (WNS) — President Reagan, in his Rosh Hashanah message, said that the Jewish High Holy Day is a reminder to Americans of the "common values" that tie the United States and Israel together. The President's message, released by the White House, said:

This is a most sacred time of the year in the Jewish tradition, and it is also a time when we are reminded of the depth of our nation's inheritance from that tradition. During this period, members of the Jewish community look both forward and back in a spirit of repentance.

This theme of repentance is one that all Americans can understand because it is an inextricable part of America's oldest traditions.

The Jewish High Holy Days provide us all with an opportunity to reflect on our responsibilities toward God and our fellow man and to resolve to do better in the future in meeting those responsibilities than we have done in the past.

This time of year reminds us of the close and enduring relationship between the United States and Israel. Our two nations are joined not by the fragile strands of temporary interests but rather by the deep bonds of our common value.

The Jewish High Holy Days remind us of the permanence and depths of those values. As the shofar's call ushers in the New Year, let us pray that the values of this season will be reflected in our lives and in the creation of a world at peace.

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