

Rosh Hashanah Message 5746 - 1986

By Mrs. Bernice Tannenbaum

This New Year, in accordance with our tradition and faith, we express our gratitude for the good of the year gone by and reassert our resolve to complete the unfulfilled tasks remaining.

First and foremost, we must acknowledge that Israel faces a difficult year ahead in which all our support will be needed as it recovers from the Lebanon experience and economic crisis with its effects of increased unemployment and belt-tightening in Israeli households. The Jewish State and the well-being of its people depend on economic viability. The way ahead will be hard, but there is every indication that Israel will be well on the way to economic recovery before the year's end. With economic recovery the tensions and disputes among the people should lessen considerably.

That is why we hail the just concluded American-Israel Free Trade Agreement. It will provide Israel with free access to the American market. This is of crucial importance, for only by expanding exports will Israel be able to improve its balance of payments and bolster its economy. This economic opportunity offers hope that in the coming year Israel will overcome its austerity and solve its economic crisis. It should ease the way to the increased Israeli exports of existing and new products which are the means to reduced foreign debts, increased employment, and business and industry's independents from government control. May this year witness a turn for the better in Israel's economy which will ensure its future prosperity.

This was the year that Zionism launched an all-out Human Rights counterattack on the infamous United Nation's resolution equating Zionism with racism. The campaign kickoff was a seminar at President Chaim Herzog's house in

Jerusalem on November 11, 1984. This was followed by a national one-day symposium a month later, co-sponsored by B'nai B'rith International, the World Jewish Congress and the World Zionist Organization at the U.S. State Department in Washington. The momentum of these meetings is having an impact. This summer, both Houses of Congress passed a joint resolution condemning this resolution. This action by the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives marks a new phase in the struggle to undo the effects of the U.N.'s ten year old calumny against Israel and the Jewish people.

At the United Nation's Conference on Women in Nairobi, Jewish women with the cooperation of the U.S. government which they had enlisted, and supported by the all-out effort of the Israel Ministry of Foreign Affairs, also scored a triumph in stemming the anti-Zionist, anti-Semitic tide that had engulfed the previous conferences in Mexico City and Copenhagen. The result was to thwart all attempts to include any anti-Zionist reference in the declaration adopted by the delegates. This has enormous positive implications for the continuing campaign of the Jewish people to expunge the infamous U.S. Resolution of 1975.

At Nairobi, we also saw the glimmerings of a breakaway from the Arab-Soviet pressure on the Third World to enforce a pariah status on Israel. The bloom is off the rose of the past Arab oil blandishments. There is disillusionment on the one hand and increasing realization that Israel offers vital know-how for their benefit in agriculture, technology and health and proffers the helping hand of friendship and peace.

We will encourage the continuation of national and worldwide Jewish cooperation which at-

tained a new high this past year that achieved important gains against anti-Zionism and anti-Semitism. The landmark successful co-sponsorship of the Human Rights seminar by B'nai B'rith International, The World Jewish Congress and the World Zionist Organization stands as a model for future cooperation in behalf of Israel and the Jewish people everywhere. In Nairobi, the Jewish women of the world also proved how effective their cooperation could be.

We will be vigilant to prevent any U.S. attempt to change course from the objective of direct negotiations between Israel and the Jordanians and acceptable Palestinians. We will insist that the Administration honor its pledge not to engage in substantive dialogue with the PLO until it accepts United Nations Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 and recognizes Israel's right to exist.

Today American Jewry is the first magnitude gravitational center of world Jewry in the wake of the destruction of the East European hub of Jewish culture, scholarship and religion. Imbued with commitment to, and deriving positive benefit from the centrality of Israel and the acceptance of the Jerusalem Program, creative Jewish life in solid partnership with Israel is possible here. Israel is also our homeland where those of our youth who have participated in the Israel experience come back to the United States as aware, self-fulfilling, identified and positively participating Jews who will take on the responsibilities of leadership in the future. Many of them return on Aliyah.

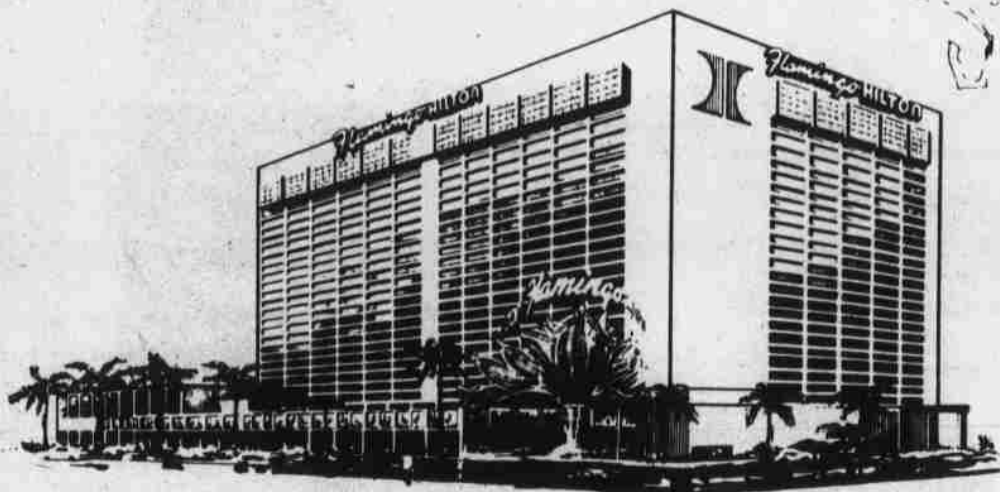
As we observe the New Year, we pray that in the wake of the withdrawal from Lebanon, it will usher in new horizons of peace, stability, prosperity and security in Israel and the Middle East.

Happy New Year

from your friends
at the

Flamingo

HILTON
AND TOWER.



Happy New Year

from your friends
at the

LAS VEGAS HILTON

