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An Idea Whose Time Has Come

The old saw, that when two Jews get together there are three opinions, has developed some rather jagged teeth. Differences of opinion on vital issues affecting the American Jewish community as a whole are no longer matters of disputation and contentiousness -- which in the past helped to clarify and resolve the issues. The differences now take the form of a widening gap of intolerance and animosity that threatens to split the Jewish people.

This danger was highlighted at a recent conference in New York sponsored by the National Jewish Center for Learning and Leadership (CLAL). The conference ended with the announcement of the formation of a program of dialogue and learning to close the gap.

The program, "Am Echad" (One People) was described by Rabbi Irving Greenberg, co-founder of CLAL, as "the most extensive program of dialogue, learning, alliance-building and unity efforts in the history of American Jewry and I dare say in the history of modern Jewry."

The growing rift -- especially on halachic issues -- between the secular and observant communities and between the orthodox and non-orthodox segments of Jewry, has become "almost incomprehensible" to many Jews as well as to non-Jews.

Greenberg, in assessing the situation, has urged that the Jewish community mount an effort for intra-Jewish unity akin to the Jewish-Christian rapprochement of the last 50 years.

But to achieve this goal, the leadership of the Jewish community has to provide funds to enable the dialogue and learning to be successful. Greenberg pointed out that the Jewish-Christian dialogue receives \$10 million in direct annual funds while the intra-Jewish dialogue receives \$100,000-\$200,000.

There is no question but that intra-Jewish unity is imperative. The Jewish community is beset with numerous problems and challenges from without -- from terrorism to unemployment among Jews -- and is only weakened by internal disunity. The Jewish community in America has always supported pluralism as a way of life in this country. It now needs to extend this support to intra-Jewish affairs.

Behind The Scenes

At The United Nations

By David Horowitz

A World-Union Press Feature

Biblical Spirit Marks Reagan, Netanyahu Speeches

UNITED NATIONS (WUP) — Two mighty voices, reminiscent of the ancient biblical reprimands of the prophet Jeremiah, resounded thunderously in the two most important cham-

bers here during the opening of the General Assembly debate last week.

In the Assembly Hall, where the 159-Member delegation were seated in alphabetical order following Israel as number one in the first row, President Ronald W. Reagan delivered an unforgettable address which, significantly, during this pre High Holy Days Season, opened with a biblical theme. Declared he:

"...A short walk from this chamber is the delegates' Meditation Room, a refuge from a world deafened by the noise of strife and violence. 'We want to bring back the idea of worship,' Dag Hammarskjold once said about this room, 'devotion to something which is greater and higher than we are ourselves...'"

Having set this tone, he then was moved to cite the famous Isaiah passage on peace. "It is just such devotion that gave birth to the United Nations: devotion to the dream of world peace and freedom, of human rights and democratic self-determination, of a time when, in those ancient words, '...and they shall beat their swords into plowshares...nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more...'"

His lengthy speech covered much ground. While he held out the olive branch to the Soviet Union on the issue of mutual disarmament and nuclear limitations, he let the world know "how difficult it would be for the U.S. to accept Soviet assurance of peaceful intent when 126,000 Soviet troops prosecute a vicious war against the Afghan people; when 140,000 Soviet-backed Vietnamese soldiers wage war on the people of Cambodia; when 1,700 Soviet advisers and 2,500 Cuban combat troops are involved in military planning and operations in Ethiopia; when 1,300 Soviet military advisors and 36,000 Cuban troops direct combat operation...in Angola; when Soviet arms and Soviet-bloc advisors help a dictatorial regime in Nicaragua try to subvert its neighbors and betray a popular revolution..."

Reagan was adamant in condemning the violation of human rights in the USSR and noted that there can be no progress or any negotiations until the "innocent hostage" Nicholas Daniloff is released.

In the Security Council, which was debating an anti-Israeli draft resolution submitted by France on the tenuous situation facing UNIFIL in southern Lebanon and which placed the full blame for the terrorist attacks on the UN troops on Israel's support of the pro-Israeli Lebanese in the Security zone, Ambassador Benjamin Netanyahu singled out the Khomeini-inspired so-called "Party of God," the Hezbollah, as being responsible for the series of UNIFIL murders, especially of the French contingent.

"The import of Hezbollah into the Bekaa Valley

was a coproduction of Iran and Syria," Netanyahu told the Council. "Hezbollah's first mission was to act as a sub-contractor for Syria's strategic aims in Lebanon. All of us remember its barbaric attacks against the multinational peacekeepers, as the spearhead of the Syrian effort to expel this force from Lebanon. Iran, of course, was an enthusiastic partner in this perfidy. But, Hezbollah also has had a wider and longer-range mission to turn Lebanon into a Khomeini-style 'Islamic Republic.'"

Netanyahu made it clear to the Security Council that "Syria has a long tradition of waging war by proxy -- for example, by using terrorists based in Lebanon to strike at Syria's enemies worldwide. South Lebanon is for Syria a primary staging area for proxy attacks against Israel." It is in this context, he noted, that Hezbollah is being used by Syria against the Jewish State. Hence this fanatic "Party of God" sees UNIFIL as an obstacle to its campaign against Israel. It is another force," he declared, "that stands in the way of direct attacks against the north of Israel."

In sum, Netanyahu let the Council know in no uncertain terms that "it is not the security zone which has caused the attacks against UNIFIL -- as the French and even the UN Chief claim -- On the contrary, the abandonment of the zone would only "bring more hostilities," he declared, "more bloodshed, more suffering on both sides of the border," noting further that "the basic problem in Lebanon has always been the absence of a certain authority able to prevent lawlessness and terror..."

The Isaiah passage the President quoted is from verse 4 of chapter 2 which is preceded by this promise: "For out of Zion shall go forth Law, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. And He shall judge between the nations, and shall decide for many peoples..."

BONN (WNS) — The largest Jewish community center in West Germany was officially opened in Frankfurt on September 14, as a symbol of the revival of Jewish life and culture in the country where the destruction of European Jewry was planned and executed. The \$50 million center was funded by the 5,000-member Jewish community, the Frankfurt municipality and the Federal State of Hesse. It houses a synagogue, a school and kindergarten, a home for the aged and a youth center, offices, meeting rooms, and a sports arena.

TELL TALES

"One Man Plus The Truth Constitutes A Majority"

(Continued from page 1)

ed He is both glorious creator and destructive creature; and his creatureliness is compounded of the sinful idolatries, the false gods of power, egotism, greed and pride.

Rosh Hashanah and the Jewish holy day period of penitence are in effect moral sensitivity systems, human potential movements which evolved over 3,000 years of Jewish agonizing and hard testing about how to transform this creature into a humane compassionate personality modelled in the Divine image. It is also a source of insight and spiritual power to help achieve an ethical community, "a kingdom of priests and a holy nation," committed to help redeem and heal a broken and suffering world through deeds of decency, mutual respect, justice, kindness and civilized values.

It is that spirit of Rosh Hashanah that we wish all our readers, Jews and Christians alike, a shanah tovah, a good and above all, a peaceful and humane New Year.

King of One Liners



HENNY YOUNGMAN

...Man of Many Talents.

Two drunks walking along Broadway in New York. One goes down into the subway by mistake. He comes up the other entrance and his friend is waiting for him. The waiting drunk says, "Where were you?" The other one says, "I was in some guy's basement. Has he got a set of trains!"