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### Simchat Torah Symbolizes Jewish Continuity In Joy

By Rabbi Marc H. Tanenbaum

Simchat Torah, the Festival for Rejoicing with the Torah, is a remarkable balance wheel in the mental health of the Jewish people.

Preceded by the observance of Yom Kippur, with its fasting and repentance, one could conclude superficially that Judaism is a somber, self-denying faith that requires ascetic retreat from the world.

Sukkot, which begins Oct. 19, climaxed by Shemini Atzeret, Oct. 21, and Simchat Torah, Oct. 22, are festivals radiant with joy and celebration centered on recommitment to the Torah.

On the eve of Simchat Torah, gaiety fills the synagogue as the Torah scrolls are taken out of the ark. Each scroll is carried around the bimah, or pulpit, at least seven times, and each adult carries one around once.

The seven circuits, the rabbis observe, suggest that just as Joshua encircled the walls of Jericho seven times and they collapsed, so the walls of hatred and misunderstanding should collapse.

The hakofot, the circling procession, on Shemini Atzeret, the eighth evening, prepares for the next day of Simchat Torah, when the last verses and then the opening verses of the Chumash, the Five Books of Moses, are read, thus beginning the yearly cycle of the Torah reading.

All over the world on these festive days, with the same prayers and the same intonations, Jews rejoice over the Torah and renew their loyalty to the Covenant as the core of their Jewish existence.

### Behind The Scenes

At The United Nations

By David Horowitz

A World-Union Press Feature

#### The 44th General Assembly: New Hopes, Old Deeds

UNITED NATIONS (WUP) — Despite hopes that this year's UN General Assembly session would bring fairness and constructive dialogue — "great things" in the words of President Bush — the GA has already shown the same old Arab-dominated/anti-Israel format. This was clearly demonstrated when it was decided, again, to take up at this session the 1981 Israeli bombing of an Iraqi nuclear facility — coming on the heels of the United Nations' failure to condemn Iraq for perpetrating mass-genocide against the Kurds with chemical weapons — which in the words of Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Arens, "went almost unnoticed by the world."

The most despicable anti-Israel act — which remains the biggest stigma against the UN, is the infamous and pathetic "Zionism is racism" resolution. In his speech to the General Assembly, Mr.

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Arens said: "The United Nations Resolution of 1947 is today part of Israel's history, an expression of support for Zionism — the right of the Jewish people to their own State in their ancient homeland. But in 1975, the United Nations General Assembly, greatly enlarged but unfortunately not grown in moral stature, adopted the 'Zionism is racism' resolution that makes a sham of the United Nations Resolution adopted 28 years earlier and that continues to this day be a stain on the record of this organization. As long as this resolution is not revoked, no moral authority can accompany United Nations decisions, and an air of hypocrisy continues to envelop its debates."

There is a glimmer, just a glimmer, of hope that the "Zionism is racism" resolution will be revoked: During his speech to the General Assembly, Italian Foreign Minister Gianni De Michelis, stated that the resolution "equating 'Zionism is racism,' should be cancelled" — calling it and other such resolutions "out of place in a world moving towards gradual integration;" Australian Foreign Minister Gareth Evans, during his speech to the General Assembly, said "the General Assembly should avoid exacerbating differences and hindering the peace-making process by manifestly provocative resolutions, such as that equating 'Zionism is racism;" According to the World Jewish Congress, Hungarian Foreign Minister Gyula Horn, "broadly hinted that Hungary could be voting to overturn the 1975 resolution equating 'Zionism is racism'" — although he did not say so during his speech to the General Assembly; Mr. Janusz Onyszkiewicz, Solidarity spokesman and member of the Polish parliament, said during a meeting of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations in New York, that "the UN resolution equating 'Zionism is racism' should be repealed and full diplomatic relations between Poland and Israel should be restored;" and Thomas Pickering, the US ambassador to the UN, said at a National Press Club luncheon in Washington on September 14, that "on the Middle East the voting machine characteristic of the United Nations has made it — in the eyes of many — a partisan only of the Arab position, particularly following 'Zionism is racism' resolution, which the US has committed to see repealed." Unfortunately, President Bush did not echo Mr. Pickering's remarks when he addressed the General Assembly.

Turning to Middle East "peace," Moshe Arens, while in New York, called on the representatives of the twenty Arab countries who are still in a state of war with Israel (all the Arab countries except Egypt) and present in New York to attend the UN General Assembly, to meet with him.

They all refused!

Not only did they refuse Mr. Arens' invitation, the Arab representatives, except Egypt, all took their turn at the General Assembly podium unleashing a barrage of odious slander against Israel — encouraging the intifada violence-mongers to continue their heinous acts. Not stopping there, the Arab block once again decided to challenge

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Israel's credentials, and, led by Libya, drafted a resolution that condemns "Israel's persistent policies and practices violating the human rights of the Palestinian people in the occupied Palestinian territory."

In response, Israeli ambassador to the UN, Johanan Bein, criticized the Arabs for challenging Israel's credentials, adding that it is "ironic" to "demand for an international peace conference under the auspices of the United Nations which is made by the same forces seeking to expel Israel from this organization." On the resolution, Mr. Bein said that "it is deeply biased" — absent of any "condemnation whatsoever of the resort to violence by the Palestinian extremists, let alone appeal for mutual restraint." The ambassador further stated that "over 130 local Palestinians" have been murdered by "Arafat's agents — victims ignored by this resolution."

Despite the PLO-inspired murder of Palestinians in Judea, Samaria and Gaza, the continued attempted infiltration by PLO guerrillas into Israel and the declaration at the PLO's recent "Fifth Fatah Congress" meeting which called for the intensification and escalation of "armed action and all forms of struggle to liquidate the Israeli-Zionist occupation of our occupied Palestinian land," several Western governments that should know better — Canada, Ireland, Britain, Holland and Denmark — praised the PLO for its "moderation" and its "willingness to recognize Israel," during their representatives' speeches in the General Assembly. Why these and other Western governments have turned a blind-eye to PLO terror is a shocking enigma.

68 US Senators have urged the Bush administration to deny a visa to PLO terrorist chief Yasir Arafat, should he request one to attend the UN's pro-PLO/anti-Israel meetings. Let us hope that Bush and Baker will heed the Senate's call. Let us also hope that the majority of countries who sincerely want to see the UN regain the respect it needs to be able to bring effective solutions to the world's problems, will have the "Zionism is racism" resolution revoked, and treat the PLO the way it should be treated — like a gang of terrorists.

### B'nai B'rith Deplores Presence Of Terrorists At UN

WASHINGTON, DC — B'nai B'rith recently expressed profound regret and disappointment that three confirmed terrorists representing the Palestine Liberation Organization and the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine will be participating in the United Nations General Assembly. The DFLP alone has claimed credit for three terrorist attacks since December.

Thomas Neumann, Executive Vice President of B'nai B'rith International, said, "It is saddening and frustrating to all in the world who seek peace and justice that representatives of extreme and violent factions of Palestinian rejectionism, who have shed the blood of innocents, will be allowed to desecrate the halls of the United Nations. By this action, the UN undermines the international struggle against terrorism, undercuts its ability to work for peace and deals a severe blow to its own credibility.

"The government of Israel recognizes the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people and seeks dialogue that will further the peace process. The cause of peace can only suffer when men of duplicity and barbarity are regarded as diplomats."

NEW YORK (JTA) — Three Brooklyn teen-agers have been taken into custody and will be arraigned on felony charges in connection with the anti-Semitic attack that seriously injured two Jewish students near the Brooklyn College campus recently, just before Yom Kippur.

The three surrendered separately at the 70th Precinct in the Flatbush section of Brooklyn, according to Detective James Coleman of the Police Department's Public Information Office.

Coleman identified them as Anthony Sorrentino, 18, Joseph Guben, 16, and James Hynes, 17.