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Rosh Hashanah sermon. 1954.

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BACKGROUND MATERIAL
FOR ROSH HASHONAH SERMON

Record of Progress

The continuation of Israel's great program of human salvation depends upon the steady flow of cash from the United Jewish Appeal. As the young State crosses the threshold of another year of struggle and achievement, the urgent need for cash outlines itself in sharp relief against a background of frightening austerity and determined human effort.

What has been this program? How far along the road to security and economic freedom has it gone?

Israel is now in its sixth year. In that short time more than 700,000 newcomers have entered Israel, doubling the population of a tiny land mass about the size of the state of New Jersey.

Israel's accomplishments of the past few years are well known, especially by Americans who have watched it and helped it grow. Americans know of the hardships, courage and tremendous effort that have gone into this immense project.

Americans have seen Israel fight a war of independence and win it, and establish a stable government that has earned the respect of the chancelleries of the world and gained admittance to the United Nations.

What has the young democracy done since its day of independence? Americans know that, too. We know it in terms of human life, in terms of human salvage and rehabilitation -- finding people homes, giving them jobs, taking them from sub-standard conditions in North Africa or Moslem lands, from camps in Europe and making them able, integrated citizens of the new community.

In more concrete terms the figures show amazing progress.

In 1948 when Israel was established, there were 175,000 acres under Jewish cultivation. Today the figure stands at well over 1,100,000 acres.

In 1948 there were 60,000 acres under irrigation; today 125,000 irrigated acres yield produce where the earth was barren before.

Since 1948, 360 settlements have been created and more than 350 reconditioned.

As for housing, 85,000 permanent housing units and 69,000 temporary units have been constructed, making a total of 154,000 housing units.

When one stops to look at the great obstacles which had to be overcome before such a record could be achieved, the accomplishments become even more remarkable. Even the wildest fancies of the idealist have been surpassed. Today the land is dotted with new settlements, new houses and new farms. Today there is a gleam of real hope on the faces of Israel's people. There have been great hardships, a struggle for survival, immigrants pouring into the new land with no possessions and nothing on their backs. But with the aid of the United Israel Appeal, one of the three constituent agencies which receives its funds from the UJA, Israel continues to move ahead...despite the great obstacles that still lie strewn across her path.

Achievements of the Past Year

At Rosh Hashonah time 5713, the young democracy of Israel looked forward to a year of continuing austerity and extreme hardship. There were more than 240,000 immigrants still living in transient camps, the majority of its basic foods had to be imported, irrigation was continuing at a feverish pace and land was being settled just as soon as shelter could be erected and a means of getting water provided. Medical supplies were lacking, rising prices of raw materials in the world market cast a dark pall over Israel's monetary hopes.

UJA dollars, then as now, were being rushed in just as soon as they were received.

There was great activity all over Israel during 5713. This combination of dollars and determination reaped a well-deserved harvest.

In terms of agricultural developments there was an increase of 40 per cent in agricultural production over the previous twelve months.

The most spectacular gains might have been in the Northern Negev, where culti-

vation of nearly 200,000 formerly dormant acres would have resulted in a bumper crop of wheat and barley. A drought, however, caused a \$10,000,000 crop damage, which made the use of precious dollars necessary in order to import basic foods.

It is interesting to note, also, that about 5,000 families (four persons per family) have been settled in agriculture during the past year...a total of 20,000 people, many of them under the Jewish Agency's "Town to Country" movement, whereby city residents are given the opportunity to make their homes in the outlying agricultural settlements.

To ease the hardships of life in the camps and work villages of Israel, thousands of transitional homes have been constructed which brought a measure of comfort to hard pressed thousands.

In the field of care for the aged and handicapped, the UJA-financed Malben program conducted by the Joint Distribution Committee, another constituent agency of the UJA, has been able to open a Village for the Aged and has made tremendous strides in tuberculosis care. Through institutional aid for the maimed and sick, Malben has helped thousands on to the road to recovery and useful employment.

Research, building, construction, irrigation, swamp drainage, afforestation, educational and cultural improvements are areas in which Israel continues to make progress.

To further strengthen its economy, the government has instituted such policies as regulating the amount of money in circulation to slow down inflation; concentration on basic industries; allocation of raw materials to factories whose records show the highest efficiency.

Israel's Present Difficulties

1. Israel's greatest economic problem is its shortage of hard currency with which it must purchase badly-needed imports and use as payment for outstanding obligations.

2. Israel suffers from a tremendous imbalance of foreign trade...imports are running about six to one over exports.

3. The housing situation is extremely serious at this moment for 200,000 immigrants -- 50,000 families -- who are insufficiently housed. Canvas and tin huts and other makeshift houses must be replaced by settlements and permanent housing.

4. Additionally, Israel suffers from a serious shortage of certain foods and of fuel, along with housing.

5. Israeli's are not getting a balanced diet. There is a serious lack of protein and their meals are made up mainly of starchy foods.

6. Agricultural expansion depends in large measure on expansion of irrigation, at best a slow and painstaking process.

7. High taxes, including municipal, purchase and luxury taxes and the need for defense expenditures in view of continuing hostility of neighboring states, place all Israel citizens on a regime of continued austerity.

8. Unemployment is high.

9. Thousands of aged and handicapped immigrants are on waiting lists for Malben care. Malben is a UJA-supported organization for care of handicapped immigrants.

UJA Objectives for 5714 in Israel

The United Jewish Appeal remains American Jewry's great instrument for extending the hand of aid to economically embattled Israel, still struggling, after five years of independence, to maintain itself as a self-sufficient democracy in the community of free nations. These funds are utilized by UJA's three beneficiaries, the United Israel Appeal, the Joint Distribution Committee, and the United Service for New Americans. When we give to our local campaign, we give to UJA.

In the months immediately ahead, UJA funds must:

1. Through the United Israel Appeal, provide help to more than 330,000 persons in Israel including youth, aged persons and some 200,000 recent immigrants still living in makeshift transition camps,

2. Help build 10,000 permanent homes providing living quarters for 40,000 persons.

3. Help Israel carry out a five-year plan intended to bring 3.6 million dunams

of land into agricultural use, of which 1.7 millions will be irrigated. This plan means that by 5718 -- four more years -- the estimated 2,000,000 population of Israel will be fed with basic foodstuffs from local sources.

To carry out the agricultural plan, UJA funds are needed to:

Help complete the establishment of 40 new agricultural settlements which will house 4,000 immigrant families (16,000 persons) now in the transition camps, and continue the vital "town to country" movement which brings city-dwelling families onto the farm, thereby adding thousands of new recruits to Israel's battle to expand agricultural production.

Help increase Israel's water supply for agricultural purposes by making possible new reservoirs, wells, dams and pipelines such as the Yarkon River project. This last project will transfer the waters of the Yarkon to the Northern Negev, making it habitable for thousands of new farm families and for industrial workers. In the coming year alone, 150,000 dunams must be irrigated representing a 25 per cent increase over last year.

4. Help bring additional thousands of homeless or endangered Jews to Israel.

5. Provide old age maintenance, and other social service care to 10,000 handicapped newcomers to Israel through Malben (Organization for the Care of Handicapped Immigrants, maintained by JDC).

Outside Israel

In addition, UJA funds must provide vital welfare aid to nearly 200,000 in other areas offering:

1. A life-line of help to hundreds of thousands of persons in Europe and Moslem lands who are dependent on UJA funds for medical aid, food, clothing, orphan and old age care and rehabilitation through training.

2. Adjustment care for several thousand former displaced persons in their initial steps of adaptation to a new life in the United States after years of privation and waiting in DP camps abroad.

What Is the Cost?

It goes without saying that the cost of this great enterprise of human aid is tremendous. In more concrete terms, here are a few figures:

A. A new average village consists of a hundred families (400 persons). The estimated cost of a family farm unit is \$4,000. The total cost for the entire village equals \$400,000.

A new village requires an additional amount of \$400,000 for construction of connecting roads, agricultural implements, water supply, communal buildings and storage facilities. However, once a settlement is established and past the initial stage -- from approximately one to two years -- more farm units are added to it. While the cost of a farm unit will depend upon price variation in Israel, the additional capital outlay will be considerably lower than the initial capital expenditure.

B. \$25.00 will provide the services of a tractor (including rent and maintenance) for one day. The Jewish Agency maintains a large tractor depot which renders invaluable services to the farmers in time of plowing, sowing and harvesting.

C. \$50.00 will cover the monthly training and maintenance cost of a 14-16 year old youngster from Youth Aliyah. Three months are required to qualify as a farmhand with some rudimentary agricultural knowledge. Currently, the United Jewish Appeal helps support some 14,000 children in 240 Youth Aliyah educational centers.

D. \$100.00 represents the monthly maintenance and training cost of a person enrolled in one of the UJA-supported schools in Israel to learn a useful trade as a tractor mechanic, electrician, radio or refrigeration technician. Currently UJA-financed ORT schools provide educational training to some 4,000 students.

E. \$1,000.00 will enable a semi-incapacitated person under Malben's care to operate a small store and add to his family's modest income.

F. \$50,000.00 will provide two or three additional sea-going vessels and equipment to the new immigrant fishing villages. Fish is an important food item, substituting for meat. The monthly meat rations in Israel is 9-10 ounces.

G. \$500,000.00 will permit the moving of 200 immigrant families from ma'abaroth to older settlements established after May 15, 1948. Within a period of one to two

years they can become full-fledged farmers, earn a livelihood and contribute to the country's food supply. Some 200,000 persons are still living in makeshift tin and canvas huts; the majority of them came to Israel in 1950-51.

American Jewry's Dream

While American Jewry readily understands the tangible necessity for giving, there is an intangible element that far surpasses the tangible -- the dream of American Jewry, the dream of an Israel without barren stretches of earth-thirsting for water, without temporary immigration camps stretching for miles, without unemployment and rationing, with modern schools and hospitals and opportunities for all, with permanent housing for everyone, and parks and stores and recreation centers, with well-built synagogues and busy streets, with the feeling of happiness and prosperity in the air. That is the Israel we look toward and that is the Israel we are helping to build. The dream is still far from reality.

Yes, it is in this dream that American Jewry has put its faith. It is more a faith of the heart than of the pocketbook, an unquenchable faith that has survived more than 2,000 years of travail, dispersion and unhappiness.

But American Jews will continue to give, and give more than ever, not only for the obvious reason of extreme need. They will not give simply because 200,000 immigrants still live amid the crumbling transiency of the temporary camps, not simply because thousands are living on barren necessities, nor because of unemployment nor because Israel is surrounded by the iron barbs of hostility. Much more than that. They will give because the dream of Israel is in their hearts.

The have stood by Israel in the dark days, over many years. They have brought homeless and broken people halfway across the world to settle there. They have fed them and clothed them and cared for them. They have taught them skills, made them useful citizens. The establishment of the UJA fifteen years ago gave them the instrument with which they could express their feeling for the great dream of Israel and human freedom. Today the United Jewish Appeal is an integral part of Jewish community life, a formidable hand of help to Jews everywhere and the ultimate expression of a very old and very wise tradition of giving.

When the UJA calls, we answer as we have answered. That is why we cannot for a moment hesitate in our generosity. The path is clear. The ruts and rocks in the road are many but the spirit is strong and the will invulnerable. Let us therefore rush all possible funds to the United Jewish Appeal so that no Jew in the coming year shall lose his chance for happiness and security.

Prepared by:
Publicity Department
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For Rosh Hashonah 5715

BACKGROUND MATERIAL

ISRAEL'S PROGRESS

A New Chapter

History illustrates that the process of building new countries and civilizations is marked by dynamic periods of expansion which sooner or later give way to periods of consolidation.

With the year 5715, such a new period is beginning to open for the people of Israel.

An understanding of this cycle, and of our own part in it, is of major and even decisive significance for the people of Israel.

If American Jews meet the requirements of the present with the same fervor, imagination and drive that went into Israel's first heroic years, as must be done of necessity, then there will come a time in the realizable future when Israel's people will be truly independent and self-sustaining.

Achievements of the First Period

What has American Jewry helped to do for the people of Israel during their first six years of independence?

There is a tangible yardstick with which to measure these achievements in terms of the physical improvement of both the people and the land of Israel.

Since May 1948, the American Jewish Community, through its principal instrument of expression, the United Jewish Appeal, has made available funds totaling more than \$460,000,000 to carry out programs of welfare, settlement and rehabilitation in Israel.

We understand it best in terms of human life, in terms of human salvage - finding people homes, giving them jobs, taking them from sub-standard conditions

in Moslem lands, from camps in Europe, and making them able, integrated citizens of the new community.

In more concrete terms, the figures show the following:

Since 1948, when Israel was established, UJA aid has helped bring to the young democracy 723,000 immigrants.

Whereas in 1948 there were only 187,500 acres under cultivation, today the figure stands at 1,000,000 acres, a close to six-fold increase.

In 1948, there were 55,000 acres under irrigation, whereas today 200,000 irrigated acres yield the fruits of an earth that was barren before.

Since 1948, 419 settlements have been established and more than 180 re-conditioned.

As for housing, 85,000 permanent units and 69,000 temporary units have been constructed, making a total of 154,000 housing units. At this moment 5,000 additional permanent units are nearing completion.

This amazing progress represents an expansion and development unique in the annals of history. Beset on every side by enormous physical, political, economic and social difficulties, with destitute immigrants pouring in at the rate of many thousands each year, the people of Israel, with the aid of American Jewry, given particularly through the United Jewish Appeal, have performed what has often been termed a modern miracle.

What The Second Period Must Accomplish

Although in many ways less heroic and spectacular than the first period, the presently unfolding period of consolidation is, nevertheless, of pivotal importance.

In the next few years, the vital consolidation process will have to take three directions:

1. POLITICALLY: Israel's sovereignty and integrity will have to be recognized by the Arab states. The winning of such recognition is the primary

task of Israel's leaders, whose desire for peace in the Middle East and for the betterment of Jew and Arab alike is well-known.

2. SOCIALLY: Israel's consolidation requires forging one nation out of the many Jewish communities that have come into Israel in the last six years, communities that differ in their development and culture, in their language and customs. This great task of shaping a homogeneous nation out of oriental and occidental newcomers is a formidable problem. Israel's schools are the main instruments of this process of social consolidation, so essential for the internal cohesion and unity of the people.

3. ECONOMICALLY: This is by far Israel's most urgent task of consolidation. In the first years of mass immigration and of the establishment of the machinery of the State, no-long-term economic policy was possible. At that, the new State was able to make considerable progress in agriculture, in housing, in the development of the Negev and in the establishment of new industries.

Now that immigration has slowed down, Israel, for the first time, has a real opportunity for consolidating the gains of the first six years. As a first condition, Israel at this moment is disposing of one of its great problems -- the problem of its short-term obligations which were incurred in the peak years of mass immigration.

One of the ways in which Israel is being helped to reduce these short-term debts is through the Five-Year loan project first proposed at the Jerusalem Economic Conference of October, 1953, and now being carried on by the United Jewish Appeal.

The loan, now in its final stages, has to date raised in the neighborhood of \$60,000,000 in behalf of the United Jewish Appeal's principal beneficiary in Israel, the Jewish Agency for Palestine. But the Israel Government is benefitting also, indirectly. This benefit comes when the Jewish Agency, on receipt of loan funds, converts the currency received into Israeli pounds,

thereby giving the hard-pressed Israel treasury a sorely-needed source of American dollars for the retirement and consolidation of debts that were contracted during the new State's first period of immigration and development. The Jewish Agency, for its part, is being put in a position to hasten its programs of immigrant settlement and agricultural development.

Thus, Israel is being helped to attack its economic problems in a long-range way.

It is reassuring to know that Israel has started to bring about a real consolidation of its economy with the same determination, imagination and energy with which it proceeded in the first period of expansion.

Teams of experts are now engaged in outlining an economic plan for the next five and ten years. Real stock is being taken of the resources and the assets of the country, and one sees everywhere an eagerness bordering on zeal to attain the new goal-- the goal of economic self-reliance.

Background for Progress

It is well to mention at this point that there are some people who hold that Israel's needs at this time are not as great as in the years of mass immigration. There is a feeling expressed by some that things in Israel have settled down to a kind of "normalcy".

Yes, there is a certain "normalcy" in Israel today. On any "normal" day or night, Israel's neighbors fire across the border; a settler or two gets hurt, perhaps killed; a few dozen sheep are stolen, farm equipment disappears, settlement pipelines get cut, orchards and fields are set afire and burned.

Events like these take place every day . . . "normal" days. On "abnormal" days, such incidents take on the character of a major episode, such as the massacre at Scorpion Pass.

It is against this tense background that Israel lives, and works. Everything that is done is colored by these facts.

Israel's Present Difficulties

1. Israel's greatest economic problem is the consolidation of agriculture and industry.
2. Despite some improvement in the foreign trade balance, Israel still suffers from a tremendous imbalance of foreign trade. . . imports are running about six to one over exports.
3. The housing situation is extremely serious still for 100,000 immigrants in transitional villages and camps.
4. Additionally, Israel must depend largely on importation of basic food-stuffs such as wheat and meat.
5. Israelis are not getting a balanced diet. There is a serious lack of protein and their meals are made up mainly of starchy foods.
6. Agricultural expansion depends in large measure on expansion of irrigation, at best a slow and painstaking process.
7. High taxes, including municipal, purchase and luxury taxes, and the need for defense expenditures in view of the continuing hostility of neighboring states, place all Israel citizens on a regime of comparative austerity.
8. Unemployment is high.
9. Thousands of aged and handicapped immigrants are on waiting lists for Malben care. Malben is the rehabilitation agency in Israel of the Joint Distribution Committee, and is supported through the UJA.

UJA Objectives for 5715 in Israel

The United Jewish Appeal remains American Jewry's great instrument for saving lives, building economically embattled Israel, and strengthening democracy. Funds made available to the UJA are allocated for support of three beneficiaries, the United Israel Appeal, the Joint Distribution Committee, and the United Service for New Americans.

In the months immediately ahead, UJA funds must:

1. Help the United Israel Appeal assist more than 300,000 persons in

Israel, including youth, aged persons and some 100,000 newcomers still living in makeshift transition camps.

2. Help build 10,000 permanent homes providing living quarters for 40,000 persons.

3. Help Israel carry out a plan intended to bring 1.7 millions dunams under irrigation. This plan means that by 5718 -- three more years -- the estimated 2,000,000 population of Israel will be fed with basic foodstuffs from local sources.

To carry out the agricultural plan, UJA funds are needed to:

Help complete the establishment of 19 new agricultural settlements which will house 3,000 families (12,000 persons) now in the transition camps, thereby adding thousands of new recruits to Israel's battle to expand agricultural production.

Help increase Israel's water supply for agricultural purposes by making possible new reservoirs, wells, dams and completion of such projects as the Yarkon River project. This last will transfer the waters of the Yarkon to the Northern Negev, making it habitable for thousands of new farm families and for industrial workers. In the coming year along, 200,000 dunams must be irrigated representing a 25 per cent increase over last year.

4. Help bring additional thousands of homeless or endangered Jews to Israel.

5. Provide old-age maintenance, and other social service care to 25,000 handicapped newcomers to Israel through Malben (Organization for the Care of Handicapped Immigrants, maintained by JDC).

Outside Israel

UJA funds must help the Joint Distribution Committee provide vital welfare aid in other areas, offering a life-line of help to 130,000 persons in Europe and Moslem lands who are dependent on UJA funds for medical aid, food, clothing, orphan and old-age care, and rehabilitation through training.

The Goal

The goal of American Jewry in respect to Israel must remain constant. We have it in our power to help Israel become a land without barren stretches of thirsty land, without immigration camps dotting the countryside, without rationing and unemployment, a land with modern schools and hospitals and equal opportunities, with permanent housing for everyone, with parks, stores, recreation centers, and with the spirit of freedom permeating the very air.

This is the goal and this is the dream in which American Jewry must continue to put its faith.

But these are goals and dreams that American Jews must also underwrite in practical ways — through continued generous giving, and giving of a higher order than ever before. We must give not only because 100,000 immigrants still live in transient camps, not only because thousands are still living under austerity conditions, and not only because Israel's democratic way of life is threatened by hostile neighbors. More than that — we must give because the dream of Israel restored and rebuilt is at the heart and center of the age-old Jewish tradition.

The establishment of the UJA 16 years ago gave American Jewry the instrument through which it could realize its great dreams for Israel and human freedom. Today the United Jewish Appeal is an integral part of Jewish community life, a formidable hand of help to Jews everywhere, and the ultimate expression of a very old and very wise tradition of giving.

UJA in Crucial Drive

At this moment, the UJA is in the midst of a crucial drive for \$50,000,000 in cash. Outstanding pledges must be redeemed at the earliest possible moment. If your pledge is still unpaid — pay it as soon as possible. Your best intentions and your best wishes cannot do the job; cash can.

In this matter we cannot hesitate. The great citadel of democracy in the Middle East which we have helped to fashion must be maintained until it can strike forward on its own as a self-sustaining member of the community of free nations. Let us therefore rush all possible funds to the United Jewish Appeal, so that no Jew in the coming year shall lose his chance for life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.



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