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"1966 Campaign Story." February 1966.

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1966 CAMPAIGN STORY

The UJA Annual National Conference held in December 1965 at the New York Hilton Hotel was one of those remarkable events which do not occur very often. Many people said that the conference was historic. Those present had a feeling that history was recreated for them by the presence of the Allied generals whose victories on the battlefield altered the course of world history; by the constant allusion of these military leaders to the significance of the creation of Israel and their high regard for that small nation. The medal struck by the UJA and presented to the generals brought freshly into people's minds the grandeur of man's struggle for freedom in the twentieth century.

Let us not forget that UJA made some of that history. We were not mere bystanders in the cataclysmic events which were commemorated. The UJA helped create and shape significant parts of recent world history. It is this fact which made the recent conference so spectacular.

There are men and women who have been active in UJA for more than two decades. They recall from personal experience the role that UJA played in bringing about the great events which were celebrated at the conference. We have a sense of loftiness about the work we do because we know that UJA is an instrument which shapes Jewish destiny and creates contemporary Jewish history.

It is this sense of achievement and history which sustains us during the trying months of the Annual Campaign which demand from us all diligence, dedication, and days, weeks and months of ceaseless activity.

Standing back and viewing the situation of twenty years ago, when our people had been hammered to the brink of destruction, we realize the importance of UJA and its unique contribution to the survival of Israel and the Jewish people in many lands. Never for a moment do we minimize the sacrifices of the people of Israel - their courage, fighting spirit and the heavy burden they carry to this day. At the same time we must always understand that our efforts and achievements are epoch-making and unparalleled in the annals of human history.

The UJA, however, does not rest on past glory for the simple reason that many unfinished tasks remain. We also face new global challenges in the years to come and the UJA must still play a significant role in strengthening Jewish life in Israel and in various countries of the world.

To be specific, let us spell out the present needs of UJA and explain why we ask you to increase your gift to the 1966 campaign.

There are five aspects to the present situation which require our special attention in 1966. They are:

1. - Continued high immigration.
2. - Israel's twenty-one frontier towns - the social and economic problems of 250,000 underprivileged immigrants who are as yet unabsorbed into the fabric of Israel society.

3. - The new threat to Israel's security.
4. - The loss of German reparations funds.
5. - The global needs of the JDC.

I. Continued High Immigration

Some of our contributors appear to have come to the conclusion, during the middle of 1965, that there was no urgency in this area of need because immigration, which had been running at such a high rate over the past five years, had come to an end.

This erroneous impression had its source in the misinterpretation of speeches made in Israel during the course of last fall's election campaign and in the inaccurate reports of tourists upon their return to America. Unfortunately, too many American tourists never speak to new immigrants, contenting themselves with a surface view of an increasingly prosperous Israel.

The facts of the immigration picture are as follows: in 1966, 40,000 new arrivals are expected in Israel from Europe, Asia, Africa and South America. Mr. Louis Pincus, the newly elected Chairman of the Jewish Agency, said recently that the anticipated number was 11,000 family units. To be sure, this figure is slightly less than the 50,000 average of the past five years; but, for a country of two and a half million people, 40,000 is high immigration. From 1961 through 1965, the UJA helped bring 250,000 Jews into Israel. During the next five-year period, 1966-1970 inclusive, the estimated total will be 200,000.

Furthermore, in terms of money, the 200,000 of the next five years will cost more than the previous 250,000. The two primary sources of the 1966 immigration into Israel remain as last year - a certain country in Europe and another in Africa. As you know, the rate of flow and per capita costs are established unilaterally by certain authorities.

The trip that in 1963 cost \$210 per capita has been increased to \$370, and will go up. Many millions of dollars will be needed for the immigration from these two countries in 1966.

Immigration from Iran will undoubtedly increase this year because the 80,000 Jews of Iran are restless. In previous years, they were asked to wait, because the Jews of European and African countries were in greater trouble. Iranian Jews now say: we have waited long enough.

There is still another reason why the UJA needs more funds for immigration in 1966. We estimate that twelve to thirteen thousand Jews will have to be moved by the United Hias Service in 1966, to countries of freedom, as compared with 9,200 in 1965. One reason for this is the liberalized U.S. immigration law, which was passed at the last session of Congress. The stepped-up program of UHS (and in New York City that of NYANA) will have to be financed by the UJA.

We are, in fact, dealing with a figure of 53,000 Jews who will be migrating this year if the UJA is given the means to perform its historic task of rescue. In terms of cost, 1966 will exceed previous years by huge sums.

II. Absorption - 21 Frontier Towns

The second major task of the UJA is the problem of the unabsorbed Jews of Israel who reside in the twenty-one towns.

Most people respond more readily to the slogan of life-saving, rescue or immigration than to any other. When we talk about absorption problems - underemployed fathers, underhoused families, undereducated teen-agers, dangers of social crisis and juvenile delinquency, the general retort is that "such problems are not unique to Israel." Let us therefore analyze the very serious situation of the twenty-one development towns in Israel.

It happens that there are, approximately, a quarter of a million underprivileged Jews, 80% of whom are Sephardic, coming from Asian or African countries, who reside in these twenty-one "frontier towns." Many of these towns did not exist ten years ago. In the beginning, European Jews, too, were sent to these new settlements in order to balance the population between Ashkenazim and Sephardim. But Israel is not a police state. A person is free to move and relocate his home and family. As a result, most of the European settlers, by virtue of hard work and utilization of skills, saved enough money to move to the larger cities in Israel where their growing children could enjoy all the benefits of education and culture, not available in a "frontier town."

Who remained? - In most instances it was the man with no skills, who lived from hand to mouth, because he must support a family of six, seven and even more children.

Consider for a moment what is happening in one of these new towns - Tiberias. We know Tiberias as a city of historic beauty, situated on the shores of the Sea of Galilee - a magnificent tourist spot. In reality, Tiberias is made up of two separate areas of settlement. The old established section is situated on the edge of the lake. It has a population of 5,000, composed mainly of old-timers who have been living there for many years, in some cases, centuries. They are the elite - hotel owners and managers, successful farmers, merchants and builders of the fishing industry. Up on the hill, there is the "other" Tiberias where live fifteen thousand people, all newcomers, mostly Sephardic. No less than 70% of the adults are illiterate in any language. In seeking employment, they qualify only for the poorly paying unskilled odd jobs available in lower Tiberias. Up on the hill, there are no schools, no playgrounds, no youth clubs. This is the perfect setting for an explosive social crisis.

The Sephardic Jews of Tiberias are beginning to murmur: Aren't we just as good as the Jews down there? Aren't we too first class citizens of Israel? Didn't our boys fight in the Sinai campaign?

Fortunately, they are still in the "griping stage." But who can say how long they will contain themselves before their bitterness and disenchantment is released in more violent forms of expression?

Similar situations elsewhere have led to social eruptions, which for Israel can be disastrous in terms of its moral image in the eyes of the world and in terms

of impeding its economic and technological progress so vital to its survival as a democratic nation.

To be sure, money cannot solve all the problems in upper Tiberias and the twenty other "frontier towns." But with additional funds, UJA can help alleviate the crisis, ease some of the social tension and begin to close the gap between the absorbed and unabsorbed citizens of Israel.

III. Security Problems

It is true that for several years Israel's military posture served as a successful deterrent against any Arab aggression. This was clearly evidenced in the war of nerves surrounding the water diversion project. When Israel refused to be intimidated by verbal threats, and proceeded to divert its share of water from the Jordan river, the Arab leaders candidly admitted that they were not ready yet, and could in effect do nothing but fulminate verbally. At the Arab summit meeting held in the fall of 1965, General Amer, Chief of Staff of the Egyptian Army said "I won't be ready for four years." Thus, the opening of the water project was a great victory for Israel, one made notable by the fact that it was a bloodless success. The policy of deterrent power maintaining the peace had clearly paid off.

Now a new situation is developing. The military balance of power may be in the process of shifting, once again, unfavorably against Israel, and the American public should not be lulled into any sense of complacency about Israel's permanent military superiority vis-a-vis the Arabs.

1. On 22 December 1965, the Jewish Telegraphic Agency reported:

"STATE DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCES \$400,000,000 SALE OF ARMS TO SAUDI ARABIA"

It was announced jointly in Washington and London that \$400,000,000 worth of arms would soon be delivered to Saudi Arabia by Great Britain and the United States. The British would supply 300 million dollars worth of supersonic jet fighter-bombers of the Lightning type and subsonic fighters of the Provost type. The United States was to supply 100 million dollars worth of Hawk ground-to-air missiles. The explanation offered by both governments was that this equipment would form part of Saudi Arabia's defensive network against any possible aggression.

2. A few days later, on 26 December 1965, the Jewish Telegraphic Agency reported:

"ISRAELI GENERAL WARNS OF STEPPED-UP MISSILE THREATS FROM EGYPT"

Egypt now has at least 10 surface-to-air missile launching bases similar to those set up by the Soviet Union in Viet Nam. This was disclosed here this weekend by Israel's Chief of Staff, Maj. Gen. Yitzhak Rabin, who warned that Egypt was now also expected to be receiving newer and better aircraft, new T-55 tanks and modern naval equipment. Addressing a luncheon meeting of the Engineers

Club here, Gen. Rabin said that Arab hostility toward Israel remains unabated, and Israel's basic security problems remain unchanged."

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3. On 29 December 1965, The New York Times reported:

"U.S. IS SUPPLYING TANKS FOR JORDAN
50 to 100 Pattons Provided in Military Aid Program"

The climax of this tremendous military build-up in the Near East came with the announcement on 29 December that the U.S. was supplying Jordan with approximately 50 to 100 M-48 Patton tanks. The reason given was that this would help King Hussein retain control of his domain and prevent him from turning to the Soviet bloc for arms.

4. On 6 February 1966, The New York Times reported:

"U.S. REVEALS SALE OF PATTON TANKS TO ISRAELI ARMY"

The United States disclosed today that it has been selling M-48 Patton tanks to Israel in an arms deal that it had once hoped to route through West Germany... A vague confirmation that the U.S. had now moved to fulfill the West German contract was distributed by the State Department today."

The State Department statement is appended to this letter. It is interesting to read the full text.

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The crisis has been further aggravated by the recent revelation that Russia has "wiped off" a 500 million dollar debt incurred by Nasser for previous military purchases. Presumably this will now enable the Egyptian leader, who has been Israel's most constant enemy, to begin ordering again.

The citizens of Israel have been contributing twice as much as we have to the immigrant absorption program. With arms purchases escalating, the citizens of Israel may not be able to continue increasing their contribution to the expenditures for the health, education, housing, social welfare and special programs for new immigrants. A greater part of this burden should and must rest on our shoulders. Through the UJA we helped bring 1,330,000 Jews to Israel; now we must finish the job of helping make them productive citizens of the new State.

IV. German Reparations

Seven million dollars in German reparations funds was lost during 1965 by the JDC and \$500,000 by the United Hias Service. What is not generally known is that as of March 31, 1966, all reparations payments to the Jewish Agency will also end. This will mean a loss of ten and a half million dollars which must be replaced if the programs of immigration and absorption are not to be sharply curtailed in 1966 and the years to come. The total loss to all organizations is 18 million dollars.

American Jewry contributed more to the campaign in 1965 than in 1964 because it understood the crippling effect of the loss of JDC reparations money. There is all the more reason why we must increase our giving substantially in 1966, in view of the additional ten and a half million loss of reparations that the Jewish Agency faces as of April 1st of this year.

V. JDC - Global Needs

The 1965 campaign, though comparatively successful, did not produce sufficient funds to compensate the JDC for the loss described above. As a consequence, all JDC programs had to be reduced by about five million dollars. It is difficult to describe the agony of making decisions as to what should be cut out. Much human suffering will undoubtedly be caused. In Morocco for example, where there is a case load of fifteen thousand children, the JDC used to distribute clothing once a year consisting of a new T-Shirt, a pair of pants, a pair of shoes and various other items for each child. The cost was approximately \$150,000 per annum. A decision has now been made to reduce this clothing distribution to once in two years. This means that more than one Jewish child in Morocco will not even have shoes to wear in the months to come.

The JDC has been spending over five million dollars on its Relief-in-Transit program which has maintained a lifeline with thousands of Jews cut off in certain countries. Retrenchment in this area will mean that Jews, to whom the JDC is the sole link with the outside world, will be denied minimum subsistence, old age care, clothing, matzos, and other religious articles. Many of these Jews pray for the day when the gates might open so that Israel would become their home and haven. But if we lose contact now, they will be lost to us and the Jewish people forever. This must not come to pass! The UJA must do everything possible to help the JDC strengthen its vital programs among Jews in 29 countries of the world.

All forecasts indicate that 1966 will be a year of continued progress and expansion in all sectors of the American economy. With the needs as compelling as they are, and the economic conditions as favorable as they are, every effort should be made by every serious-minded contributor to give a maximum gift.

During the 27 years of its existence, the UJA has altered the course of modern Jewish history. At stake in the year 1966 is: the rescue of 53,000 Jews; the absorption of 250,000 into the economy of Israel; the plight of 400,000 all over the rest of the globe. To meet these needs, it is imperative that we increase our 1966 gifts to the UJA and the community campaign. I am confident that American Jewry will rise to the occasion and write another great chapter in the saga of its support for life and limb, heart and soul, of brother Jews everywhere.

TEXT OF STATEMENT ISSUED BY DEPARTMENT OF STATE

5 February 1966

There has been a recent spate of news stories relating to reported sales of military equipment by the United States to various countries in the Near East. The established United States policy has been to refrain from becoming a major supplier of arms in this area while retaining the option of helping the countries of the area meet their defense requirements through occasional, selective sales.

These exceptions to our general policy have been based on careful case-by-case examinations and a determination that such a sale would not be a destabilizing factor.

The United States has made over the years repeated quiet efforts to encourage limitations on arms buildups in the area. Until those bear fruit, however, the United States cannot be indifferent to the potentially destabilizing effect of massive Soviet sales of arms to the area.

Over the years, to meet modernization requirements, we have sold the Government of Israel various items of military equipment to help it meet its own defense and internal security requirements. These have included Patton tanks.

We and the British recently have agreed to provide an air defense system to Saudi Arabia, the United States component being Hawk missiles. Similarly, in 1962, we sold the Hawk missile to Israel to provide the basis for an air defense system.

We have also had a small military assistance program in Jordan under which we have furnished that country with modest amounts of military equipment and services, including Patton tanks.

It is our policy not to discuss the specifics of these types of transactions. Accordingly we are not in a position to go into the details of military material furnished individual countries, beyond stating that supplies to these countries has been in accordance with our established policy.