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MS-763: Rabbi Herbert A. Friedman Collection, 1930-2004.

Series H: United Jewish Appeal, 1945-1995.

Subseries 1: Sermons, Speeches and Writings, 1949-1982.

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Riverdale Temple [Bronx, N.Y.]. Yom Kippur sermon. 10 October
1970.

For more information on this collection, please see the finding aid on the
American Jewish Archives website.

Remarks made at Yom Kippur Services, Saturday, October 10, 1970
at Riverdale Temple, upon invitation of Rabbi Morris Kertzer and
President Arthur Karger.

Herbert A. Friedman

At the core of our faith is a land. We were born there at
the beginning of history. We shall die there at the end of time.
When we lived there, we created. When forced to flee, we wept.
We have often left that land, yet always returned, in fact and in
dream.

The land nourished us, and we it. The land brought forth from
us poetry and vision and pure hope and promises for a better world.
We brought forth from the land rich produce and plenty and flowers
and beauty. We are a rigid, often joyless people, yet the land
taught us to sing and dance. The land is rocky and dry, yet we
taught it to flow with many nectars.

So it always was - the Jew and his land. Our people is like a
living organism whose cellular structure has the land as its nucleus.
Without this center feeding our hopes and dreams we would long since
have perished on Babylonian plain, in Roman arena, or Spanish mountain
or Russian steppe. Love of this land, and all it meant to us as
a place where we could best express our genius, has sustained us and
kept us alive until this day. *Y. K. K.*

The Third Commonwealth today is struggling to survive. Only
22 years old, with three wars and thousands of dead already endured,
Israel is now faced with the most deadly array of power. It has
always lived in danger, but today the strength of the enemy is in-
credible. The might and fury of Russian MIGs and missiles now
thunder over the desert sands. The enemy has increased his power.
David must refill his pouch, and has the opportunity today to do so,
here in this country. It is a unique opportunity. It must be siezed.

David must also continue his peaceful pursuits of bringing immigrants and tilling soil.

Every free Jew in the entire world must rise quickly to his feet, and let the fire of his passion be felt. No son of Abraham has the right to bear that name and sit inactive today. It has always seemed to me that the first and strongest wave of support should come from the affiliated portion of the Jewish community. When a person joins a congregation of his own free will, and voluntarily pays to do so, he is taking an active step to help guarantee Jewish group survival, as well as fulfilling his individual religious needs. He can justly be considered among the best guardians of our people. What a shock it is, then, to find that in most congregations there is a huge portion of the membership which does not lift a finger to help Israel.

I am certain the situation is no different here. I am certain that simple research will divulge the fact that of the thousand or so families comprising this warm and vibrant congregation, there are hundreds and hundreds of members who make no contribution whatsoever to the UJA nor buy a single Israel Bond.

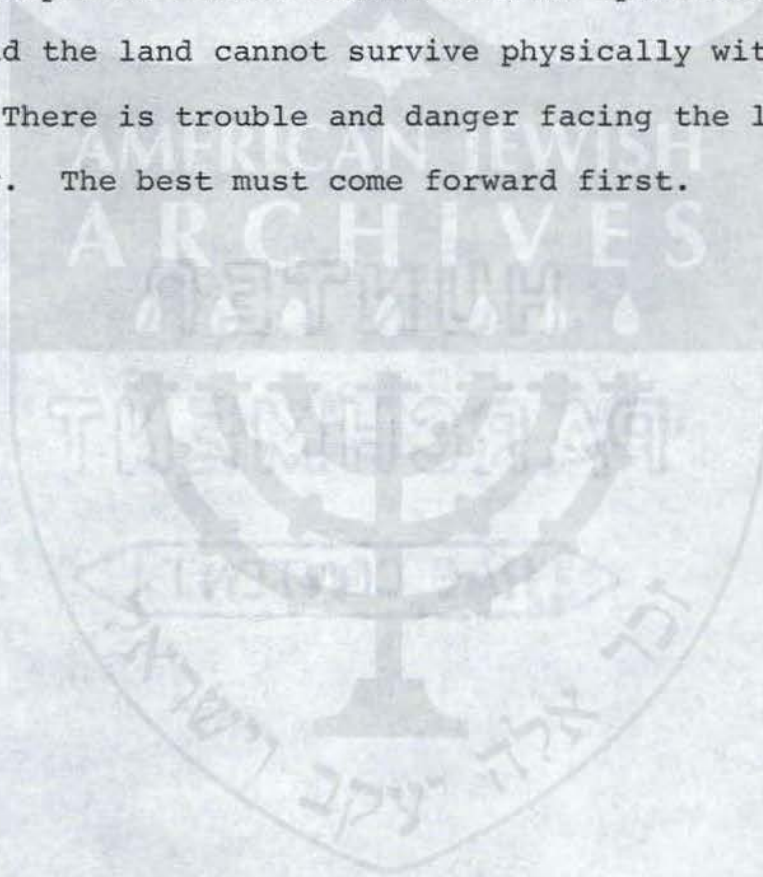
American Jewry this coming year is asked to contribute 500 million free dollars and to buy 500 million bond dollars. Greater New York must take its share of 150 million for the UJA alone. From whence will this vast sum come if not from him who cares the most. Is that not you? You are here. Others are not. You are the elite.

I believe the matter is not one of resistance on your part, or ignorance, or indifference. I believe it is simply inadequate organization. I believe most people who do not contribute are simply not asked. When asked, most Jews do not refuse Israel.

Synagogue Jews all over America will be approached this year in the most systematic effort ever undertaken.

Therefore, I would request the Rabbi and President of this congregation to convene the Board to organize such methods as are necessary to approach every single member with the request that he make his gift. Failure to do so, in my opinion, is inconsistent with membership.

The people of Israel cannot survive spiritually without the land, - and the land cannot survive physically without the people's support. There is trouble and danger facing the land. The people must rally. The best must come forward first.



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The land nourished us, and we it. The land brought forth from us poetry and vision and pure life and promises for a better world. We brought forth from the land rich produce and plenty and flowers and beauty. We are a rigid, often joyless people, yet the land taught us to sing and dance. The land is rocky and dry, yet we taught it to flow with many nectars.

So it always was - The Jew and his land. Our people is like a living organism whose cellular structure has the land as its nucleus. Without this center feeding our hopes and dreams we would long since have perished on Babylonian plain, in Roman arena, on Spanish mountain or Russian steppe. Love of this land, and all it meant to us as a place where we could best express our genius, has sustained us and kept us alive until this day. 1/1/19

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already emboldened, Israel is now faced with the most deadly enemy of power. It has always lived in danger, but today the strength of the enemy is incredible. The might and fury of Russian nukes and missiles now thunder over the desert sands. The enemy has increased his power. David must refill his pouch, and has the opportunity today to do so, here in this country. ~~But~~ It is a unique opportunity. It must be seized. David must also continue his peaceful pursuits of bringing immigrants and tilling soil.

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