

Abba Hillel Silver Collection Digitization Project

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Series V: Writings, 1909-1963, undated.

Reel	Box	Folder
187	70	1029

United Jewish Appeal Anniversary, 1962.

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UNITED JEWISH APPEAL ANNIVERSARY

New York City - December 7, 1962

WHENEVER I ATTEND AN OCCASION SUCH AS THIS, I AM MCVED TO MARVEL AT CERTAIN QUALITIES IN OUR PEOPLE'S CHARACTER WHICH SUCH ANNIVERSARIES MANIFEST. I HAVE LIVED AND WORKED AMONG JEWS, AS YO'J MAY WELL IMAGINE, FOR A LONG TIME. I HAVE SEEN THEM AT CLOSE RANGE, BOTH IN MUFTI AND ON DRESS PARADE.

THERE WERE TIMES WHEN THEY BAFFLED AND TROUBLED ME. THERE WERE OCCASIONS WHEN I FOUND MYSELF ENTERTAINING SOME UNHAPPY THOUGHTS ABOUT THEM, WHICH, FORTUNATELY, I QUICKLY DISCARDED, FOR NO ONE CAN SERVE HIS PEOPLE WHO DOES NCT LOVE THEM EVEN IN THEIR IMPERFECTIONS.

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THE OUTPOURING OF SOLICITUDE AND GENEROSITY FOR FELLOW-JEWS THE WORLD OVER HAS BEEN GOING ON FOR FAR MORE THAN THE QUARTER OF A CENTURY WHICH THE UNITED JEWI SH APPEAL COM-MEMORATES THIS EVENING. THE AMERICAN JEWISH JOINT DISTRIBUTION COMMITTEE -- the J. D. C. -- WHICH LATER MERGED FOR PURPCSES OF CAMPAIGNING WITH THE UNITED PALESTINE APPEAL TO FORM THE U. J. A., WAS FOUNDED IN 1914, ON THE EVE OF THE FIRST WOFLD WAR. EVERY YEAR SINCE THAT TIME, THE JEWS OF AMERICA HAVE MARSHALLED THEIR RESOURCES TO MEET IN A SYSTEMATIC AND RESPONSIBLE MANNER THE URGENT NEEDS OF THEIR FELLOW JEWS WHEREVER AND WHENEVER THEY OCCURED, THEIR GIVING WAS NOT IN THE NATURE OF A ONE-TIME RESPONSE TO A DISASTER, TO A FLOOD OR AN EARTHQUAKE, BUT A PLANNED AND SUSTAINED PROGRAM OF ASSISTANCE TO FELLOW-JEWS WHO FOUND THEMSELVES IN WHAT MIGHT BE CALLED CONTINUOUS CRISIS. NOTHING LIKE IT HAS EVER HAPPENED IN THE HISTORY OF PEOPLES BEFORE, IT IS UNIQUE AND IT IS MAGNIFICENT!

EVEN PRIOR TO THE YEAR 1914, THE YEAR WHICH USHERED IN THE MOST VIOLENT AND DISASTROUS HALF-CENTURY IN OUR HISTORY, AMERICAN JEWS HAD ORGANIZED EXTENSIVE AID FOR THE IMMIGRANT JEWS FROM THE OLD WORLD WHO WERE COMING TO AMERICA AT AN AVERAGE RATE OF ONE HUNDRED AND FIFTY THOUSAND A YEAR. BY 1914, MORE THAN A MILLION AND A HALF JEWS HAD COME TO THESE SHORES, MOST OF THEM PENNILESS. THEY NEEDED EVERY KIND OF ASSISTANCE. THESE IMMIGRANTS SOON OUT-NUMBERED THE OLDER SETTLED JEWISH POPULATION. THEIR NEEDS FOR RELIEF AND IN-TEGRATION PLACED A HEAVY BURDEN UPON THE OLDER SETTLERS, BUT THEY ASSUMED THEM READILY AND AS A MATTER OF COURSE. INTMIGRANT AID SOCIETIES WERE ORGANIZED -- SETTLEMENTS. ENGLISH CLASSES, RELIEF AGENCIES, TECHNICAL SCHOOLS, HCSPITALS, ORPHANAGES, REDISTRIBUTION AND FARMING PROJECTS, SUCH AS GALVESTON AND WOODBINE. OUT OF THESE EFFORTS OUR COMMUNITY-WIDE AND, LATER, OUR NATION-WIDE FEDERATIONS EVOLVED.

- 2 -

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WALLS IN THE CONCENTRATION CAMPS BETWEEN ORTHODOX, CON-SERVATIVE AND REFORM JEWS, BETWEEN EASTERN EUROPEAN OR WESTERN EUROPEAN JEWS. HOW CULD WE, IN THE FACE OF SUCH UNIVERSAL HATE AND MENACE FAIL TO SURMOUNT ALL THE BARRIERS WHICH NORMALLY DIVIDE US? WE PROCEEDED TO FOOL OUR RESOURCES AND TO ACT AS JEWS WITHOUT LABELS.

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IT IS HEARTENING, TOO, TO RECALL THAT THIS OUTPOURING OF GENEROSITY, THIS BASIC DEMONSTRATION OF BROTHERHOOD AND SOLIDARITY OCCURED IN ONE OF THE MOST BRUTAL AND BARBAROUS PERIODS IN HUMAN HISTORY WHEN THE BEASTS WERE STALKING THE EARTH.

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- 10 -

TO THE GROUND, NOR WAS ITS COURAGE BROKEN IN THE DAY OF THE GREAT SLAUGHTER. THIS, INDEED, WAS OUR STRENGTH AND CUR SALVATION.

THE SENSE OF COMPASSION, AND THE STRONG BOND OF GROUP SOLIDARITY WHICH OUR PEOPLE MANIFESTED TIME AND AGAIN IN THE PAST, A CHAPTER OF WHICH YOU ARE CELEBRATING TONIGHT, WILL STAND US IN GOOD STEAD IN THE ON-COMING YEARS. THERE WILL BE MUCH NEED FOR IT. FOR THE DAYS IMMEDIATELY AHEAD OF US ARE NOT LIKELY TO BE CHARACTERIZED BY THAT SERENITY AND SECURITY WHICH WE COULD WISH FOR OUR PEOPLE EVERYWEERE.

LET US BEAR IN MIND THAT THESE ARE DANGEROUS, ERUPTIVE AND UN-PREDICTABLE TIMES FOR ALLPEOPLES. THEY ARE LIKELY TO CONTINUE SO FOR SOME TIME. PASSIONS ARE RUNNING HIGH IN OUR WORLD. THE DARK TIDES ARE STILL SWEEPING ALL AROUND US. HATES AND FEARS ARE STILL BEING STIRRED UP. PREJUDICE IS STILL A FORMIDABLE WEAPON IN THE HANDS OF UNSCRUPULOUS POLITICAL ADVENTURERS, OF MEN WHO FAN THE DESTROYING WINDS AND FILL THE QUIVERS OF HATE. WE ALL PRAYERFULLY HOPE THAT THE FORCES OF REASON WILL COME TO PREVAIL AND THE DESPERATE EFFORTS OF NATIONS TO PRESERVE PEACE WILL SUCCEED. BUT IN THE MEANTIME, THE COLD WAR IS BEARING DOWN MOST HEAVILY UPON OUR DEFENCELESS PEOPLE IN MANY PARTS OF THE WORLD. IN NORTH AFRICA, IN THE MIDDLE EAST AND IN LATIN-AMERICA, OUR PEOPLE ARE ITS PEINCIPAL

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VICTIMS, AND EVEN IN THE FREE COUNTRIES OF THE WEST, THE Leag CONFLICT WITH COMMUNISM IS EXPLOITED BY COMPARENT GROUPS OF NEO-NAZIS AS AN EXCUSE FOR A WAR AGAINST THE JEWS. VIOLENT TIMES ARE ESPECIALLY DANGEROUS FOR MINORITY GROUPS, AND EVEN MORE SO FOR THE JEWISH COMPARENT GROUP WHICH HISTORICALLY HAS SUFFERED MOST IN PERIODS OF SOCIAL, POLITICAL OR ECONOMIC UPHEAVAL. BECAUSE JEWS ARE ALMOST EVERYWHERE, THEY ARE ALWAYS IN THE CENTER OF WORLD EVENTS, AND AS THE RABBIS PUT IT, IN COMMENTING UPON THE FATE OF OUR PEOPLE AT SUCH TIMES, WHEN THE STONE FALLS UPON THE POT, THE POT IS B ROKEN, AND WHEN THE POT FALLS UPON THE STONE, IT IS THE POT AGAIN WHICH IS BROKEN.

IN SUCH TIMES -- AND THESE ARE SUCH TIMES -- OUR ONLY SALVATION AS A PEOPLE LIES IN SOLIDARITY, IN CLOSING RANKS, IN STRENGTHENING OUR DEFENCES. WE DARE NOT RELAX OUR ALERTNESS. WE DARE NOT BE TARDY IN RUSHING AID, ECONOMIC OR POLITICAL, TO ANY HARD-PRESSED SECTOR OF OUR PEOPLE ANYWHERE. WE MUST ro-ENFORCE EVERY THREATENED SEGMENT OF OUR FAR-FLUNG LINE. SURVIVAL IM THE PAST. IT MUST CONTINUE TO BE SO IN THE FURDEE, A FUTURE WHOSE REMOTE HORIZONS NO ONE CAN GLIMPSE.

THERE ARE JEWS TODAY IN LANDS OF TYRANNY AND DISORDER WHOSE BREAD IS THE BREAD OF TEARS AND WHOSE FREAD IS THE WATER OF BITTERNESS. MANY JEWS ARE TODAY ABANDOMING THESE LANDS OF INTELERABLE CONDITIONS AND OF DARK PROSPECTS. MANY OF THEM ARE SEEKING in families THE PEACE AND THE DIGNITY WHICH THE WORLD **Hence Hence Hence Hence IN THE LAST FOURTEEN YEARS, THE YOUNG STATE HAS WELCOMED OVER A MILLION IMMIGRANTS FROM ALL PARTS OF THE WORLD.** THE U.J.A. MADE THAT EMIGRATION POSSIBLE. ISRAEL, WHICH IS A SMALL STATE, AS YOU WELL KNOW, EXERTED ITSELF TO THE UTMOST TO ABSORD THESE NEW-COMERS, MOST OF THEM PENNI-LESS, MANY OF THEN WITHOUT SKILLS OR VOCATIONS, SOME AGED AND INFORM, TO REBUILD THEIR LIVES AND TO INTEGRATE THEM INTO THE ECONOMY OF THE PIONEERING COUNTRY. FROM ALL ACCOUNTS, AN INCOMPARABLY FINE JOB HAS BEEN DONE BY THE TOUNG STATE IN MEETING THE ENORMOUS PROBLEMS WITH WHICH THIS IMMIGRATION TAXED IT, THANKS TO THE IMAGINATION, DEDICATION AND ENTERPRISE OF ITS LEADERS AND PEOPLE.

ISRAEL HAS ACCOMPLISHED SO MUCH, INCREDIBLY SO MUCY! BY ITS FAITHFUL ALLEGIANCE TO THE FREE WORLD, THE DEVELOPMENT OF ITS EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM AND ITS INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER LEARNING, ITS ADVANCED SOCIAL LEGISLATION, THE AID WHICH IT HAS EXTENDED TO LESS DEVELOPED NATIONS OF AFRICA, AND ASIA, AND THE MAIN-TENANCE OF PEACE, IN THE FACE OFFBOYCOTT, BLOCKADE AND THE CONTRIVANCES OF ITS UN-BEECONCILED NEIGHBORS, THAS REVEALED TO THE WORLD THE GROUND-TONE OF ITS CHOSEN WAY OF LIFE, ITS FUNDAMENTAL PURPOSES AND DOMINANT INTERESTS AS A NATION. ALL THIS WHICH IS IN SUCH FULL ACCORD WITH THE NOBLE TRADITIONS OF OUR PEOPLE, HAS FILLED US WITH INESTIMABLE PRIDE. HAS BEEN FOR US A RARER GIFT THAN THE GOLD WE GAVE TO MAKE ITS FOUNDATIONS STRONG. OUR CHILDREN HAVE RE-DISCOVERED THE PRIDE OF THEIR HERITAGE, AND HONOR HAS COME BACK TO IN IN THEIR HEARTS. IN EVERYONE WHO HAS HAD A HAND IN HELPING TO BRING ISRAEL INTO BEING AND IN ASSISTING IN ITS GROWTH --AS AMERICAN JEWS HAVE ASSISTED THROUCH THE UNITED JEWISH APPEAL -- MAY (FEEL PROUD AND GRATEFUL AND DEEPLY SATISFIED.

OVER -- AND WE KNOW THAT OUR TASK IS FAR FROM BEING OVER.

THIS HAS BEEN THE MOST MOMENTOUS QUARTER OF A CENTURY IN JEWISH HISTORY. IT GAVE US THE SECOND WORLD WAR, HITLER AND THE RE-BIRTH OF ISRAEL -- A CUP OF STAGGERING AND A CUP OF SALVATION. IT WAS A TIME WHEN THE LIGHT WAS NE VER DIVIDED FROM THE DARKNESS. IT GAVES TWO KINDS OF CAMPS -- THE CONCEND CAMPS OF TORTURE AND DEATH, AND THE MAHABAROT, THE TEMPORARY CAMPS IN ISRAEL, WHICH LED TO NEW LIFE AND FREEDOM. IN ONE PART OF THE WORLD WE WATCHED THE HOMES AND TOWNS AND ALL

- 10 -

THAT OUR PEOPLE BEILT IN A THOUSAND YEARS CONSUMED BY FIRE AND SWORD AND LAID WASTE IN RUINS. IN ANOTHER PART OF THE WORLD WE WATCHED THE RUINS OF A THOUSAND YEARS BEING RE-BUILT, AND WHAT HAD BEEN WASTED AND RAVAGED BEING RECLAIMED BY THE TOIL AND LABOR OF OUR PEOPLE. NO SUCH APOCALYPTIC HORRORS WERE EVER VISITED UPON OUR PEOPLE, AND SELDEM HAS SUCH MESSIANIC GLORY SHOWN UPON IT. FROM THE SHADOW OF DEATH, LIGHT WAS BROUGHT FORTH. THE GRAVES WERE MANY --SIX MILLICN OF OUR MARTYRED DEAD. BUT AN ANCIENT PROPHECY WAS FULFILLED: "BEHOLD, I WILL OPEN YOUR GRAVES, AND CAUSE YOU TO COME UP OUT OF YOUR GRAVES, O MY PEOPLE; AND I WILL BRING YOU INTO THE LAND OF ISRAEL."

THE DAYS TO COME WILL CONTINUE TO MAKE GREAT DEMANDS UPON OUR LOYALTY AND PERSEVERANCE, ON ISRAEL'S PART AND ON OURS. ISRAEL WILL NOT BE ABLE TO ESCAPE THE POLITICAL TENSIONS AND PRESSURES OF THE WORLD OF WHICH IT IS A PART. GRAVE, UNSOLVED PROBLEMS - INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL -- STILL REMAIN. DANGER LURKS UPON ITS BORDERS.

THERE IS MUCH WORK STILL TO BE DINE! ISRAEL MUST BE MADE STRONG, STRONG ENOUGH TO WITHSTAND PRESSURES, STRONG ENOUGH TO DEFEND ITS RIGHTS, STRONG ENOUGH TO ABSORB THOSE WHO WILL WISH TO GO THERE, OR THOSE WHO WILL HAVE TO GO THERE, STRONG ENOUGH TO FULFILL ITS DESTINY.

- 11 -

WE, LIVING IN THIS GRACIOUS LAND, HAVE BEEN A PRIVILEGED GENERATION IN THAT WE HAVE BEEN THE <u>CHOSEN TOOLS IN THE HANDS</u> <u>OF GOD</u> FOR THE SALVATION OF HIS PEOPLE. WE HAVE TRIED TO MATCH OUR HOUR. WE RECEIVED OUR ASSIGNMENT AND WE SET ABOUT EXECUTING IT TO THE BEST OF OUR ABILITIES. WE ARE HUMBLY GRATEFUL THAT WE DID NOT UTTERLY FAIL. THE DEGREE OF OUR SUCCESS IS THE MEASURE OF OUR REWARD.



UNITED JEWISH APPEAL ANNIVERSARY

New York City -- December 7, 1962

Whenever I attend an occasion such as this, I am moved to marvel at certain qualities in our people's character which such anniversaries manifest. I have lived and worked among Jews, as you may well imagine, for a long time. I have seen them at close range, both in mufti and on dress parade.

There were times when they baffled and troubled me. There were occasions when I found myself entertaining some unhappy thoughts about them, which, fortunately, I quickly discarded. For no one can serve his people who does not love them even in their imperfections.

But my confidence and pride were always renewed when I saw them engaged in acts of group compassion and loyalty such as you celebrate this evening. These acts revealed to me a very precious quality in our people's character.

The outpouring of solicitude and generosity for fellow-Jews the world over has been going on for far more than the quarter of a century which the United Jewish Appeal commemorates this evening. The American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee -- the J. D. C. -- which later merged for purposes of campaigning with the United Palestine Appeal to form the U. J. A., was founded in 1914, on the sve of the First World War. Every year since that time, the Jews of America have marshalled their resources to meet in a systematic and responsible manner the urgent needs of their fellow-Jews wherever and whenever they occured. Their giving was not in the nature of a one-time response to a disaster, to a flood or an sarthquake, but a planned and sustained program of assistance to fellow-jews who found themselves in what might be called continuous crisis. Nothing like it has ever happened in the history of peoples before. It is unique and it is magnificent!

Even prior to the year 1914, the year which ushered in the most violent and disastrous half-century in our history, American Jews had organized extensive aid for the immigrant Jews from the old world who were coming to America at an average rate of one hundred and fifty thousand a year. By 1914, more than a million and a half Jews had come to these shores, most of them penniless. They needed every kind of assistance. These immigrants soon out-numbered the older settled Jewish population. Their needs for relief and integration placed a heavy burden upon the older settlers. But they assumed them readily and as a matter of course. Immigrant aid societies were organized -- settlements, English classes, relief agencies, techtical schools, hospitals, orphanages, redistribution and farming projects, such as Galveston and Woodbine. Out of these efforts our community-wide and, later, our nation-wide federations evolved.

The children and grandchildren of those immigrants are today the leaders, workers and donors in the United Jewish Appeal and in the various welfare campaigns in their cities. Thus, a chain of benevolence has continued unbroken; a silken cord binding generation to generation.

This organized and continuing response on the part of American Jews to the needs of fellow-Jews over a period of more than three-quarters of a century, is what fills me with admiration. It was all so voluntary! There was no compulsion! There was no one with any authority to impose a tax.

- 2 -

The only flictation came from the hearts of men and women who appreciated the privilege of being needed and who were aware of their historic responsibility. Again, this voluntary giving of time, thought and substance was a <u>mass</u> enterprise. It was not the exclusive project of a few wealthy philanthropists. The collective soul of our people moved into action. The sanctuary which cur people built in the wilderness on their way to the Fromised Land in the days of Moses was similarly built out of the <u>free-will</u> offerings of <u>every</u> man and woman among the people whose heart was willing. It is indeed a very ancient tradition of our people, but I marvel that it still manifests itself on so large a scale and so late in our history, after so many alien forces had been whittling away at our traditional way of life.

There is another matter which fills me with admiration as I look over the last twenty-five years. The sharp competitiveness, the organizational rivalry, the ideological intelerance which so badly divided us in those years, have all but disappeared. Many of you may recall the severe birth pangs which attended the coming to life of the United Jewish Appeal, the early years of controversy over allocations as between the Joint Distribution Committee, the United Palestine Appeal and the National Refugee Service, each claiming priority. It was some time before a satisfactory relationship was established between the agencies which were all serving the same people but were doing it with considerable mutual antagonism and furtive distrust. The years have matured all their leaders and rounded off the sharp angularity of their ideologies.

- 3 -

They murmured but they learned instruction. The appalling calamities which beset our people in the dreadful years of the Nazi persecution, the Second World War and its disastrous aftermath, forced upon all the responsible leaders ofour people the realization that only in united community action on a total program of rescue and rehabilitation, both in the Diaspora and in Israel, was there any hope for the broken and scattered remnants of our people. We soon realized that there were no partition walls in the concentration camps between Orthodox, Conservative and Reform Jews, or between Eastern European or Western European Jews. How could we, in the face of such universal hate and menace fail to surmount all the barriers which normally divide us? We proceeded to pool our resources and to act as Jews without labels.

A crisis challenged us to unity and we were not found wanting. The fruits of this unity were soon apparent. Not only did the United Campaign yield much larger sums than those which were raised in independent campaigns, but we acquired larger tolerance. We learned to understand each other better. To think, plan and execute as one people. This was soon reflected in increased community cohesion all over the land. We still cling to our independent judgments and epinions -- for we are by no means of one mind, even now. But we learned the wisdom of working together unitedly for the common good. Here and there one still finds some vocal dissidents who are entrenched

- 4 -

in their isolation and spiteful contrariness, but they have not been permitted to obstruct the steady movement of our people towards mutual accommodations and unity.

Many years ago, the eminent English Poet and literary critic, <u>Matthew</u> Arnold, declared:

"As long as the world lasts, all who want to make progress in <u>righteousness</u> will come to Israel for inspiration as to the people who have had the sense for righteousness most glowing and strong." He might have added the word <u>compassion</u>.

It is heartening, too, to recall that this outpouring of generosity, this basic demonstration of brotherhood and solidarity occured in one of the most brutal and barbarous periods in human history when the beasts were stalking the earth.

As we watched the terror swooping down, as a vulture, upon our people, we were not content to wring our hands in anguish and to gird ourselves with sackcloth. We mourned for the dead, but we rushed to the aid of the living. We fed the hungry, we clothed the naked, we cared for the orphan and the widow, we bound up the bruises of our people the best we could, and we proceeded to rebuild the fallen tabernacle of David for the dispersed of Israel. In a darkening world where lights were everywhere going out, our people daised one radiant beacon of merky which shone for all to see "Like a good deed in a naughty world", to reassure mankind that love and human compassion had not departed from our earth and that evil and cruelty would never claim the ultimate victory.

- 5 -

Therefore, the pride of Israel was never cast down to the ground, nor was its courage broken in the day of the great slaughter. This, indeed, was our strength and our salvation.

The sense of compassion, and the strong bond of group solidarity which our people manifested time and again in the past, a chapter of which you are celebrating tonight, will stand us in good stead in the oncoming years. There will be much need for it. Fir the days immediately ahead of us are not likely to be characterized by that screnity and security which we could wish for our people everywhere.

Let us bear in mind that these are dangerous, eruptive and un-predictable They are likely to continue so for some time. Passions times for all peoples. are running high in our world. Dark tides are still sweeping all around us. Hates and fears are still being stirred up. Prejudice is still a formidable weapon in the hands of unscrupulous political adventurers, of men who fan the destroying winds and fill the quivers of hate. We all prayerfully hope that the forces of reason will come to prevail and the desperate efforts of nations to preserve peace will succeed. But in the meantime, the cold war is bearing down most heavily upon our defenceless people in many parts of the world. In North Africa, in the Middle East and in Latin-America, our people are its principal victims, and even in the free countries of the west, the conflict with communism is being exploited by groups of neo-Nazis as an excuse for a war against the Jews. Violent times are especially dangerous for minority groups, and even more so for the Jewish group which historically has suffered most in periods of social, political or economic upheaval. Because Jews are almost

- 6 -

everywhere, they are always in the center of world events, and as the Rabbis put it, in commenting upon the fate of our people at such times, when the stone falls upon the pot, the pot is broken, and when the pot falls upon the stone, it is the pot again which is broken.

In such times -- and these are such times -- our only salvation as a people lies in solidarity, in closing ranks, in strengthening our defences. We dare not relax our alertness. We dare not be tardy in rushing aid, economic or political, to any hard-pressed sector of our people anywhere. We must reenforce every threatened segment of our far-flung line. This has been our strategy of survival in the past. It must continue to be so in the future, a future whose remote horizons no one can glimpse.

There are Jews today in lands of tyranny and disorder whose bread is the bread of tears and whose water is the water of bitterness.

Many Jews are today abandoning these lands of intelerable conditions and of dark prospects. Many of them are seeking in Israel the peace and the dignity which the world denied them. In the last fourteen years, the young state has welcomed over a million immigrants from all parts of the world. The U.S.A. made that emigration possible. Israel, which is a small state, as you well know, exerted itself to the utmost to absorb these new-comers, **months it is** most of them penniless, many of them without skills or vocations, some aged and infirm, to rebuild their lives and to integrate them into the economy of the pioneering country. From all accounts, an incomparably fine job hassbeen done by the young state in meeting the enormous problems with which this immigration taxed it, thanks to the imagination, dedication and enterprise of its leaders and people.

- 7 -

Istael has accomplished so much, incredibly so mucht By its faithful allegiance to the free world, the development of its educational system and its institutions of higher learning, its advanced social legislation, the aid which it has extended to less developed nations of Africa, and Asia, and the maintenance of peace, in the face of boycott, blockade and the contrivances of its un-reconciled neighbors, Israel has revealed to the world the groundtone of its chosen way of life, its fundamental purposes and dominant interests as a nation. All this which is in such full accord with the noble traditions of our people, has filled us with inestimable pride. It has been for us a rarer gift than the gold we gave to make its foundations strong. Our children have re-discovered the pride of their heritage, and honor has come back to dwell in their hearts. Everyone who has had a hand in helping to bring Israel into being and in assisting in its growth -- as American Jews have assisted through the United Jewish Appeal -- may feel proud and grateful and deeply satisfied.

But Israel knows that its historic task is far from being over -- and we know that our task is far from being over.

This has been the most momentous quarter of a century in Jewish history. It gave us the facond Wodld War, Hitler and the re-birth of Israel -- a cup of staggering and a cup of salvation. It was a time when the light was never divided from the darkness. It gave us two kinds of camps -- the concentration camps of torture and death, and the <u>Mahabarot</u>, the temporary camps in Israel, which led to new life and freedom. In one part of the world we watched the homes and towns and all that our people built in a thousand years consumed by fire

8 -

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The days to come will continue to make great demands upon our loyalty and perseverance, on Israel's part and on ours. Israel will not be able to escape the political tensions and pressures of the world of which it is a part. Grave, unsolved problems -- internal and external -- still remain. Danger lurks upon its borders.

There is much work still to be done. Israel must be made <u>strong</u>, strong enough to withstand pressures, strong enough to defend its rights, strong enough to absorb those who will wish to go there, or those who will have to go there, strong enough to ;fulfill its destiny.

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- 9 -

Sermon on the UJA 25th Anniversary

by

Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver The Temple, Cleveland

On the occasion of a Sabbath Eve Service marking the Anniversary at the UJA Annual National Conference, December 7, 1962, New York City

OUR TASK IS NOT OVER

Whenever I attend an occasion such as this, I am moved to marvel at certain qualities in our people's character which such anniversaries manifest. I have lived and worked among Jews, as you may well imagine, for a long time. I have seen them at close range, both in mufti and on dress parace.

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Let us bear in mind that these are dangerous, eruptive and unpredictable times for all peoples. They are likely to continue so for some time. Passions are running high in our world. Dark tides are still sweeping all around us. Hates and fears are still being stirred up. Prejudice is still a formidable weapon in the hands of unscrupulous political adventurers. of men who fan the destroying winds and fill the quivers of hate. We all prayerfully hope that the forces of reason will come to prevail and the desperate efforts of nations to preserve peace will succeed. But in the meantime, the cold war is bearing down most heavily upon our defenceless people in many parts of the world. In North Africa, in the Middle East and in Latin-America, our people are its principal victims, and even in the free countries of the West, the conflict with communism is being exploited by groups of neo-Nazis as an excuse for a war against the Jews. Violent times are especially dangerous for minority groups, and even more so for the Jewish group which historically has suffered most in periods of social, political or economic upheaval. Because Jews are almost everywhere, they are always in the center of world events, and as the Rabbis put it, in commenting upon the fate of our people at such times, when the stone falls upon the pot, the pot is broken, and when the pot falls upon the stone, it is the pot again which is broken.

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UNITED JEWISH APPEAL ANNIVERSARY

New York City - December 7, 1962

WHENEVER I ATTEND AN OCCASION SUCH AS THIS, I AM MOVED TO MARVEL AT CERTAIN QUALITIES IN OUR PEOPLE'S CHARACTER WHICH SUCH ANNIVERSARIES MANIFEST. I HAVE LIVED AND WORKED AMONG JEWS, AS YOU MAY WELL IMAGINE, FOR A LONG TIME. I HAVE SEEN THEM AT CLOSE RANGE, BOTH IN MUFTI AND ON DRESS PARADE.

THERE WERE TIMES WHEN THEY BAFFLED AND TROUBLED ME. THERE WERE OCCASIONS WHEN I FOUND MYSELF ENTERTAINING SOME UNHAPPY THOUGHTS ABOUT THEM, WHICH, FORTUNATELY, I QUICKLY DISCARDED. FOR NO ONE CAN SERVE HIS PEOPLE WHO DOES NOT LOVE THEM EVEN IN THEIR IMPERFECTIONS.

BUT MY CONFIDENCE AND PRIDE WERE ALWAYS RENEWED WHEN I SAW THEM ENGAGED IN ACTS OF GROUF COMPASSION AND LOYALTY SUCH AS YOU CELEBRATE THIS EVENING. THESE ACTS REVEALED TO ME A VERY PRECIOUS QUALITY IN OUR PEOPLE'S CHARACTER.

THE OUTPOURING OF SOLICITUDE AND GENEROSITY FOR FELLOW-JEWS THE WORLD OVER HAS BEEN GOING ON FOR FAR MORE THAN THE QUARTER OF A CENTURY WHICH THE UNITED JEWISH APPEAL COMMENORATES THIS EVENING. THE AMERICAN JEWISH JOINT DISTRIBUTION COMMITTEE -- THE J. D. C. -- WHICH LATER MERGED FOR PURPOSES OF CAMPAIGNING WITH THE UNITED PALESTINE APPEAL TO FORM THE U.J.A., WAS FOUNDED IN 1914, ON THE EVE OF THE FIRST WORLD WAR. EVERY YEAR SINCE THAT TIME, THE JEWS OF AMERICA HAVE MARSHALLED THEIR RESOURCES TO MEET IN A SYSTEMATIC AND RESPONSIBLE MANNER THE URGENT NEEDS OF THEIR FELLOW JEWS WHEREVER AND WHENEVER THEY OCCURED. THEIR GIVING WAS NOT IN THE NATURE OF A ONE-TIME RESPONSE TO A DISASTER, TO A FLOOD OR AN EARTHOMAKE, BUT A PLANNED AND SUSTAINED PROGRAM OF ASSISTANCE TO FELLOW JEWS WHO FOUND THEMSELVES IN WHAT MIGHT BE CALLED CONTINUOUS CRISIS. NOTHING LIKE IT HAS EVER HAPPENED IN THE HISTORY OF PEOPLES BEFORE, IT IS UNIQUE AND IT IS MAGNIFICENT!

EVEN PRIOR TO THE YEAR 1914, THE YEAR WHICH USHERED IN THE MOST VIOLENT AND DISASTROUS HALF- CEN FURY IN OUR HISTORY, AMERICAN JEWS HAD ORGANIZED EXTENSIVE AID FOR IMMIGRANT JEWS FROM THE OLD WORLD WHO WERE COMING TO AMERICA AT AN AVERAGE RATE OF ONE HUNDRED AND FIFTT THOUSAND A YEAR. BY 1914, MORE THAN A MILLION AND A HALF JEWS HAD COME TO THESE SHORES, MOST OF THEM PENNILESS. THEY NEEDED EVERY KIND OF ASSISTANCE. THESE IMMIGRANTS SOON OUT-NUMBERED THE OLDER SETTLERS, BUT THEY ASSUMED THEM READILY AND AS A MATTER OF COURSE. IMMIGRANT AID SOCIETIES WERE ORGANIZED -- SETTLEMENTS, ENGLISH CLASSES, RELIEF AGENCIES, TECHNICAL SCHOOLS, HOSPITALS, ORPHANAGES, REDISTRIBUTION AND FARMING PROJECTS, SUCH AS

- 2 -

GALVESTON AND WOODBINE. OUT OF THESE EFFORTS OUR COMMUNITY-WIDE AND, LATER, OUR NATION-WIDE FEDERATIONS EVOLVED.

THE CHILDREN AND GRANDCHILDREN OF THOSE IMMIGRANTS ARE TODAY THE LEADERS, WORKERS AND DONORS IN THE UNITED JEWISH APPEAL AND IN THE VARICUS OTHER WELFARE CAMPAIGNS IN THEIR CITIES, THUS, A CHAIN OF BENEVOLENCE HAS CONTINUED UNBROKEN -- A SILKEN CORD BINEING GENERATION TO GENERATION.

THIS ORGANIZED AND CONTINUING RESPONSE ON THE FART OF AMERICAN JEWS TO THE NEEDS OF FELLOW JEWS OVER A PERIOD OF MORE THAN THREE-QUARTERS OF A CENTURY, IS WHAT FILLS ME WITH ADMIRATION. IT WAS ALL SO VOLUNTARY! THERE WAS NEVER ANY COMPULSION! THERE WAS NO ONE WITH ANY ARTHORITY TO IMPOSE A TAX. THE ONLY DICTATION CAME FROM THE HEARTS OF MEN AND WOMEN WHO APPRECIATED THE PRIVILEGE OF BEING NEEDED AND WHO WERE AWARE OF THEIR HISTORIC RESPONSIBILITY. AGAIN, THIS VOLUNTARY GIVING OF TIME, THOUGHT AND SUBSTANCE WAS A MASS ENTERPRISE. IT WAS NOT THE EXCLUSIVE PROJECT OF A FEW WEALTHY PHILANTHROPISTS. THE COLLECTIVE SOUL OF OUR PEOPLE MOVED INTO ACTION, AND LEADERS WERE NOT WANTING TO DIRECT AND TO INSPIRE. IN ANCIENT DAYS, THE SANCTUARY WHICH OUR PEOPLE BUILT IN THE WILDERNESS ON THEIR WAY TO THE PROMISED LAND IN THE DAYS OF MOSES WAS SIMILARLY BUILT, WE ARE TOLD, OUT OF THE FREE-WILL OFFERINGS OF EVERY MAN AND WOMAN AMONG THE PEOPLE WHOSE HEART WAS WILLING. IT IS INDEED A TIME-HONORED TRADITION OF OUR PEOPLE, BUT I MARVEL THAT IT STILL MANIFESTS ITSELF ON SO LARGE A SCALE AND SO LATE IN OUR HISTORY, AFTER SO MANY ALIEN FORCES HAD WHITTLED AWAY AT OUR TRADITIONAL WAY OF LIFE.

THERE IS ANOTHER MATTER WHICH FILLS ME WITH ADMIRA-TION AS I LOOK OVER THE LAST TWENTY-FIVE YEARS. THE SHARP COMPETITIVENESS, THE ORGANIZATIONAL RIVALRY, THE IDEOLO-GICAL INTOLERANCE WHICH SO BADLY DIVIDED US IN THOSE YEARS, HAVE ALL BUT DISAPPEARED. MANY OF YOU MAY RECALL THE SEVERE BIRTH-PANGS WHICH ATTENDED THE COMING TO LIFE OF THE UNITED JEWISH APPEAL, THE EARLY YEARS OF CONTROVERSY OVER ALLO-CATIONS AS BETWEEN THE JOINT DISTRIBUTION COMMITTEE, THE UNITED PALESTINE APPEAL AND THE NATIONAL REFUGEE SERVICE, EACH CLAIMING FRIORITY. IT WAS SOME TIME BEFORE A SATISFACTORY RELATININSHIP WAS ESTABLISHED BETWEEN THESE AGENCIES WHICH WERE ALL SERVING THE SAME PEOPLE BUT WERE DOING IT WITH CONSIDERABLE MUTUAL AN TAGONISM AND FURTIVE DISTRUST. THE YEARS HAVE MATURED ALL THEIR LEADERS AND ROUNDED OFF THE SHARP ANGULARITY OF THEIR IDEOLOGIES. THEY MURMURED, TO BE SURE, BUT THEY LEARNED INSTRUCTION. THE APPALLING CALAMITIES WHICH BESET OUR PEOPLE IN THE DREADFUL YEARS

OF THE NAZI PERSECUTION, THE SECOND WORLD WAR AND ITS DISASTROUS AFTERMATH, FORCED UPON ALL THE RESPONSIBLE LEADERS OF OUR PEOPLE THE REALIZATION THAT ONLY IN UNITED COMMUNITY ACTION ON A TOTAL FROGRAM OF RESCUE AND RE-HABILITATION, BOTH IN THE DIASFORA AND IN ISRAEL, WAS THERE ANY HOPE FOR THE BROKEN AND SCATTERED REMNANTS OF OUR PEOPLE. WE SOON REALIZED THAT THERE WERE NO PARTITION WALLS IN THE CONCENTRATION CAMPS SEPARATING ORTHODOX, CONSERVATIVE AND REFORM JEWS, AND NO PARTITION WALLS BETWEEN EASTERN EUROPEAN OR WESTERN EUROPEAN JEWS. HOW COULD WE, IN THE FACE OF SUCH UNIVERSAL ANNIHILATION IST HATE AND MENACE FAILITO SURMOUNT ALL THE BARRIERS WHICH NORMALLY DIVIDED US? ALMOST INSTINCTIVELY WE PROCEEDED TO ACT AS JEWS WITHOUT LABELS. A CRISIS CHALLENGED WS TO UNITY AND WE WERE NOT FOUND WANTING.

THE FRUITS OF THIS UNITY WERE SOON APPARENT. NOT ONLY DID THE UNITED CAMPAIGNS YIELD MUCH LARGER SUMS THAN WERE RAISED IN :INDEPENDENT CAMPAIGNS, BUT WE ACQUIRED LARGER TOLERANCE IN COMMUNITY LIFE. THIS WAS SOON REFLECTED IN INCREASED COHESION IN JEWISH COMMUNITIES ALL OVER THE LAND. THE HUNDREDS AND THOUSANDS OF CAMPAIGN MEETINGS WHICH WERE HELD ALL OVER THE LAND, YEAR AFTER YEAR, NOT ONLY SERVED TO EDUCATE AND ALERT OUR PEOPLE TO ALL THAT WAS HAPPENING

- 5 -

TO OUR PEOPLE ALL OVER THE WORLD, BUT THEY CEMENTED AND DREW THEM CLOSER TOGETHER. WE STILL CLING, OF COURSE, TO OUR INDEPENDENT JUDGMENTS AND CPINIONS -- FOR WE ARE EY NO MEANS OF ONE MIND, EVEN NOW. BUT WE LEARNED THE WISDOM OF WORKING TOGETHER UNITEDLY FOR THE COMMON GOOD. HERE AND THERE ONE STILL FINDS SOME VERY VOCAL DISSIDENTS WHO ARE ENTRENCHED IN THEIR ISOLATION AND SPITEFUL CONTRARINESS; BUT THEY HAVE NOT BEEN PERMITTED TO OBSTRUCT THE STEADY MOVEMENT OF OUR PEOPLE TOWARDS MUTUAL ACCOMMODATIONS AND UNITY.

MANY YEARS AGO, THE EMINENT ENGLISH POET AND LITERARY CRITIC, MATTHEW ARNOLD, DECLARED;

"AS LONG AS THE WORLD LASTS, ALL WHO WANT TO MAKE PROGRESS IN <u>RIGHTEOUSNESS</u> WILL COME TO ISRAEL FOR INSPIRATION AS TO THE PEOPLE WHO HAVE HAD THE SENSE FOR EIGHTEOUSNESS MOST GLOWING AND STRONG. " HE MIGHT HAVE ADDED THE WORD COMPASSION.

IT IS HEARTENING TO RECALL THAT THIS OUTPOURING OF COM-PASSION, THIS BASIC DEMONSTRATION OF BROTHERHOOD AND SOLIDARITY OCCURED IN ONE OF THE MOST BRUTAL AND EARBAROUS PERIODS IN HUMAN HISTORY WHEN THE BEASTS, IN HUMAN GUISE, WERE STALKING THE EARTH.

AS WE WATCHED THE TERROR SWOOPING DOWN, AS A VULTURE, UPON OUR PEOPLE, WE WERE NOT CONTENT TO WRING OUR HANDS IN ANGUISH AND TO GIRD OURSELVES WITH SACKCLOTH. WE MOURNED FOR THE DEAD, BUT WE RUSHED TO THE AID OF THE LIVING. WE FED

- 6 -

THE HUNGRY, WE CLOTHED THE NAKED, WE CARED FOR THE ORPHAN AND THE WIDOW, WE BOUND UP THE BRUISES OF OUR PEOPLE THE BEST WE COULD, AND WE PROCEEDED TO REBUILD THE FALLEN TABERNACLE OF DAVID FOR THE DISPERSED OF ISRAEL. IN A DARKENING WORLD WHERE LIGHTS WERE EVERYWHERE GOING OUT, OUR PEOPLE RAISED A RADIANT BEACON OF MERCY WHICH SHONE FOR ALL TO SEE, "LIKE A GOOD DEED IN A NAUGHTY WORLD". TO REASSURE MANKIND THAT LOVE AND HUMAN COMPASSION HAD NOT DEPARTED FROM OUR EARTH AND THAT EVIL AND CRUELTY WOULD NEVER CLAIM THE ULTIMATE VICTORY. BECAUSE OF IT, THE PRIDE OF ISRAEL WAS NEVER CAST DOWN TO THE GREAT SLAUGHTER, THIS, INDEED, FROVED TO BE OUR STRENG TH AND OUR SALVATION.

THIS STRONG BOND OF GROUP SOLIDARITY WHICH OUR PEOPLE MANIFESTED TIME AND AGAIN IN THE PAST, A CHAPTER OF WHICH YOU ARE CELEBRATING TONIGHT, WILL STAND US IN GOOD STEAD IN THE ON-COMING YEARS. THERE WILL BE MUCH NEED FOR IT. FOR THE DAYS IMMEDIATELY AHEAD OF US ARE NOT LIKELY TO BE CHARACTERIZED BY THAT QUIET AND SECURITY WHICH WE WOULD WISH FOR OUR PEOPLE EVERYWHERE.

LET US BEAR IN MIND THAT THESE ARE DANGEROUS, ERUPTIVE AND UN-PREDICTABLE TIMES FOR <u>ALL</u> PEOPLES. THEY ARE LIKELY TO CONTINUE SO FOR SOME TIME. PASSIONS ARE RUNNING HIGH IN OUR WORLD. DARK TIDES ARE SWEEPING ALL AROUND US. HATES AND FEARS ARE BEING STIRRED :UP. PREJUDICE IS STILL A FORMI-DABLE WEAPON IN THE HANDS OF UNSCRUPULOUS POLITICAL AD-

- 7 -

VENTUREES, OF MEN WHO FAN THE DESTROYING WINDS AND FILL THE QUIVERS OF HATE. WE ALL PRAYERFULLY HOPE THAT THE FORCES OF REASON WILL COME TO PREVAIL AND THE DESPERATE EFFORTS OF NATIONS TO PRESERVE PEACE WILL SUCCEED. BUT IN THE MEANTIME, ATHE COLD WAR IS BEARING DOWN MOST HEAVILY UPON OUR DEFENCELESS PEOPLE IN MANY PARTS OF THE WORLD, IN NORTH AFRICA, IN THE MIDDLE EAST AND IN LATIN-AMERICA. OUR PEOPLE ARE ITS PRINCIPAL VICTIMS, AND EVEN IN THE FREE COUNTRIES OF THE WEST, THE CONFLICT WITH COMMUNISM IS EX-PLOITED BY GROUPS OF NEO-NAZIS AS AN EXCUSE TO WACE WAR UPON JEWS. VIOLENT TIMES ARE ESPECIALLY DANGEROUS FOR MINORITY GROUPS, AND EVEN MORE SO FOR THE JEWISH GROUP, WHICH HISTORICALLY HAS SUFFERED MOST IN PERIODS OF SOCIAL. POLITICAL OR ECONOMIC UNREST. BECAUSE JEWS ARE ALMOST EVERYWHERE, THEY ARE ALWAYS IN THE CEMTER OF WORLD EVENTS. AND, AS THE RAEBIS PUT IT, IN COMMENTING UPON THE FATE OF ODHR. PEOPLE AT SUCH TIMES, WHEN THE STONE FALLS UPON THE VESSEL. THE VESSEL IS BROKEN. AND WHEN THE VESSEL FALLS UPON THE STONE, IT IS THE VESSEL AGAIN WHICH IS BROKEN.

IN SUCH TIMES -- AND THESE ARE SUCH TIMES -- OUR ONLY SALVATION AS A PEOPLE LIES IN SOLIDARITY, IN CLOSING RANKS, IN STRENGTEHENING OUR DEFENCES. WE DARE NOT RELAX OUR ALERTNESS. WE DARE NOT BE TARDY IN RUSHING AID, ECONOMIC OR POLITICAL, TO ANY HARD-PRESSED SECTOR OF OUR PEOPLE

- 8 -

ANYWHERE. WE MUST RE-ENFORCE EVERY THREATENED SEGMENT OF OUR FAR-FLUNG LINE. THIS HAS BEEN OUR STRATEGY CF SURVIVAL IN THE PAST. IT MUST CONTINUE TO BE SO IN THE FUTURE, A FUTURE WHOSE REMOTE HORIZCNS NO ONE CAN GLIMPSE.

THERE ARE JEWS TODAY LIVING IN LANDS OF TYRANNY AND DISORDER WHOSE BREAD IS THE BEEAD OF TEARS AND WHOSE WATER IS THE WATER OF BITTERNESS.

MANY JEWS ARE TODAY ABAMDONING THESE LANDS OF IN-TOLERAELE CONDITIONS AND DARK PROSPECTS. MANY OF THEM HAVE COME TO ISRAEL IN THE HOPE OF FINDING THERE THE PEACE AND THE DIGNITY WHICH THE WORLD DENIED THEM. IN THE LAST FOURTEEN YEARS, THE YOUNG STATE WELCOMED OVER A MILLION SUCH IMMIGRANTS FROM ALL PARTS OF THE WORLD. THE U.J.A. MADE THAT EMIGRATION POSSIBLE. ISRAEL, WHICH IS A SMALL STATE, AS YOU WELL KNOW, EXERTED ITSELF TO THE UTMOST TO ABSORB THESE NEW-COMERS, MOST OF THEM PENNILESS, MANY OF THEM WITHOUT SKILLS OR VOCATIONS, SOME AGED AND INFIRM, TO REBUILD THEIR LIVES AND TO INTEGRATE THEM INTO THE ECONOMY OF THE PIONEERING COUNTRY. FROM ALL ACCOUNTS, AN INCOMPARABLY FINE JOB HAS BEEN DONE BY THE YOUNG STATE IN MEETING THE ENORMOUS PROBLEMS WITH WHICH THIS IMMIGRATION TAXED IT. THANKS TO THE IMAGINATION, DEDICATION AND ENTERPRISE OF ITS LEADERS AND PEOPLE.

- 9 -

ISRAEL HAS ACCOMPLISHED SO MUCH, INCREDIBLY SO MUCH! BY ITS FAITHFUL ALLEGIANCE TO THE FREE WORLD, THE DEVELOP-MENT OF ITS EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM AND ITS INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER LEARNING, ITS ADVANCED SOCIAL LEGISLATION, THE AID WHICH IT HAS EXTENDED TO LESS DEVELOPED NATIONS IN AFRICA AND ASIA AND THE MAINTENANCE OF PEACE, IN THE FACE OF BOYCOTT. BLOCKADE AND THE CONTRIVANCES OF ITS UN-RECONCILED NEIGHBORS, IT HAS REVEALED TO THE WORLD THE GROUND-TONE OF ITS CHOSEN WAY OF LIFE, ITS FUNDAMENTAL PURPOSES AND DOMINANT INTERESTS AS A NATIONL ALL THIS WHICH IS IN SUCH FULL ACCORD WITH THE NOBLE TRADITIONS OF OUR PEOPLE, HAS FILLED US WITH INESTIMABLE PRIDE. IT HAS BEEN FOR US A RARER GIFT THAN THE GOLD WE GAVE TO MAKE ITS FOUNDATIONS STRONG. OUR CHILDREN HAVE RE-DISCOVERED THE PRIDE OF THEIR HERITAGE, AND HONOR HAS COME BACK TO DWELL IN THEIR HEARTS. EVERYONE WHO HAS HAD A HAND IN HELPING TO BEING ISRAEL INTO BEING AND IN ASSISTING IN ITS GROWTH .- AS WE HAVE ASSISTED THROUGH THE UNITED JEWISH APPEAL -- MAY FEEL PROUD AND GRATEFUL AND DEEPLY SATISFIED.

OVER -- AND WE KNOW THAT OUR TASK IS FAR FROM BEING OVER.

GREAT DEMANDS WERE MADE UPON US IN THIS, THE MOST MOMENTOUS QUARTER OF A CENTURY IN JEWISH HISTORY, WHICH GAVE US THE SECOND WORLD WAR, HITLER AND THE RE-BIRTH OF

- 10 -

ISRAEL -- A CUP OF STAGGERING AND A CUP OF SALVATION. IT WAS A TIME WHEN THE LIGHT WAS NEVER DIVIDED FROM THE DARKNESS. WE SAW OUR PEOPLE IN TWO KINDS OF CAMPS -- THE CONCENTRATION CAMPS OF TORTURE AND DEATH AND THE MAHABAROT. THE TEMPORARY CAMPS IN ISRAEL, THE GATEWAY TO NEW LIFE AND FREEDOM. IN ONE PART OF THE WORLD WE WATCHED THE HOMES AND TOWNS AND ALL THAT OUR PEOPLE HAD BUILT IN A THOUSAND YEARS CONSUMED BY FIRE AND SWORD AND LAID WASTE IN RUINS. IN ANOTHER PART OF THE WORLD WE WATCHED THE RUINS OF A THOUSAND YEARS BEING RE-BUILT, AND WHAT HAD BEEN WASTED AND RAVAGED BEING RECLAIMED BY THE TOIL AND LABOR OF OUR PEOPLE. NO SUCH APOCALYPTIC HORRORS WERE EVER VISITED UPON OUR PEOPLE, AND SELDOM HAS SUCH MESSIANIC GLORY SHOWN UPON IT. FROM THE SHADOW OF DEATH, LIGHT WAS BROUGHT FORTH. THE GRAVES WERE MANY. THERE WERE MILLIONS OF OUR MARTYRED DEAD. BUT AN ANCIENT PROPHECY WAS BEING FULFILLED: "BEHOLD, I WILL OPEN YOUR GRAVES, AND CAUSE YOU TO COME UP OUT OF YOUR GRAVES, O MY PEOPLE; AND I WILL BRING YOU INTO THE LAND OF ISRAEL."

THE DAYS TO COME WILL CONTINUE TO MAKE GREAT DEMANDS UPON OUR LOYALTY AND PERSEVERANCE, ON ISRAEL'S PART AND ON OURS. ISRAEL WILL NOT BE ABLE TO ESCAPE THE POLITICAL TENSIONS AND PRESSURES OF THE WORLD OF WHICH IT IS A PART.

- 11 -

GRAVE, UNSOLVED PROBLEMS -- INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL --STILL REMAIN. DANGER LURKS UPON ITS BORDERS.

THERE IS MUCH WORK STILL TO BE DONE! ISRAEL MUST BE MADE STRONG, STRONG ENOUGH TO WITHSTAND PRESSURES, STRONG ENOUGH TO ABSORB THOSE WHO WILL WISH TO GO THERE, OR THOSE WHO WILL HAVE TO GO THERE, STRONG ENOUGH TO FULFILL ITS DESTINY. W

WE, WHO LIVE IN THIS GRACIOUS LAND, HAVE BEEN A PRIVI-LEGED GENERATION IN THAT WE HAVE BEEN THE CHOSEN TOOLS IN THE HANDS OF GOD FOR THE SALVATION OF HIS PEOPLE, WE HAVE TRIED FAITHFULLY TO MATCH OUR HOUR. WE WERE GIVEN AN HISTORIC ASSIGNMENT AND WE SET ABOUT :EXECUTING IT TO THE BEST OF OUR ABILITIES. WE ARE HUMBLY GRATEFUL IF WE HAVE NOT :UTTERLY FAILED. THE DEGREE OF OUR SUCCESS IS THE MEASURE OF OUR REWARD.

- 12 -

Dear Mr. Meyerboff:

I shall attend the 25th UJA Annual National Conference at the Americana Hotel in New York City, starting Friday at 9:00 A. M., December 7, and ending Sunday, December 9, at 1:00 P. M.

			twin bedded)
I estimate my time	of arrival will be _		
		DAY	HOUR
NAME			
ADDRESS			
Citry		STATE_	
Please reserve	plates for the Luncheon at 12:15 P. M., Friday, Dec. 7.		
	plates for the E		
	plates for the E		
ere will be no solicit.			tary laws observed.

You are invited to attend the historic

United Jewish Appeal 25th Annual National Conference

To usher in American Jewry's twenty-five years of life-saving and to set the objectives of the 1963 nationwide campaign

Americana Hotel New York City

Fill out now





Dietary Laws Observed

Greet ... Hear... Join With

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Relive the thrilling story of



HERBERT H. LEHMAN Hon. General Chairman, UJA



MRS. GOLDA MEIR Israel foreign Minister



EDWARD M. M. WARBURG Chairmen, JDC



American Jewry's quarter of a century of unparallelled life-saving service and life-building achievement

Participate with these great Jewish leaders in setting the goals and objectives of UJA's historic 25th Annual Campaign

Take your rightful place at this stirring Anniversary Conference for yourself and your community

MOSHE SHARETT, M.K. Chairman, Jewish Agency

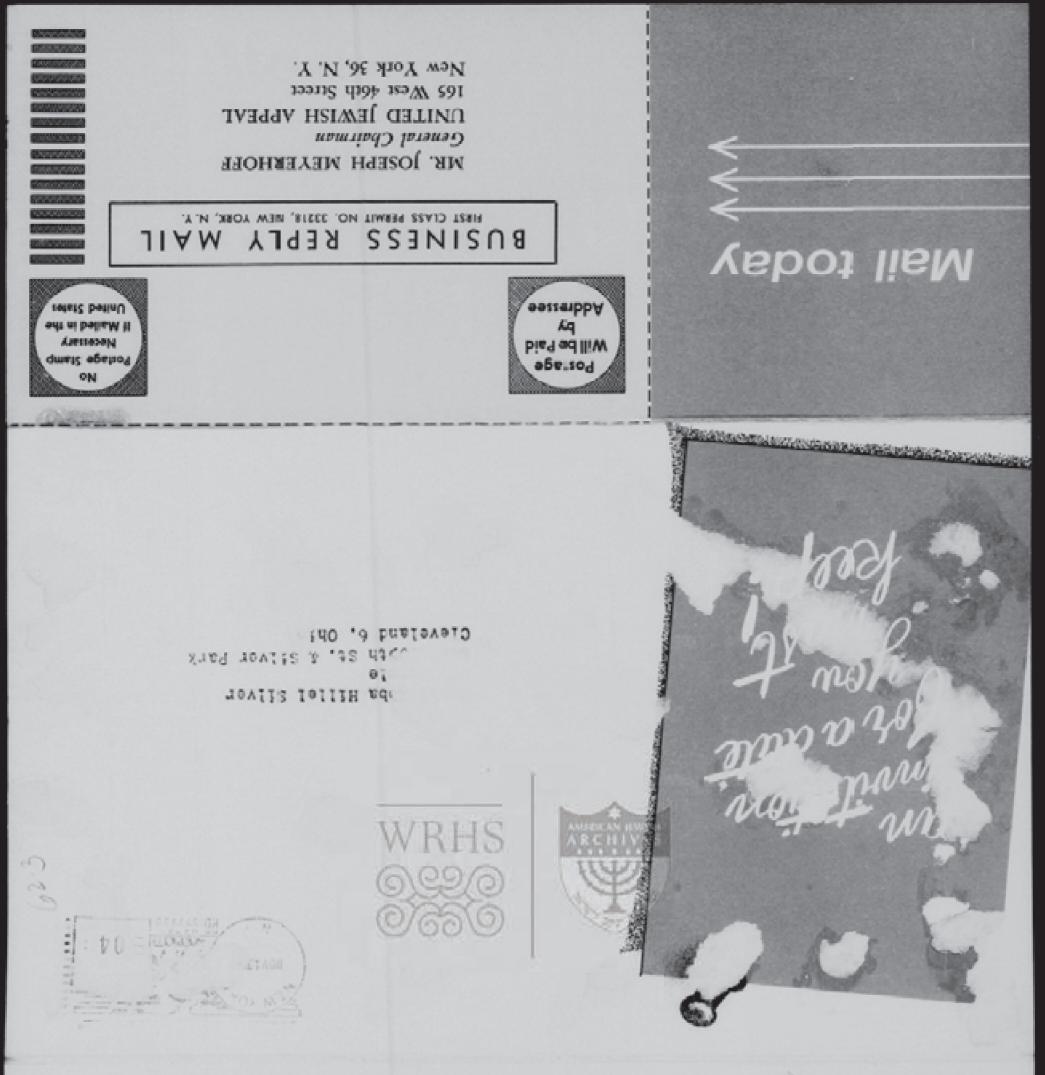


DR. NAHUM GOLDMANN President, Jewish Agency

FILL IN THE ABOVE RESERVATION CARD AND RETURN IT TODAY

Also at the Americana Hotel: Joint Distribution Committee, 48th Annual Meeting, Thursday, December 6

FRIDAY, SATURDAY, SUNDAY-DECEMBER 7, 8, and 9, 1962



Three days of unforgettable sessions, personalities, reports on achievements

Dec 7-949 62

A Filmed Message



Address by AVRAHAM HARMAN



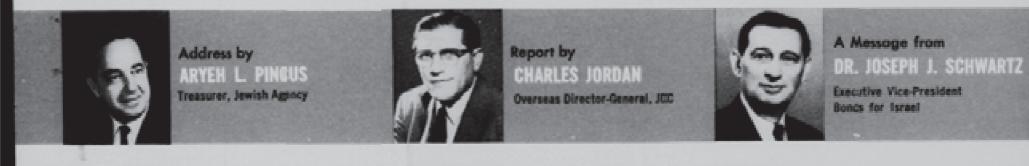
Sabbath Service



DAVID BEN-GUTION **Israel Prime Ministee**

Israel Ambassador to U.S.







Hear the on-the-spot report of UJA's 8th Overseas Study Mission

on needs today in Israel and of Jewish communities in Europe, North Africa and other areas.

ALL SESSIONS AT THE AMERICANA HOTEL, 7th AVENUE AND 52nd STREET NEW YORK OFF

62-3

12:15 P.M. LUNCHEON, CONFERENCE DELEGATES

12:15 P.M.

LUNCHEON, RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE

DEWEY D. STONE National Chairman, UJA, Representing UIA PRES:DING

2:15 P.M.

PLENARY SESSION

JACK D. WEILER National CPairman, UJA PRESIDING

0

ADDRESS



DISCUSSION

FRIDAY EVENING

8:30 P.M.

SABBATH SERVICE

Music Composed by HEINRICH SCHALIT



DR ABBA HILLEL SILVER Rabbi, The Temple Cleveland, Ohio



CANTOR MOSHE KOUSSEVITZKY Temple Beth-El Browklyn, N. Y.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 8

10:30 A.M.

BRUNCH, UJA NATIONAL WOMEN'S DIVISION

MRS. ISRAEL D. FINK National Chai:man, Women's Division PRESIDING

12:30 P.M.

LUNCHEON, UJA YOUNG LEADERSHIP CABINET

ALAN SAGNER Chairman, UJA Young Leadership Cabinet PRESIDING

3:00 P.M.

ONEG SHABBAT

.

The Meaning of UJA-A Historical Review





MOSHE SHARETT, M.K. Chairman, Jewish Agency for Israel



RABBI HERBERT A. FRIEDMAN Executive Vice-Chairman, UJA

6:30 P.M.

UJA 25th ANNIVERSARY BANQUET

INVOCATION

RABBI SAMUEL THURMAN Rabbi Emeritus, United Hebraw Temple St. Louis, Missouri





HARRY S. TRUMAN Former President United States of America



HERBERT H. LEHMAN Honorary General Chairman UJA 25th Anniversary Year Committee

............



JOSEPH MEYERHOFF General Chairman United Jewish Appeal



Foreign Minister State of Israel



MRS. GOLDA MEIR EDWARD M. M. WARBURG Chairman Joint Distribution Committee

.



THE UJA STORY-an audio-visual presentation of UJA's history since 1939, featuring messages from David Ben-Gurion, Prime Minister of Israel; Trygve Lie, former Secretary General of the UN; and Dr. Joseph J. Schwartz, Executive Vice-President of Israel Bonds, and former Execu ive Vice-Chairman, UJA. Narrated in person by CRET HUNTLEY, noted news commentator, National Broadcasting Company.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 9

9:30 A.M.

Breakfast

CONCLUDING PLENARY SESSION

ISADORE BRESLAU National Chairman, UJA PRESIDING Community Cash Presentations ISRAEL D. FINK National Chairman for Cash

1/8

REPORTS

National Women's Division

Eighth UJA Study Mission





General Committee of Providence, R. I.

Presentation of Anniversary Honors and Awards

Nominations, 1963 National Officers

FRED FORMAN National Chairman, UJA

CLOSING ADDRESS



DR. NAHUM GOLDMANN President, Jewish Agency for Israel

1963 – A Year for Greatness



A MESSAGE FROM JOSEPH MEYERHOFF General Chairman, United Jewish Appeal

The 25th Anniversary Year of the United Jewish Appeal is an event in which the Jews of America can rightfully take tremendous pride. Since the time it was brought into being in January

1939, the UJA has raised more than \$1,435,000,000 that has enabled its member agencies to save, resettle and rehabilitate nearly 3,000,000 men, women and children. These figures stand as dramatic testimony to the compassionate humanitarianism of American Jews.

It would be a mistake, however, to believe that serious problems no longer confront us. Israel's immigration is its greatest in 10 years. Europe teems with Jewish refugees in the wake of upheavals in North Africa. Jewish refugees are still arriving in the United States.

Great needs still face us. The greatest means, therefore, must be assured for the United Israel Appeal-Jewish Agency, Inc., the Joint Distribution Committee and the New York Association for New Americans. It is my fervent hope and belief that in 1963 the Jews of America will join again in giving full support to the great tasks before us.



A MESSAGE FROM HON. MOSHE SHARETT, M. K.

Chairman, Israel Committee UJA's 25th Anniversary

The Anniversary is an impressive landmark along the road which United States Jewry has traveled towards the effective assumption of ever-increasing responsibilities for the future of

our peoplein Israel and elsewhere. It is in the State of Israel that the UJA has performed and continues to perform its most imaginative and historically decisive task. Every aspect of our people's new life here bears eloquent witness to its spectacular achievements.

We all confidently expect that the 25th Anniversary will serve as a stirring occasion for the rededication of the Jews of America to the great cause of our people's redemption.



UJA FOUNDERS: U.S. Jewish leaders moved swiftly to create first UJA within days following Nazi Kristall Nacht pagrom of November 1938. Left to right, above: William Rosenwald acting for National Coordinating Committee (later Kational Refugee Service), Robbi Abba Hillel Silver for United Palestine Appeal (now United Israel Appeal), and the late Robbi Jonah B. Wise for Joint Distribution Committee, sign agreement establishing united campaign for 1939.

THE NEW YORK TIMES, WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 11, 1939.

THREE GROUPS JOIN TO AID PERSECUTED

Jewish Federation to Direct Fund-Raising Campaign of Two Major Agencies

COAL MAY BE \$9,000,000

Plan Is Revealed at Clothing Men's Tribute to Hillman-Mayor Assails Copressors

An unprecedented campaign for the victims of European oppression, which will unite for the first time the three major Jewish fund-raising organizations in the United States, has been decided upon and will soon be announced in detail, it was learned last night.

The decision became known at a dinner of the clothing industry to Sidney Hillman, president of the Amalgamated Clothing Workers of America, at the Hotel Commodore. It was mentioned in a telegram to Abraham Landau, the chairman, from Edward M. M. Warburg, which read:

"Regret that at fast minute can-

not be with you. I am sure your group realizes that it is the first in the field, since it is the first Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, the United Palestine Appeal and the National Coordinating Committee for Aid to Refugees and Emigrants Coming from Germany have unified their campaign.

"Therefore the results of your efforts tonight and in the next few weeks will set the pace for the whole campaign. We must all forget past standards of giving and realize that in the effort to raise \$9,000,000 in Greater New York to meet the terrific demands that have fallen upon the shoulders of these three organizations, we are not asking for contributions but rather for the investment of morey toward maintaining those standards which we, not only as Jews but as Americans, hold indispensable."

Federation to Aid Drive

Mr. Warburg was chairmam of the Greater New York drive of the Joint Distribution Committee last year. The committee and the United Palestine Appeal conducted a single drive three years ago, but the experiment was not repeated and the "rivalry" between the two has frequently been discussed.

The Joint Distribution Committee conducts relief work for the persecuted in all Central and Eastern Europe. The United Palestine Appeal has been primarily concerned with the settlement of refugees from those countries. The third major group to figure in the new set-up was not the coordinating committee mentioned in the telegram-it is a comparatively new body. The third participant will be the Federation for the Support of Jewish Philanthropic Societies, regarded as one of the most efficient fund-raising bodies for purely local

relief in the United States.

But the federation, it was explained, will not share in the proceeds of the joint drive. They will be divided among the J. D. C., the U. P. A. and the Coordinating Committee, according to a scale to be set up. The federation will only supply the fund-raising machinery.

Leading personalities in Jewish life, including leaders who have differed on various questions, will be brought together by the great need that led to the decision to unite. Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver and Rabbi Stephen S. Wise are high in the leadership of the U. P. A., Rabbi Jonah B. Wise is national campaign chairman of the J. D. C.

Mayor Denounces Reich

Another strongly worded attack on the Hitler regime by Mayor La Guardia, a disavowal of communiem by Mr. Hillman, often referred to as a "Red," and the pledging of fuads by those present were other features of the dinner.

'Perhaps I have mislearned the entire lesson of history," the Mayor said, "but I am convinced that children who, under compulsion of governments, are separated from their parents, will live to see the day when that government is totally dstroyed."

GREAT MOMENTS IN UJA'S HISTORY



TOP LEFT: 1949—The late Dr. Chaim Weizmann, Israel's first President, visiting U.S. for UJA, presents Toreh to President Harry S. Truman at White House. TOP RIGHT: 1947—President Truman receives UJA delegation of Hon. Herbert H. .ehman, the late Mrs. David M. Levy, first Chairman of National Women's Division, and Henry Morgenthau, Jr., UJA General Chairman, 1947-50, expressing thanks for U.S. help in DP crisis. CENTER LEFT: 1955—President Dwight D. Eisenhower admires ancient Israel clay lamp presented by William Rosenwald, General Chairman, 1955-57, in appreciation of his compassionate treatment of Jewish DP's as Allied Supreme Commander. CENTER RIGHT: 1962-President Jawn F. Kennedy, honored for overseas aid efforts, receives General Chairman Joseph Meyerhoff (center) and Executive Vice-Chairman Herbert A. Friedman. BOTTOM LEFT: 1951-Israel Prime Minister David Ben-Gurion, Edward M. M. Warburg, General Chairman, 1951-54, Dewey D. Stone, National Chairman, and Dr. Joseph J. Schwartz (center) Executive Vice-Chairman, 1951-55, are pleased with Chicagp meeting. BO'TOM RIGHT: 1948-Albert Einstein, UJA Honorary Chairman, receives William Rosenwald and young refugees.

LEADERS OF THE UJA TODAY – YESTERDAY























A. WORLD WAR II LEADERSHIP. .eft to right, seated: Rudolf G. Sonneborn, Sidney Lansburgh, ...Lexander E. Arnstein, Rabbi James G. Heller, Rabbi Jonah J. Wise. Standing: Moses A. Leavitt, Joseph E. Beck, Charles L. Riegelman, Paul Baerwald, Abraham L. Liebowitz, Isidor Caons, Henry Montor. B. 1950 UJA MISSION TO ISRAEL: Left to ight: Joseph M. Mazer, Melvin Dubinsky, Henry C. Bernstein, Henry Montor, Samuel H. Daroff, Sol Luckman, Julian B. Venezky: Samuel Rothberg. C. 1951 LEADERS: Dr. Joseph J. Schwarz (left), UJA Executive Vice-Chairman (1951-55) and Morris W. Berinstein (UJA General



Chairman, 1958-60). 1962 LEADELS: D. Left to right: Front raw: Samuel H. Daroff, Jack D. Weiler, Fred Forman, N. Y. State Attorney General Louis J. Lefkowitt, Philip M. Klutznick, Joseph Meyemoff. Back raw: Albert A. Levin, Melvin Dubinsky, William Romenwald, Joseph Holtzman, Marris W. Berinstein, Edward M. N., Warburg, Rabbi Herbert A. Friedman, E. Isadore Breslau (left), and Israel D. Fink, F. Max M., Fisher, G. Robert W. Schiff, H. Samuel Rubin, I. Benjamin H, Swig, J. Joseph I. Lubin, K. Adhlph Kiesler, L. Gottlieb Hammer, M. Jacob Sincoff, N. WCMEN'S DIVISION LEADERS: Former National Chairmen (now Honorary Chairmen) shown with Mrs. Israel D. Fink, 1962 National Chairman, left to right: Mrs. Henry Newman (1956); Mrs. Hal Horne (1954-55); Mrs. Albert Pilavin (1953); Mrs. Fink (1961-62); Mrs. Jack A. Goodman (1957-60); Mrs. S. Alexander Brailone (1950-52).

1939-1963

25th ANNIVERSARY YEAR COMMITTEE OF THE UNITED JEWISH APPEAL

Honorary General Chairman HON. HERBERT H. LEHMAN

Honorary Chairmen JACK BENNY JACOB BLAUSTEIN SAMUEL BRONFMAN EDDIE CANTOR GEN. LUCIUS D. CLAY HON. THOMAS E. DEWEY

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A MESSAGE FROM DAVID BEN-GURION Prime Minister, State of Israel

My heartiest good wishes to the United Jewish Appeal, its leaders and workers and to the hundreds of thousands of its supporters on the Silver Jubiles of its creation. During the past 25 years the UJA has served as a mighty machine that has set in motion great programs of rescue, Aliyab, absorption, housing and agricultural settlement in Israel.

The sum total of UJA's work is the epitome of Jewish volunceering and brotherhood and a supreme expression of Jewish solidarity.

But the work is far from completed. Hundreds of thousands of Jews are now knockingratithe gates of Is ael and tremendous nation-building tasks including full absorption, newcomer education and settling vast desert regions still lie ahead.

On this important anniversary you are called upon to persevere in your efforts so that we may receive and swiftly integrate the large wares of immigration which continue to reach the country.

D. Ben- Jurion

MAY 14, 1948, David Ben-Gurion proclaims the State of Israel



"...adhering to the finest humanitarian traditions of our country."

THE WHITE HOUSE WASHINGTON

September 17, 1962

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12

Dear Governor Lehman:

I was delighted to learn that the United Jewish Appeal is about to observe its 25th Anniversary.

In the continuing effort to fulfill its primary aims of rescue, relief, and rehabilitation, the UJA is adhering to the finest humanitarian traditions of our country. This warm spirit of compassion to assist the less fortunate has inspired the people of UJA from its very beginnings. I understand that during the UJA's quarter century of operations its funds have been utilized to rescue more than one and a half million persons and to provide direct relief and rehabilitation for more than twice that number. This is an impressive record.

I extend personal good wishes to you and my gratitude for the leadership and inspiration you have given to the UJA and to so many other community efforts.

Sincerely,

Minhum)

Honorable Herbert H. Lehman Honorary General Chairman United Jewish Appeal 165 West 46th Street New York 36, New York



DEEDS OF GLORY THROUGH THE

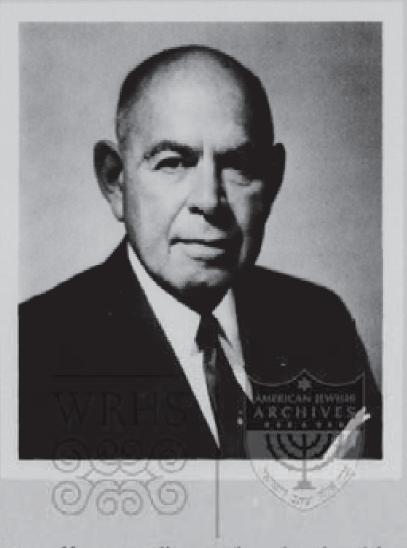
UNITED JEWISHAPPE IN SUSTAINING, SAVING

ANGUISHED MILLIONS!

A MESSAGE FROM

HON. HERBERT H. LEHMAN

Honorary General Chairman, UJA 25th Anniversary Year Committee



I consider myself personally privileged to be able to participate in the observance of the 25th Anniversary of the UJA. Necessity brought the UJA into being, but heart, compassion and warmth of soul have nurtured and sustained it and made it the great cause it has become. The UJA has brought out the best in each of us.

I am confident that, as we observe the 25th Anniversary, we shall not only take pride in the record of our achievements but shall find inspiration in that record to go forward with our great mission of rescue and reconstruction.

The Officers of the United Jewish Appeal take greatest pleasure in inviting you lo allend and participate in the historic

25th

UJA Annual National Conference

to usher in the American Jowish Community's twenty fifth year of conservated service in the saving und vehalikitation of Jowish lives and Coefficient objections of the 1963 Nationwide Campaign

or behalf of the United Israel Appeal – Jewish Agency, Inc., Joint Distribution Committee and New York Association for New Americans

Friday, December 7

through Sunday, December 9, 1962

The Americana Hotel

New York City

Dietary laws observed

Please respond on the enclosed card

PROGRAM

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 6, 1962

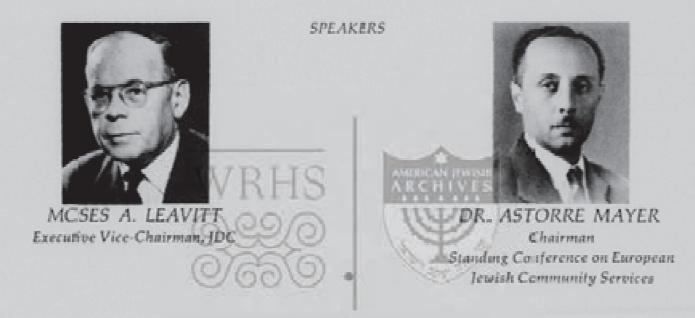
12:30 P.M.

LUNCHEON, UJA NATIONAL CAMPAIGN CABINET

MELVIN DUBINSKY Chairman, National Campaign Cabinet PRESIDING

4:00 P.M. OPENING SESSION, 48th ANNUAL MEETING JOINT DISTRIBUTION COMMITTEE

7:00 P.M. BANQUET MEETING, JOINT DISTRIBUTION COMMITTEE



FRIDAY, DECEMBER 7

9:00 A.M.

OFENING CONFERENCE PLENARY SESSION

Presentation of Needs

WILLIAM ROSENWALD National Chairman, UJA, Representing JDC PRESIDING

REPORTS



ARYEH L PINCUS Treasurer, Jewish Agency for Issael



CHARLES JORDAN Overseas Director-General, JDC