

ISRAEL - 1967

While mourning the tragedy of war which came to the Middle East with its burdens of human suffering, the National Federation of Temple Sisterhoods declares again its deep, fraternal solidarity with fellow Jews in the State of Israel. We record our profound respect for the courage of Israelis of all ages as well as our gratitude to God that the small, heroic State of Israel was able single-handedly to withstand the recent onslaught on her very existence by reinforced Arab forces.

The National Federation of Temple Sisterhoods commends the United States government and others for commitment to the principles of recognition of the State of Israel by her neighboring States, the right of free and innocent passage in the Gulf of Aqaba and the necessity for direct negotiations among the concerned nations for a permanent peace agreement. In the name of our United States affiliates we urge the U.S. government to extend large-scale economic aid to Israel and the Middle East for urgent tasks of reconstruction, rehabilitation and recovery. We appeal to the United Nations to uphold the fundamental right of Israel to tranquil and secure borders, since in so doing they will be maintaining both the Charter and the moral integrity of the United Nations itself; we further urge that all maritime nations of the world assert their support of the principle of free and innocent passage through international waterways.

Pending a final resolution of the conflicts between Israel and the Arab nations through a stable and just peace settlement in the Middle East, the needs of the Arab refugees must continue to be provided for by expanded programs of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency. While entreating all governments and private agencies cooperating with UNRWA to thus expand their programs, at the same time, we would urge that educational efforts in the refugee camps or wherever else UNRWA operates be directed toward peaceful respect for the integrity of all nations and respect for all peoples. The bitter prejudices and hatreds now flourishing unchecked in UNRWA camps and directed against Israel tragically postpone the day when peace and cooperative development for all the states and peoples of the Middle East can be achieved.

The National Federation of Temple Sisterhoods urges continued generous support by all its members, both through their organizations and as individuals, of the United Jewish Appeal, the Emergency Fund for Israel, the American Red Magen David for Israel and other similar campaigns designed to serve and strengthen the people and the State of Israel.

Furthermore, members of the National Federation of Temple Sisterhoods in their fervent desire to aid Israel in her hour of crisis are urged to support the vital ongoing NFTS projects for Jewish and humanitarian causes and the Reform Jewish institutions in the United States, Canada and the other countries in which there are members of NFTS and of the World Union for Progressive Judaism. Such support will provide Jewish communities throughout the world with the continuing strength and dedication that enables them to give Israel the truly significant financial, moral and spiritual support she desires and needs. To interrupt our own program of service, to do less than financially advance our own urgently needed projects and institutions while at the same time we assist Israel, would be to weaken the very weak Jewish community of which Israel herself is so essential a component. Service to K'lal Yisrael always includes service to Israel. Thus all members of the household of Israel are mutually strengthened.