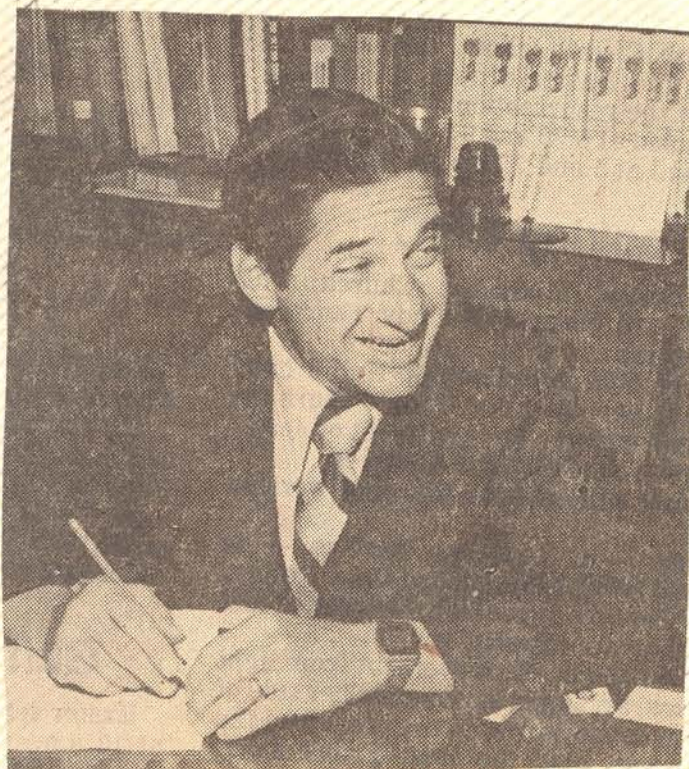


# A Passover of freedom for all

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The festival of Passover teaches us all that with sufficient sensitivity to its lessons we can be the masters rather than the slaves of history. The events of the Exodus have extreme importance to people of faith and good will of all religious groups. In this spirit, I would express our most cordial welcome to all who will learn and exchange fellowship on this occasion of our season of freedom. It is quite appropriate that on Passover, a family ingathering time, we make a joint effort to promote the ingathering of the human family, develop understanding through communication and share friendship and good will. The proximity of Passover and Easter suggests this very approach. That our guests may have some written record of the beginnings of dialogue in these areas, I would like to share the following thoughts.

The story of the Exodus, as recounted in the "Haggadah," suggests that we see ourselves first as having symbolically participated in that original historic event. It requires that we identify with Jewish history and recognize ourselves intellectually as its heir.



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But, if our behavior is to be altered for the good, we should really rise above the mere cognitive aspect. It is thus required that we demonstrate or show ourselves as having been redeemed, cf., concept of personal acceptance of the Savior requiring a positive new identification and concomitant change in behavior.

Unfortunately, not all Jews share in this historic redemption. Consequently, not all Jews are equally free today. To demonstrate our redemption, we must identify a concern with those of our brethren who are not fortunate to live in lands of freedom. Redemption, in Judaism, imposes an obligation that we use our freedom to insure freedom for all. As long as there are Jews captive in Arab lands or behind the Iron Curtain, it is demanded of us that we act in our freedom to deliver them. As long as the freedom to live within the family of nations, securely and without fear of attack, is denied our people of Israel, our own redemption is incomplete.

The other aspect of this festival is the gift of redemption that must deliver spiritual freedom. People can be enslaved by intolerance. When anyone must live in constant fear of unwarranted hate and prejudice — they are slaves!

Physical and spiritual enslavements have scarred the world with war, destruction and suffering. The universal message of Passover calls to us to fight for the freedom from the enslavement of poverty on the material side, and inequality on the spiritual side. When laziness or cowardice keeps us from doing what we know to be right, we have little chance to unshackle the chains. But when the enslavement is the result of dislike of the unlike, through

the corroding effects of ignorance, then there is a chance that freedom may come.

Passover calls upon us all to put an end to slavery. Therefore, let me take this opportunity to express the hope that you will, each in your own way, in your own heart and with the help of your own religion, raise the level of personal redemption during this holy season. Our prayers are added to yours that this month will bring peace and security and love to all of our people — the family of humanity.