

# What is Zionism?

By Ambassador  
Yosef Tekoa

(Excerpts from a speech by the Permanent Representative of Israel at the U.N. Security Council on October 21, 1973.)

Mr. Tekoa is now the President of Ben-Gurion University in Beer Sheva, Israel.

Zionism is the love of Zion. Zionism is the Jewish people's liberation movement, the quest for freedom, for equality with other nations. Yet in an organization in which liberation movements are hailed and supported, the Jewish people's struggle to restore its independence and Sovereignty is maligned and slandered in an endless spate of malice and venom.

In his drive to annihilate the Jewish people, Hitler began by distorting the image of the Jew, by rewriting Jewish history, by fabricating some of the most odious historic and racial theories. The Arab governments, in their campaign to complete Hitler's crimes against the Jewish people and destroy the Jewish State, have adopted the same method of falsifying Jewish history, and in particular the meaning of the Zionist movement and the significance of its ideals.

What is Zionism?

When the Jews, exiled from their land in the seventh century before the Christian era, sat by the

rivers of Babylon and wept, but also prayed and sought ways to go home, that was already Zionism. When in a mass revolt against their exile they returned and rebuilt the Temple and re-established their State, that was Zionism.

When they were the last people in the Mediterranean basin to resist the forces of the Roman Empire and to struggle for independence, that was Zionism.

When for centuries after the Roman conquest they refused to surrender and rebelled again and again against the invaders, that was Zionism.

When uprooted from their land by the conquerors and dispersed by them all over the world, they continued to dream and to strive to return to Israel, that was Zionism.

When, during the long succession of foreign invaders, they tried repeatedly to regain sovereignty at least in part of their homeland, that was Zionism.

When they volunteered from Palestine and from all

over the world to establish Jewish armies that fought on the side of the Allies in the First World War and helped to end Ottoman subjugation, that was Zionism.

When they formed the Jewish Brigade in the Second World War to fight Hitler, while Arab leaders supported him, that was Zionism.

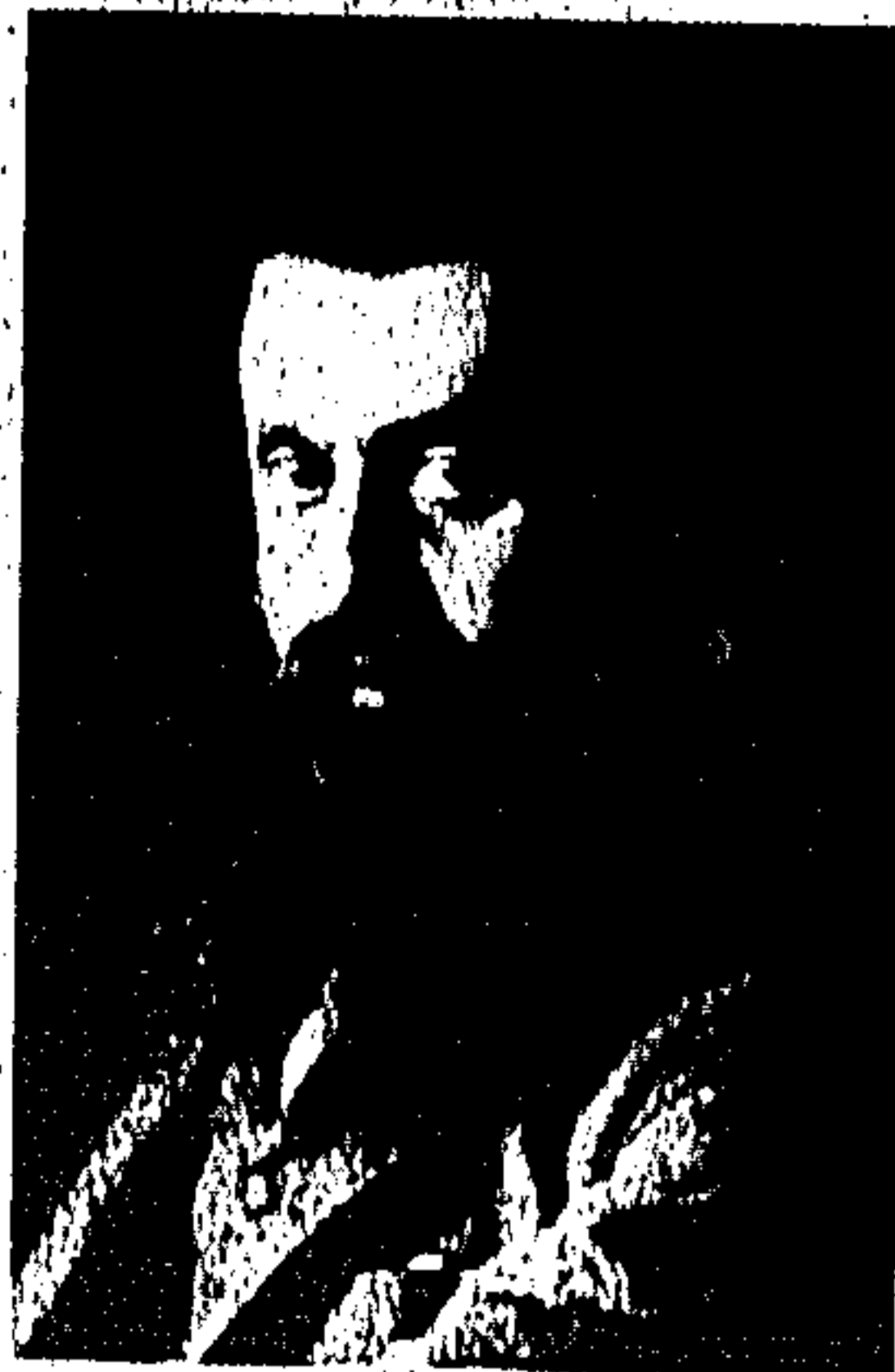
When Jews went to gas chambers with the name of Jerusalem on their lips, that was Zionism.

When in the forests of Russia and the Ukraine and other parts of East Europe, Jewish partisans battled with the Germans and sang of the land where palms are growing, that was Zionism.

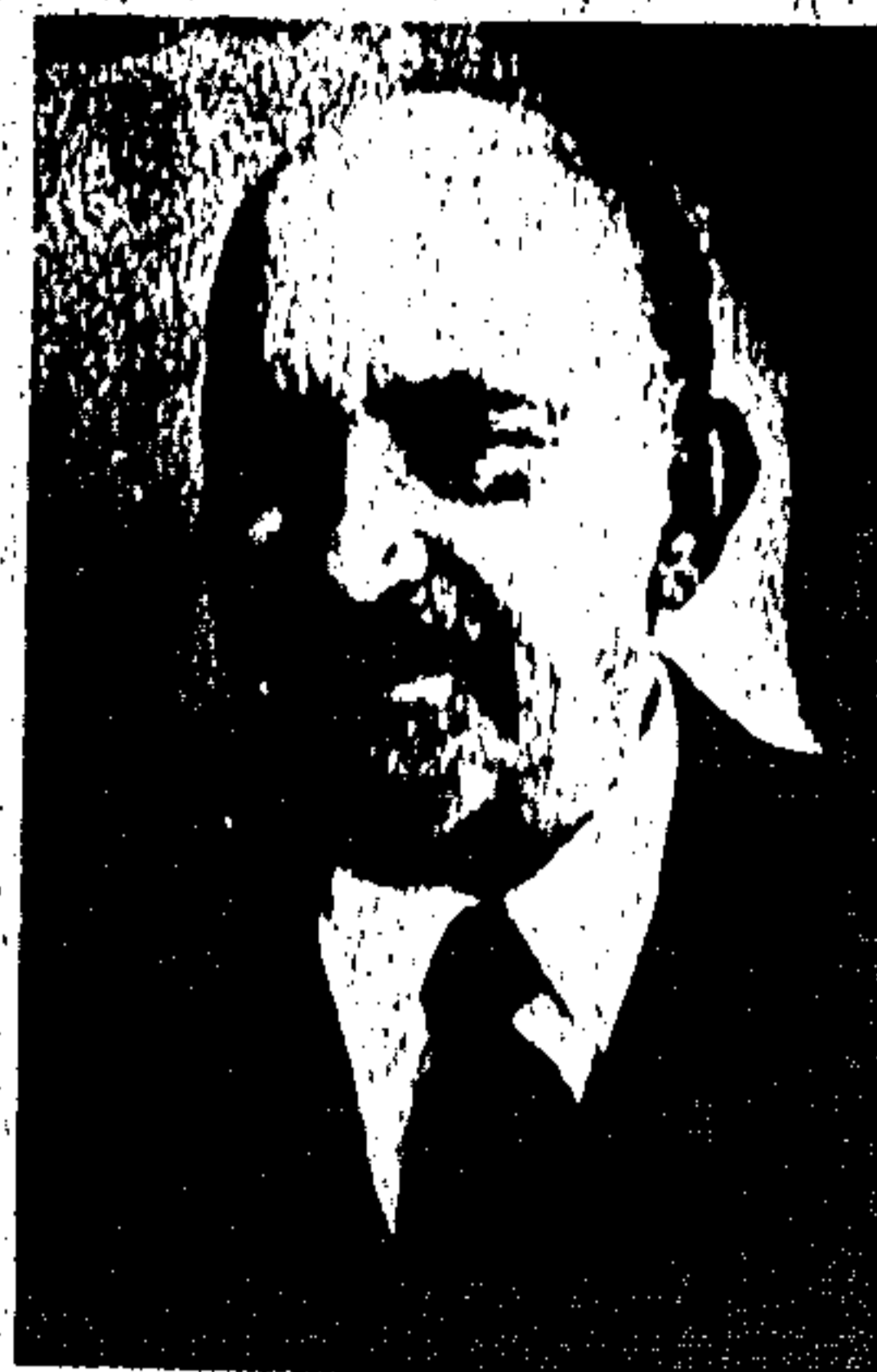
When Jews fought British colonialism while the Arabs of Palestine and neighboring Arab States were being helped by it, that was Zionism.

Zionism is one of the world's oldest anti-imperialist movements. It aims at securing for the Jewish people the rights possessed by other nations. It harbors malice towards none. It

Theodor Herzl (1860-1904);  
founder of the  
World Zionist Organization



Chaim Weizmann (1874-1952),  
President, Zionist Organization,  
first President of Israel



seeks co-operation and understanding with the Arab peoples and with their national movements.

Zionism is as sacred to the Jewish people as the national liberation movements are to the nations of Africa and Asia. Even if the Arab States are locked today in conflict with the Jewish national liberation movement, they must not stoop in their attitude towards it to the fanaticism and barbarism of the Nazis. If there is to be hope for peace in the Middle East, there must be between Is-

rael and the Arab States mutual respect for each other's sacred national values — not distortion and abuse.

Zionism was not born in the Jewish ghettos of Europe, but on the battlefield against imperialism in ancient Israel. It is not an outmoded nationalistic revival but an unparalleled epic of centuries of resistance to force and bondage. Those who attack it attack the fundamental principles and provisions of the United Nations Charter.

## How UN Members Voted

UNITED NATIONS (UPI) - The roll call of the General Assembly voting approving a resolution equating Zionism with racism:

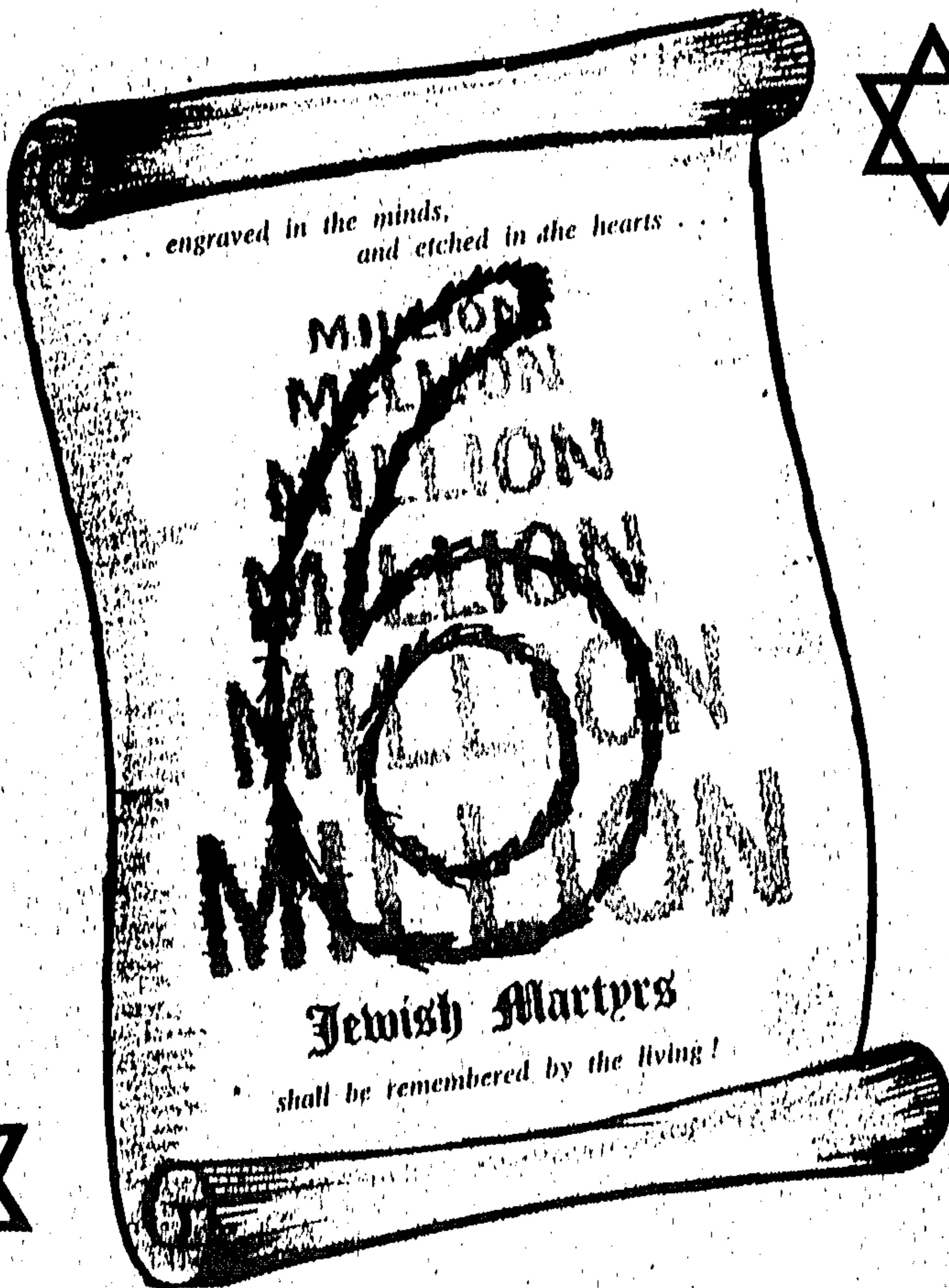
FOR (72) Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burundi, Byelorussia, Cambodia, Cape Verde, Chad, China, Congo, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechoslovakia, Dahomey, Democratic (Southern) Yemen, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Gambia, East Germany, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Laos, Lebanon, Libya, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Rwanda, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Somalia, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Syria, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, Soviet Union, United Arab Emirates, Cameroon,

Tanzania, Yemen and Yugoslavia.

AGAINST (35): Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Barbados, Belgium, Canada, Central African Republic, Costa Rica, Denmark, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Fiji, Finland, France, West Germany, Haiti, Honduras, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Ivory Coast, Liberia, Luxembourg, Malawi, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Norway, Panama, Swaziland, Sweden, United Kingdom, United States and Uruguay.

ABSTAINING (32): Argentina, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Burma, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Ethiopia, Gabon, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Jamaica, Japan, Kenya, Lesotho, Mauritius, Nepal, Papua-New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Upper Volta, Venezuela, Zaire and Zambia.

ABSENT (3): Rumania, South Africa and Spain.



# Historical Society Display

The Jewish Historical and Archives Committee arranged a display case of Judaica which was shown in the lobby of the Jubilee Auditorium, Edmonton. This display was made possible by the Jewish Historical and Archives Committee of Community Council with the generous cooperation of the Provincial Museum, Circulating Exhibits Dept., and the National

Museums of Canada Fund. After a period of three months, which began October 1, 1975 in Edmonton this case moved to the Auditorium in Calgary for the next three months. The following months it will move on to Lethbridge and Medicine Hat and other smaller centres in our Province, continuously available for viewing for a period of one year.

With this invaluable opportunity of introducing with pride many of the treasures of our heritage and, as well, refreshing our own memories we must thank the following people; Mrs. A. Haft Postone: Robe, sash and head-gear belonging to Rabbi I. Haft, Rabbi Abraham Postone: Circumcision knife, shield and container, Mrs. Irving Kline: Tallis and Tefillen belong-

ing to the late Mr. Irving Kline, Rabbi & Mrs. Abraham Postone: Shofar, Mr. & Mrs. Jacob Hardin: Kiddish Cup, Mr. & Mrs. Oseas Davis: Havdalah and Spice Container, Mr. & Mrs. Henry Singer: Menorah, and Mrs. Eve Pascoe: Mezuzah and Parchment. Mr. Hymie Baltzan with the cooperation and permission of the Rabbis of Edmonton: A Torah which

because of its recent history has been found acceptable for viewing by the public.

No list of acknowledgements could be complete without a vote of sincere appreciation to the Provincial Museum of Edmonton and most especially Mr. David Goa and Mr. Daniel Body whose guidance, sincerity and knowledge truly made this display case come to life.

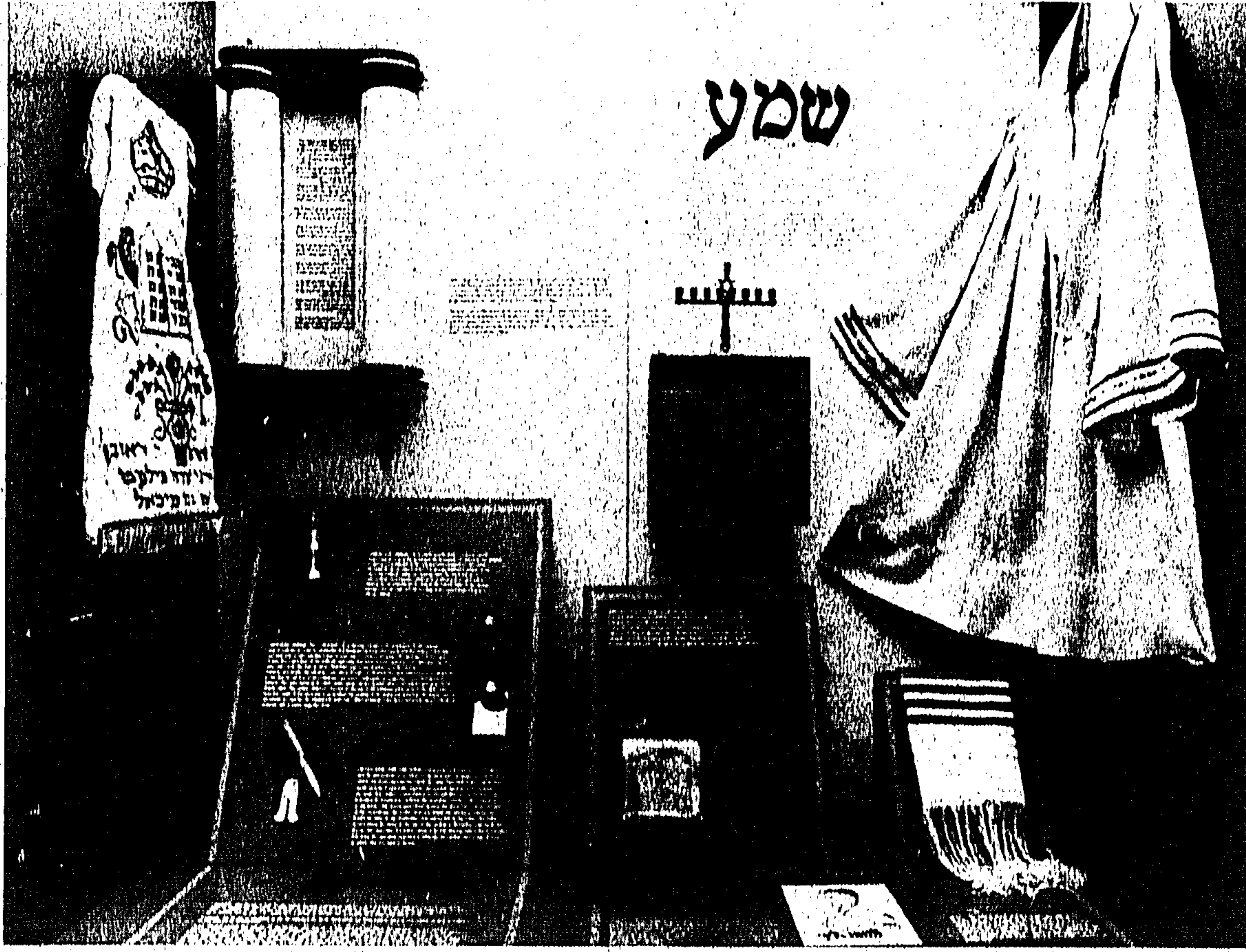
## JOURNEY INTO OUR HERITAGE

Our next challenge and a very big one, is to cooperate fully with the Jewish Historical Society of Western Canada which is sponsoring a travelling exhibit of their "Journey into our Heritage".

From present reports it is to be housed in the Jubilee Auditorium from August 26 to October 24, 1976. Efforts are being made by Winnipeg to make this a journey not only into the heritage of Manitoba Jewry but a journey into the heritage of the Jews of Alberta. This can only be accomplished by the sharing of our heritage with the Society in the form of photographs, documents and artifacts.

Surely there are photographs of early Bar Mitzvas, Weddings, pioneer families, societies, choirs, synagogues. Amongst our Edmonton folk there must be Ketubas, yalmulkes, kiddush cups, esrog containers, a Purim plate, the Tsena Verena, a machzor, a yad, a matza container, to name but a very few.

This material listed is but a sample of that which is needed. Please contact Eve Pascoe if there is any item that you think might be shared by the Provincial Museum or the Jewish Historical Society of Western Canada. Phone 488-6843.



## CZF Convention Reflects Solidarity with Israel

It was the colourful and unpredictable leader of Uganda, Idi Amin --- the Israeli paratroopers wings high on his chest --- who recently captivated the imagination of the U.N. Assembly, and got an Arafat-like standing ovation from his fellow Africans and Arabs, by crying out loud that Zionism is the root of all evil, and that the State of Israel should be extinct.

Before Amin it was the delegate from Lybia who asked to discredit the Israeli delegation.

And there have been many others. There is, on record, the Lima, Peru resolution calling to put an end to Zionism. There is the resolution against Zionism which was adopted by the Women's Year Conference in Mexico City. The list is long.

And one may ask, Why Amin? Had not Israel help-

ed it at its inception, provided it with health services and tax administration, military know-how and an educational system?

Why Lybia? Had it not been for the hand raised by the then Israeli Ambassador to the U.N. Lybia would not have been accepted to the world body because it needed one more vote in its favour.

Why Peru? Why Mexico? Why all the African states? Not one of them --- in spite of their vote in the U.N., in spite of their anti-Zionist venom --- can erase the traces that Israel farmers, engineers, soldiers, left in those countries during their infancy.

Fifteen years ago they did not consider Israel a felon and Zionism a crime.

Presently Zionism is the main object of all anti-Israeli conferences.

And there is only one

aim to that onslaught: To raise questions as to the right of Israel to exist, to undermine the eternal solidarity between the State of Israel and the Jewish people, to confuse the loyalty of the unsure, and the doubtful, to weaken and frighten the hesitant and the timid.

So --- one might ask at this point --- what has this got to do with us? What has this got to do with the Canadian Jews? Why should we worry?

The answer to this is promulgated in the slogan adopted by the coming convention of the Canadian Zionist Federation, which is scheduled to take place in Israel in February 1976: "Zionism is Israel --- Israel is Zionism".

Whatever dangers face the State of Israel, whether along the borders or in the U.N., these same dangers

threaten the very existence of the Jewish Community, be it a national, religious, ethnic or cultural society. In time of crisis no one will escape his fate. Hitler was the one who defined who were the Jews, not the Rabbis, and in time of trouble it will be the Amirs, the Gadafis, the Arafats, who will define who is a Zionist.

We are all in the same boat. We must stick together. We should not be content with donations and prayers. We must identify with Israel totally, entirely, completely. The ultimate means of doing so is ALL-YAH. A small step forward is a visit to Israel.

The Canadian Zionist Federation Convention offers you all that: to see the State of which you are a part and which needs you; to find out what it is all about, what makes it tick; to identify with its supreme raison d'etre: being a homeland for all Jews.

Come with us.

Gavriel Strasman

## MIZRACHI DINNER DANCE JANUARY 11

Mizrachi Women's Organization of Edmonton are holding their Annual Dinner and Dance at the Riviera Hotel on Sunday January 11th, 1976 at 6:30 p.m.

The "Echos" will provide the music. A special minimum price will be charged the young boys and girls. Make it a family outing.

Call for Reservations to Mrs. Clara Badeker 482-4782 or Mrs. Freda Slutsky - 439-8362.