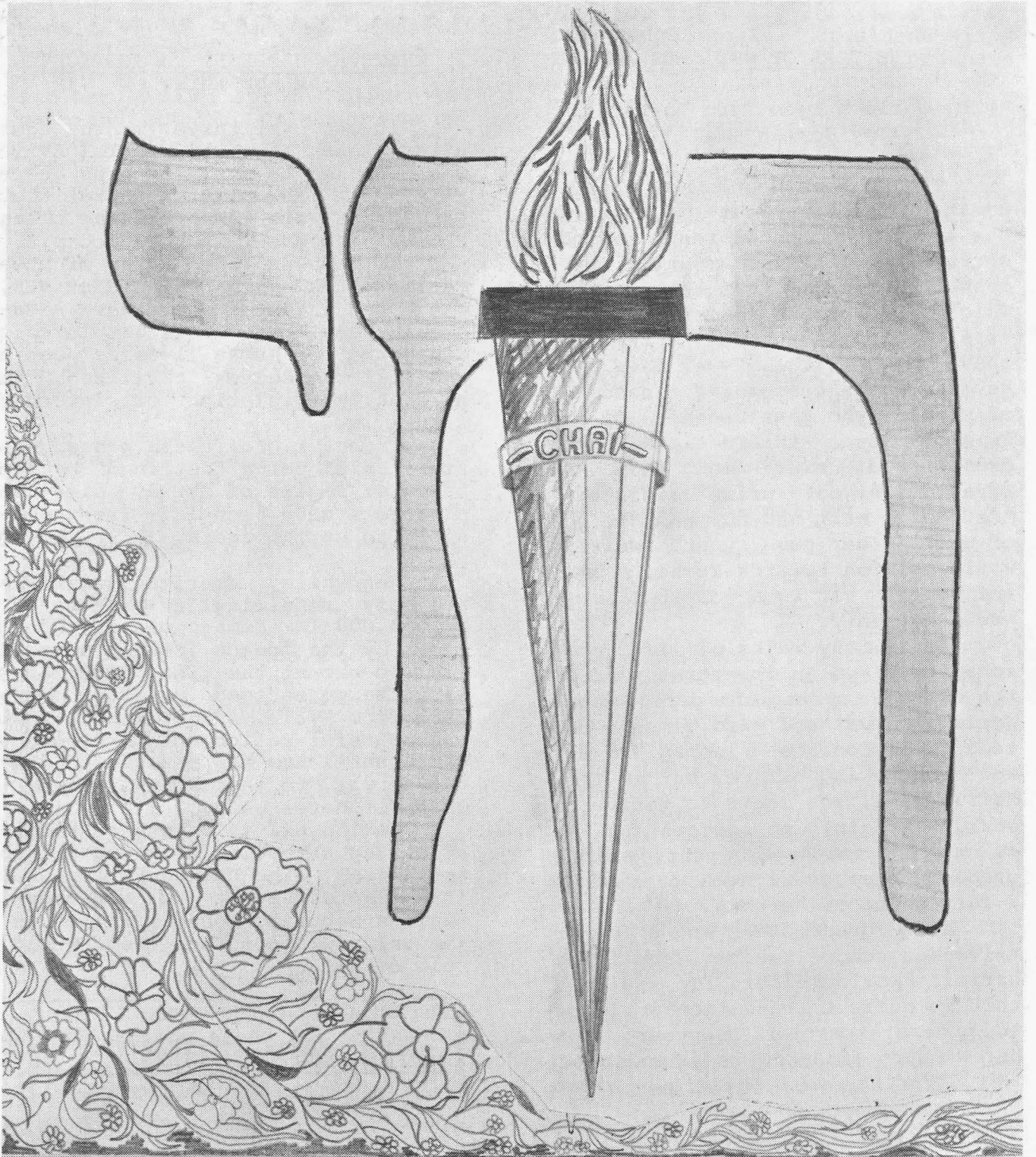


THE

TORCH

Published by the Menorah Society of Staten Island Community College
Vol. I, No. 1 * Staten Island, N. Y. 10301 * December 1969



* * * * *

THE TORCH

EDITOR
Abe Reiss

STAFF
Ellyn Emmer Chaya Mann
Harvey Estrajch Joseph Maswary
Peter Grotzky Syd Schneider
Eileen Lever Norman Small
Gail Levine Abe Zinger

CO-EDITORS
Mark Berse
Rebecca Rosenbaum

THE YEAR OF MRS. MEIR

WHATEVER HAPPENED TO JUSTICE?
by Abe Reiss

The World's Eyes Turn To Israel
by Norman Small

Though some people may hate to admit it the tiny state of Israel has always commanded respect, and certainly a plentiful amount of jealousy. Why is it that this nation, which deserves the concern of all of us, suddenly finds itself in the news these days? The answer lies with several facts concerning a handful of people who have become, on the lips of many, "international name-droppers." Chief among them is Israel's newest prime minister, Mrs. Golda Meir, who now has the job of uniting her country and swerving world opinion towards Israel's fears and hopes. It is a job that many would not envy.

As in many walks of life, personality plays an important part of the overall impression a person makes. World opinion and hard times would tend to discourage a woman of any age from taking office, but in Mrs. Meir's case, she seems to thrive on work. Certainly no one can say she is out of touch with the world's problems because right now she has a fair share of her own.

As a grandmother and a former Milwaukee school teacher, she finds herself a world leader. To say that this is quite a transition would be the understatement of the year. But her winning smile, ready handshake,

Continued on page 3

It was over three months ago: a TWA plane en route to Tel Aviv was hijacked to Syria by Arab guerrillas. A few minutes after the passengers were taken off the plane a bomb exploded in the cockpit. Had the bomb exploded a few minutes earlier, the lives of innocent men, women and children would have needlessly been lost. This intolerable disregard for human lives by people who call themselves "civilized," is a flagrant violation of international law.

Today, two of those passengers are still being "detained" by the Baathist Regime of Syria, while the hijackers have been left free, possibly to strike again.

Meanwhile, American engineers are busy repairing an estimated \$4,000,000 in damage caused to the plane by the "peace loving" guerrillas who are at the time occupied, with the guaranteed military support from Syria, in bringing a small and peaceful nation called Lebanon, which until now has managed to stay out of war, to the brink of war which it never wanted.

Taking all this into consideration and carefully weighing all observations, the United Nations has just elected Syria to the prestigious Security Council which is the only upholder of the world rule of law.

This issue of THE TORCH is dedicated to all those who said: "It can't be done!"...LIARS!

The Year of Mrs. Meir ...

and pleasant personality, have won her friends around the world. How many world leaders can say they've accomplished so much, and in so little time? Many of us know the answer already although not many are ready to admit it.

Mrs. Meir is fully capable of holding down the reins of government in these troubled times of world dissension. She was active in the founding of the young state and her strong appeal to both the male and female population won her the high posts of: labor minister, defense administrator and minister to Moscow. The former Prime Minister, David Ben - Gurion, gave her more chance for notoriety by placing the title of foreign minister on her in 1956. Since then the United Nations General Assembly has felt her presence on several occasions, airing and discussing Israel's crises, as head of the Israeli delegation. Her part in world affairs in not to be taken lightly because gaining respect at a universal level is no easy task for any person. For people who scoff and say, "A man is no match in terms of diplomacy," Mrs. Meir is very quick in showing how wrong people can be.

(Continued next column)

In closing I would like to make known my feelings towards Mrs. Meir and her tenure in office. Though I am a still, small voice in a crowd of people I have a high regard for her and the brave country she represents. If anyone can pull Israel through in the upcoming years of the "struggling 70's", troubled though they may be, she will be the one, victorious in her long-range goals. President Nixon and Mayor Lindsay of New York have already done their utmost to make her feel comfortable and happy in her adopted home, the United States, on her recent trip to our shores. Now the eyes of the free world and those who are in oppression are on her and the Middle East, watchful whether she will be the victor. I wish to see Arab and Israelis do more than "bury the hatchet"; I would like to see them stand by each other as brothers first, friends second. Mrs. Meir is doing wondrous things in realizing this goal and I think she is proving the Hebrew translation of her name all over the world. "Meir" means: "to light up", and if anyone can help take Israel out of the darkness, and see that light, she may be the one to do it.

The U. N. and Human Rights
by Cyd Schneider

On December 19, 1968, the United Nation's General Assembly passed a resolution calling for a Special Representative to be sent to Israeli occupied territories to check the conditions of the Arabs living there. Israel agreed, simply because she had nothing to hide-she had done absolutely nothing wrong. In fact, there was a noticeable improvement of general conditions in these areas under Israeli jurisdiction as compared to Arab rule.

But what about a resolution calling for the examination of the welfare of Jews in Arab lands? What have the Arab countries done that they were trying to hide? Israel has pleaded time and again for

Continued on page 7

* * * * *
*
* As co-editors of The Torch *
* we would like to extend our *
* thanks, along with the thanks *
* of our staff to Dr. Blau who *
* most graciously helped us pub- *
* lish this paper. *
*
* Abe Reiss *
* Mark Berse *
* Rebecca Rosenbaum *
* *
* * * * *

PEACE SHIP ANCHORS ON EAST SIDE
by Jonathan Braun

\$150,000 - that's how much Israel's peace pilot, Abie Nathan, needs to set up his "Voice of Peace" in the Middle East.

Using a ship donated by the people of Holland, a 570 ton coaster renamed "Peace", Abie Nathan intends to establish an independent and neutral radio station, which, anchored outside the territorial waters of Israel and the United Arab Republic, will broadcast in Hebrew, Arabic, French and English.

"The Voice of Peace" is intended to be an alternative to the government controlled stations, broadcasting news, political commentary and music prepared by an international crew with the participation of both Israelis and Arabs.

Hoping to "change the atmosphere of hate on the side of the Arabs, and of suspicion on the side of Israel," Abie Nathan has brought his Peace Ship campaign to New York. Docked at 63rd Street and the East River, the Peace Ship cannot sail until the money is raised to buy a transmitter and other necessary electronic equipment. The transmitter alone costs \$100,000, and Abie is urging groups of people to each raise \$2,000 for a "kilowatt for peace."

(Continued next column)

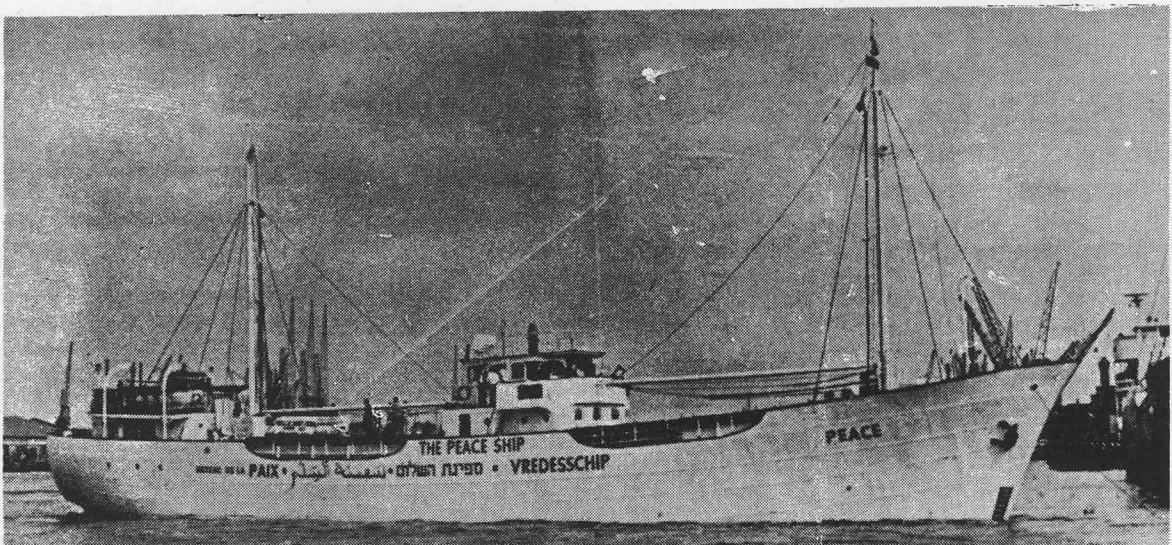
... No a, b, c's
No Intricate Formula...

The Peace Ship has been in New York for six weeks; but so far the money has been slow in coming - donations of five and ten dollars from the concerned non-rich. The Jewish establishment, the well-known, wealthy organizations, have not answered Abie's request for another voice in the war-torn Middle East. They do not see the need for the project, fearing an approach that is too different, too farout, too idealistic. After all, they argue, this man only talks about "peace" - no blueprint, no a,b,c's, no intricate formula...

Just peace. That's all Abie Nathan is asking for - peace and an end to hate. Simple. Stop hating the Jews. Stop being suspicious of the Arabs. Very simple - Abie is willing to try any method that might work, that has even the slightest chance of calming the emotions and ending the hostility.

He is quick to point out that conventional methods, political and diplomatic, have failed - that Israel and the Arab states are on the brink of war - that observers on both sides talk matter-of-factly about the next showdown.

"A change has to take place on both side," Abie states. "It
Continued on page 8



A Letter to the World from Jerusalem

reprinted from the "Times of Israel"

I am not a creature from another planet, as you seem to believe, I am a Jerusalemite -- like yourselves, a man of flesh and blood. I am a citizen of my city, an integral part of my people.

I have a few things to get off my chest. Because I am not a diplomat, I do not have to mince words. I do not have to please you, or even persuade you. I owe you nothing. You did not build this city; you do not live in it; you did not defend it when they came to destroy it. And we will be damned if we will let you take it away.

There was a Jerusalem before there was a New York. When Berlin, Moscow, London and Paris were miasmal forest and swamp, there was a thriving Jewish community here. It gave something to the world which you nations have rejected ever since you established yourselves -- a humane moral code.

Here the prophets walked, their words flashing like forked lightning. Here a people who wanted nothing more than to be left alone, fought off waves of heathen would-be conquerors, bled and died on the battlements, hurled themselves into the flames of their burning Temple rather than surrender; and when finally overwhelmed by sheer numbers and led away into captivity, swore that before they forgot Jerusalem, they would see their tongues cleave to their palates, their right arm wither.

For two pain filled millenia, while we were your unwelcome guests, we prayed daily to return to this city. Three times a day we petitioned the Almighty: "Gather us from the four corners of the world, bring us upright to our land; return in mercy to Jerusalem, Thy city, and dwell in it as Thou promised."

On every Yom Kippur and Passover we fervently voiced the hope that next year would find us in Jerusalem. Your inquisitions, pogroms, expulsions, the ghettos into which you jammed us, your forced baptisms, your quota systems, your genteel anti-semitism, and the final unspeakable horror, the holocaust (and worse, you terrifying disinterest in it) -- all these have not broken us. They may have sapped what little moral strength you still possessed, but they forged us into steel. Do you think that you can break us now, after all we have been through? Do you really believe that after Dachau and Auchwitz we are frightened by your threats of blockades and sanctions? We have been to Hell and back -- a Hell of your making. What more could you possibly have in your arsenal that could scare us?

I have watched this city bombarded twice by nations calling themselves civilized. In 1948, while you looked on apathetically, I saw women and children blown to smithereens, this after we had agreed to your request to internationalize the city. It was a deadly combination that did the jobs: British officers; Arab gunners and American-made cannon.

And then the savage sacking of the Old City: the willful slaughter, the wanton destruction of every synagogue and religious school; the desecration of Jewish cemeteries; the sale by a ghoulish government of tomb stones for building materials, for poultry runs, army camps -- even latrines.

And you never said a word.

You never breathed the slightest protest when the Jordanians shut off the holiest of our holy places, the Western Wall in violation of the pledges they had made after the war -- a war they waged, incidentally, against a decision of the UN. Not a murmur came from you whenever the legionnaires in their spiked helmets casually opened fire upon our citizens from behind the walls.

Your hearts bled when Berlin came under siege. You rushed your airlift "to save the gallant Berliners." But you did not send one ounce of food

Continued on page 6

A Letter To The World From Jerusalem ...

when Jews starved in besieged Jerusalem. You thundered against the wall which the East Germans ran through the middle of the German capital -- but not one peep out of you about that other wall, the one that tore through the heart of Jerusalem

And when the same thing happened 20 years later, and the Arabs unleashed a savage, unprovoked bombardment of the Holy City again, did any of you do anything? The only time you came to life was when the city was at least re-united. Then you wrung your hands and spoke loftily of "justice" and the need for the "Christian" quality of turning the other cheek.

The truth is -- and you know it deep inside your gut -- you would prefer the city to be destroyed rather than have it governed by Jews. No matter how diplomatically you phrase, the age old prejudices seep out of every word.

If our return to the city has tied your theology in knots, perhaps you had better re-examine your catechisms. After what we have been through, we are not passively going to accommodate ourselves to the twisted idea that we are to suffer eternal homelessness until we accept your Saviour.

For the first time since the year 70 there is now complete religious freedom for all in Jerusalem. For the first time since the Romans put the torch to the Temple everyone has equal rights. (You preferred to have some more equal than others.) We loathe the sword -- but it was you who forced us to take it up. We crave peace -- but we are not going back to the peace of 1948 as you would like us to.

We are home. It has a lovely sound for a nation you have willed to wander over the face of the globe. We are not leaving. We have redeemed the pledge made by our forefathers: Jerusalem is being rebuilt. "Next year" -- and the year after, and after, and after, until the end of time -- "in Jerusalem!"

-- Eliezer Ben Yisrael

A Letter To The Student Body

Student Government, acting in the guise of a "responsible body of student leaders" saw fit to terminate the newly formulated leadership program. This program provides students involved in extra-curricular activities, practical experiences, discussions and ideas that are pertinent and bear great weight on effective student leadership.

With the coming of our new Student Government, Leadership Training, a program which is essential in making our new S. G. a strong and more meaningful force on campus, has taken a back seat.

It seems that in the absence of any immediate "chore", the S. G. could no longer endure the frustration of not making detrimental decisions, and so at the whim of one "senator" the S. G. chose to abolish the program.

It is apparent that either certain "student leaders" cannot guide themselves objectively because they are so involved with their own preconceived idea of "good government" or they are ignorant to the fact that a program such as leadership training is of great importance and should not be done away with on a whim.

It is my opinion that the S. G., in good conscience, reconsider its decision. Given the demands for rapid change and action in issues involving student life, the S. G. cannot afford to abort such a necessary program.

by Steve Panzera

The U. N. and Human Rights...

an investigation into the deteriorating and humiliating conditions Jews in Arab lands are forced to live in.

Jews in Arab lands are forced to live as second-class citizens. Concerning Syria, for example, the United States delegation at the U. N. declared on May 16, 1968 that "...it is reliably reported that the Jews are being subjected to a variety of forms of harassment, discrimination, and restriction. We are also aware that no Jews are seemingly allowed to leave the country and that most would leave if permitted..."

On February 8, 1967, the Syrian Arab Republic published a circular with the names of 46 Jewish merchants which Syrian Army personnel were not allowed to deal with. These merchants dealt with clothes, materials and copper-work. Violators were to be severely penalized.

On October 15, 1968, Egypt announced she was forbidding the departure of 1,000 Jews, 230 of whom were in jail. These 230 were not allowed to see lawyers, representatives of the Red Cross, or representatives of the U. N. As of October 25, 1968, the 230 prisoners were in jail for 15 months without being officially charged for any crime, etc.

In October, 1968, the Jewish school in Damascus, Syria, was closed, and Syrian Jews were being evicted from their homes to make room for Arab refugees.

These are just a few of the violations of basic human rights Syria, Egypt and other Arab countries, such as Jordan and Iraq, practice upon Jews.

The U. N. must organize an investigation into the treatment of Jews in Arab lands.

Contributions to

THE TORCH

are welcome.

Please deliver
them to C132.

TO ALL STUDENTS AND FACULTY who
are interested in going to Israel

and Europe this summer

Round-trip to Rome \$222.12
from June 12 - August 14

Connecting flights to Israel can
be made available for approx. \$120
round-trip

For further information come to
Room C-132; ask for Abe Reiss

Leave your name, add. & phone no.
on poster provided on wall

(get your passports ready)

MENORAH SOCIETY
and
SOCIAL SCIENCE CLUB

will present
a lecture by

PROF. ODED REMBA

of the SICC Economics Dept.

Topic Is:

"IS ARAB ISRAELI CO-EXISTENCE
POSSIBLE?"

Thurs., Dec. 4-12:30 R. B148

EVERYONE WELCOME

Peace Ship Anchors on East Side ...

has to be one of magnanimity on the side of Israel, and compromise on the side of the Arabs."

Actually, it is precisely this direct, open, "people to people" approach which has made the forty-two year old owner of a Tel-Aviv restaurant and art gallery, and former captain with El-Al and the Israeli Air Force, famous for his peace efforts in the Middle East and Biafra.

Abie has made three "peace flights" to Egypt, and has helped raise \$1.5 million in food and medical supplies for the people of Biafra, making five trips to the besieged nation. He has also flown to India and personally distributed food to 35 famine-stricken villages.

Currently, his Shalom One Peace Foundation (named after Abie's private plane) is building an integrated Arab-Jewish school in Nazareth.

Claiming that peace "is not the monopoly of one party or group," Abie has preferred to stay out of Israeli politics. He will not talk about specifics, saying that the parties involved in the dispute must decide for themselves how to implement the peace.

Right now, Abie Nathan is asking for help - for volunteers to work on the Peace Ship and collect money for the radio equipment. Also, he is asking for volunteers to help stand guard at night; unknown persons have vandalized the Peace Ship, cutting the mooring lines one night. Often, Abie has had to stay up through the night, watching the ship.

\$150,000 dollars is all that is needed - less than five percent of the cost of an armed MIG fighter or Phantom Jet. Abie intends to drop the project by the end of the year if the funds have not been collected. "For the project to succeed it has to be supported by thousands of people," he says.

Abie Nathan, born in Iran, educated in India, citizen of Israel - fighter pilot, commercial pilot,

and peace pilot - believes in people. He was taught in a Jesuit school in Bombay, and after serving as a fighter pilot with RAF/India, participated as a commercial pilot in the 1947 evacuation of refugees during the partition of India and Pakistan.

In 1948, Abie emigrated to Israel, serving three years in the air force and eight years with El-Al. Since 1959, he has owned his gallery and restaurant, The California.

A Neutral Voice To Calm People Down

In 1965, Abie Nathan ran for election to the Knesset (Israeli Parliament) on a pledge to fly his private plane to Cairo, if elected. Although he lost, more than 100,000 Israelis signed a petition of support, and on February 28, 1966, Abie took off for Port Said, UAR. After the June War, he flew again, this time from Cyprus to Port Said.

In June of 1969, after having appealed to Arab officials in Paris on behalf of Iraqi and Egyptian Jews, Abie flew to Cairo via commercial jetliner on a third attempt to see President Nasser.

The Peace Ship campaign was originally inspired by events leading up to the Six Day War. Listening to the hatefilled Arab broadcasts, the maverick Israeli decided that another voice was needed - a neutral voice "to calm people down."

Presently, the project is only a few months old. Among its supporters are John Lennon and Yoko Ono, who have paid for advertising in the British press.

Abie Nathan - all he is saying is "give peace a chance."

* * *

Contributions should be sent to The Peace Ship Fund, P. O. Box 1111, Franklin D. Roosevelt Post Office, New York, New York 10022.