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Preface

In "Israel and the United Nations: Changed Perspectives, 1945-1976," Ambassador Shabtai Rosenne of Israel analyzes the effects of a changing United Nations on Israel and on the Middle East conflict. Having traced the gradual isolation of Israel at the hands of a powerful coalition of Arab, Communist, and Third World states, he concludes that if the UN does not change course it may, so far from furthering peace, become an "active factor in the perpetuation of hostility and warfare" in the Middle East.

George E. Gruen's "The United States, Israel and the Middle East" pays special attention to the Carter administration's policy for bringing Israel and the Arabs to a Geneva conference and to the new United States antiboycott legislation.

In "Human Rights: From Helsinki to Belgrade," Sidney Liskofsky highlights President Carter's human-rights pronouncements and foreign reactions to them. The article is optimistic about the long-range consequences of the Helsinki agreements, which, though neither binding nor enforceable, can at least serve to expose the oppressive practices of the Communist regimes.

S.P. Goldberg's "Jewish Communal Services: Programs and Finances" covers the six years from 1971 to 1976.

Fred Massarik, continuing his analysis of National Jewish Population Study data, offers an informative "reconceptualization" of "Affiliation and Nonaffiliation in the United States Jewish Community."

The bibliographical essay is Harold M. Waller's "Selections from the Literature of Jewish Public Affairs, 1975-1976."

The Necrology section includes Seymour Siegel's warm appreciation of the remarkable Jewish theologian "Will Herberg (1902-1977)."

We thank our colleagues Amy Carr, for technical assistance and preparation of the directories, necrology, and index; Cyma Horowitz and her Blaustein Library staff, and Lotte Zajac.

Finally, it is with deep regret that we have to announce the retirement, with this volume, of Martha Jelenko as executive editor. Whatever merit has accrued to the YEAR BOOK in the last dozen years is in great part due to her knowledge, skill, assiduity, and care.

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