Our link with UN Watch, which will become an institute of AJC on Jan. 1, has increased our ability to monitor the treatment of Israel within the UN. It has helped us advance the issue of the admission of Israel's Magen David Adom Society—its "Red Cross"—to the international movement. Long denied membership because it refuses to use a cross or crescent, Israel could finally be admitted this fall. Prodded by AJC's campaign and pressed by the U.S. government, which took up the issue in full force, the Red Cross Movement is now considering a compromise symbol.

AJC raised this issue at each of our diplomatic meetings, strengthening the resolve of friendly countries. We distributed widely an AJC booklet, Israel and the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, authored by Felice Gaer, director of our Jacob Blaustein Institute for the Advancement of Human Rights, on the history of this issue, which continues to be an AJC priority this fall.

WEOG
AJC would also like to see another campaign brought to a successful conclusion. This spring saw a partial victory for the normalization of Israel's status within the UN. Israel's temporary (and conditional) admission, after years of AJC advocacy, to the West European and Others regional group at the UN in New York has begun to reverse Israel's anomalous status in the world body.

AJC recognized U.S. representative to the UN, Ambassador Richard C. Holbrooke, for his important role in this landmark achievement at a lunch on Sept. 21 with Israeli ambassador to the UN Yehuda Lancry.

AJC is eager to see Israel's entry into WEOG extend to other UN cities, including Geneva, Rome, Vienna, and Nairobi. This is a necessary solution until such a time as Israel can take its rightful place within the Asian group, which has thus far rejected its membership.

Madeleine Albright and I passed the AJC ad around the room of European Union ministers—that's how it all started.

Ambassador Richard C. Holbrooke on the campaign for Israel's admission to a UN regional group, which has since met with significant success.

Next Steps
AJC's main messages were echoed in consulates throughout the country, as chapters have joined in the advocacy tour de force.

As in past years, AJC published a monograph this fall called One Sided: The Treatment of Israel in the UN, documenting the abysmal voting record of most countries on the annual spate of UN resolutions against Israel. We urged countries to end their blind voting. Small improvements can be seen from last year, but there remains a long way to go.

AJC also distributed copies of the new American Jewish Year Book, the hundredth anniversary edition, at the diplomatic meetings.

(For more information on these and other AJC publications see the headline "Publications" on the back page or visit our website, www.ajc.org)