

A word, first of all, to our new readers, of whom there are an unusually large number this month. Those of you who are receiving this issue as part of the MOMENT College Program—and if you're an entering freshman, that's likely what's happened—will be interested in our ad on page 8, which explains the details of the plan. Somebody out there cares about you, and we, of course, hope that you enjoy receiving MOMENT. If through some perverse roll of the dice, you are already a subscriber, or—heaven forbid!—you don't find MOMENT to your liking at all, do let us know, preferably with the name and address of someone else on your campus who might like to receive it. And do write home. Your parents miss you.

And to all our new readers: We welcome your comments, reactions, suggestions. Since its inception, MOMENT has tried to establish a close relationship with its readers; we can't succeed at that without your help.

"Since its inception," MOMENT'S

first issue appeared in June of 1975. We've lost a few months along the way, but with this issue, we complete our third full volume. Those of you who have been with us since the beginning (and thank you for that) will know how precarious the enterprise has seemed at various points along the way. (Hence the missing months.) But we're here, and will be, with your continued interest and support. I'll likely not be able to resist the temptation to use next month's Alef column to say something more about our anniversary. For now, you will understand if we are surprised, relieved, and, most of all, proud that we've weathered the storms. We do have a tendency to spring a leak now and then, but we've become masters at bailing out, and the craft itself appears seaworthy.

Sailing right along, please note that we've moved our editorial office. Manuscripts, letters, anything other than correspondence regarding subscriptions, should be sent to our new address, which you'll find on page one.

Good housekeeping also requires that I apologize to Richard Sobol, who was inadvertently not credited—as he should have been—for providing the photos in last month's panel discussion on Orthodox Judaism.

And now, at last, the big stuff. Old readers already know, and new readers will soon learn, that the schedule of a monthly magazine is exceedingly awkward. I write these words on September 21; the magazine will start reaching subscribers about October 16. That's the way it is, and there's almost nothing that can be done about it.

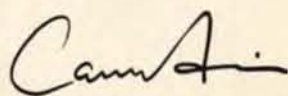
September 21 means that we are in the first days of post-Camp David assessment. The immediate euphoria inspired by the televised proceedings last Sunday and Monday nights has now been replaced by a hopeful anticipation. There are still too many perhapses to permit ourselves to feel that we are now out of the woods, that we can now turn definitively from war and

fear to peace and security. All that we know for certain is that bad things that might have happened did not, and that some good things appear to have happened. Two negotiating frameworks were accepted, and, with respect to the first, a good chunk of the negotiation itself was completed. It is very hard to imagine that any of the three leaders who accomplished this task can now permit himself to appear as a spoiler. Yet many things that have happened in the Arab-Israel conflict have been hard to imagine. The coming weeks will, of course, be critical, not only because we will learn more of the intentions of other Arab states, but also because we will undoubtedly understand better what each of the principals understands by the agreements.

In the meanwhile, it is not premature to offer thanks and congratulations to the President of the United States, whose unprecedented commitment to the process was, according to all accounts, essential to its happy (interim) conclusion, as well as to Prime Minister Begin and President Sadat, both of whom exhibited a degree of flexibility that augers well for the future. A year ago at this time, peace was, for all practical purposes, inconceivable. Now it is a serious item on the international agenda, even if the mind still requires some adjusting before it can fully comprehend the possibility of an Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty before 1979, even if history warrants a measure of skepticism still.

There is still very much that remains to be decided, and much the most complicated and tendentious issues have yet to be dealt with. Still, it is exciting to let the imagination free float in a space rid of obsession with survival, in a space that is about nothing more than life and fulfillment.

Soon, God willing, Man able.



## LETTERS

### Zionist Congress

To the Editor:

A few correctives are in order for Judea Miller's otherwise accurate description of the 20th World Zionist Congress. (July-August)

(1) The Association of Reform Zionists of America (ARZA) does *not* reflect "a growing disillusionment among Reform and Conservative Jews . . . with the policies of Labor." It *does* reflect impatience with the entire political leadership of Israel. Whether Labor will retain its current favorable attitude toward non-Orthodox Judaism in Israel when and if it recaptures control of the government remains to be seen. The unfortunate fact is that to date no major political party in Israel (with the possible exception of the Liberals) has endorsed the kind of religious pluralism which ARZA so successfully stimulated the World Zionist Congress to support.

(2) The constitution of the World

Zionist Organization does *not* stipulate that religious issues cannot be raised in the Congress." That stipulation was included in a resolution passed by the second World Zionist Congress in 1898. A resolution passed by one Congress can be amended or reversed by ensuing Congresses. The resolution of 80 years ago, not incidentally, has already been rendered null and void through creation by the WZO of a Department of Torah Education.

(3) The Labor party did *not* give the ARZA three of its delegates so that we might qualify as an independent faction. Two delegates came from Labor, two—both Reform rabbis—from other factions.

(4) It is curiously inconsistent to claim simultaneously that ARZA arose out of disillusionment with Labor and that ARZA was (by implication, insidiously) tied to Labor at the Congress. The agreement signed in Jerusalem by Yigal Allon and myself created no ties which in any way could interfere with our delegates' freedom of conscience. In all instances where we voted as did Labor, this was on issues where we happened to agree with the Labor position and would have voted the same way even had we not benefited by receiving two of their delegates. There is no post-Congress tie between ARZA and any other Zionist faction.

(5) ARZA did *not* support a resolution calling "for recognition of Palestinian national rights." I haven't the faintest idea where or how Rabbi Miller got that impression.

(6) You have already received a letter from Judea Miller correcting your identification of him as an ARZA delegate at the Congress. He was, in fact, a delegate of the ZOA. He is obviously entitled to agree or disagree with our views or even our existence. He is not entitled to distort the facts in order to support his position.

Rabbi Roland B. Gittelsohn  
National Chairman, ARZA  
Boston, Massachusetts

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