

Dr. Nahum Goldmann on Double Loyalty of Jews:

FOR YOUR
INFORMATION

I.

(As reported in the Jewish Newsletter
January 26, 1959)

Double Loyalty as Zionist Aim. In order to strengthen the new spiritual ties between American Jews and Israel, a more courageous and outspoken relationship between the two has to be established, according to Goldmann. American Jews must have "courage to declare openly that they have a double loyalty: -- to the country in which they live and to the State of Israel... A Jew must not let himself be talked into merely being a good patriot of the country in the Diaspora in which he lives... 'Our century,' he declared, 'is the epoch in which peoples and countries live in blocs, and in this, the Jews must be in the forefront; they must not only be good patriots of the country in which they live, but also of the land of Israel.'" (Forward, Jan. 9)

II.

As originally reported in the Yiddish Daily Forward, January 9, 1959, p. 6, by I. Shmulewitz, Dr. Goldmann made his statements at symposium, sponsored by the "J. L. Peretz Yiddish Writers Association of America." The theme was "The Spiritual Bond Between the Jews of the World and the State of Israel," and the symposium was held at the Piccadilly Hotel at 227 W. 44 Street in New York City on January 7, 1959. Covering the meeting, Yiddish reporter Shmulewitz, among other things, published the following excerpts from Goldmann's two-hours-long Lecture:

"Dr. Goldmann called upon the Jews of America and upon the Jews of other countries to muster the courage and declare openly that they do entertain double loyalty: one to the country in which they live and the other one: to the land of Israel. Jews must not let themselves be talked into merely being good patriots (loyal citizens) of the countries in the Diaspora in which they happen to live... In our time, peoples and countries live in blocs and Jews should everywhere be in the forefront; they must not only be good patriots of the countries in which they live but also of the State of Israel. On the other hand, the Jewish State, too, must subscribe to and accept the idea of 'double loyalty': first to itself as a State and secondly: to the Jews who live in the countries of the Dispersion... Jews are a united, single people living in two halves. One half in Israel and the other half in the countries of the Galuth. One half must provide for the other one and must strengthen its security and must secure its continued existence."