



Remembrance Day services at West Park Cemetery in Johannesburg

JEWS FOR JUDAISM

fracture or lead to the immediate capitulation of the Government. Nor can one envisage a total embargo against the Republic because it is so overwhelmingly superior in all aspects of life to its neighbours and the rest of Africa.

No doubt though there will have to be scaling down of standards of living and with that some tough decisions as to the future of the Jewish community and its multifarious institutions. There will have to be an end to politicisation or Jewish institution.

If they are to exist side by side in quixotic loyalty, one or the other will suffer. If the core of Jewish commitment becomes a fight to combat incurable racism at both ends of the spectrum through political activism, then all other achievements will ring hollow or lack the same intrinsic tangibility. If the American example is any indication, it will supplant a sense of positive personal identification with Judaism, eventually leading to assimilation. This at a time when in nationhood, Jewry is losing the critical race against a shrinking demographic base.

Large numbers of Jews are destitute in terms of their own values, heritage and culture. At university level, besides demonstrating against the Establishment, students make decisions about the future, professions and priorities. If lost in the wider sphere of the complex situation in this country, they will not be brought back by ideology fundraising or membership drives. Even fundraisers should realise

that without a core of committed Jews no fundraising is possible.

It should be so obvious that the one and only question institutions concerned with Jewish survival outside of Israel should be asking themselves is, what will the quality of Jewish life be in this country when the changes already begun gain momentum?

On the practical front there will have to be a rationalisation of services leading to the closure and disposal of projects which serve only to boost one or two individuals.

The complex and costly Day School system may have to be overhauled if it is to remain viable. Greater considerations will have to be given to the ageing whose numbers are growing. Fundraising may have to seek different avenues and a new *modus operandi*. The Benevolent societies will have to find support for the casualties of change. Synagogues will have to join in closer union. Rabbis will have to respond receptively. Patterns and rivalry will have to be toned down.

Above all, the community needs the full time dedication of leaders and professional civil servants conscious and loyal to the survival and upliftment of Judaism on the southern tip of this continent and who will continue to show direction leading to the Jewish homeland and eventual fulfilment.

Thus until 1948 Israel existed in the diaspora, with the belief that one day redemption would be a reality. It required great faith and courage through many pogroms, two world wars and the Holocaust.