

STATEMENT OF AIMS, PURPOSES, AND PRINCIPLES
of the
JEWISH COMMUNITY RELATIONS COUNCIL

Since the inauguration of the JCRC in Wilmington, Delaware, it appears as though it has developed from a rather limited concept of united and coordinated Jewish defense of Jewish libel to a broader and much more positive program directed to five main objectives.

- 1) To assist the Jewish community of Wilmington in adding to its own moral strength by settling intra-Jewish disputes "within the family", by fostering internal discipline based on self-respect, dignity, and ethics among all groups, be they business, professional, or trade; young or old; male or female.
- 2) To defend Jewry against anti-Semitic attacks from the bigots, or anti-Semitic tendencies generated among some of the well-meaning, but uninformed people.
- 3) To acquaint our neighbors, and particularly our non-Jewish neighbors, with Jewish culture, traditions, history, and aspirations.
- 4) To safeguard and augment the basic American premise of civil rights.
- 5) To create better understanding between races and faiths.

Perhaps the philosophy of the JCRC's existence and objectives can be summarized in the following few sentences:

Only within a truly democratic society can Jews live and grow, spiritually and otherwise. Conversely, any time true democracy is curtailed and totalitarianism advances -- no matter whether it is brown or red totalitarianism -- Jews and the Jewish way of life suffers.

In view of this statement, it appears that we have a double stake in maintaining and expanding the democratic climate; first as Americans and then as Jews.

A great philosopher and a great American Jew stated the following, which perhaps explains adequately the role of the JCRC in our country:

"The fortunate fact that America culturally and politically is federalistic rather than nationalistic, and gives every group a chance to contribute its inherited traditions to the common stock of American and human civilization. The fact that we share with our fellow Jews in other lands a long history of achievements and sufferings should naturally make us responsive to their cry of distress. This is not primarily because compassion has been a distinctive trait of the Jewish and the humane way of life, but also because in helping our brethren to survive, we are in the long run defeating the enemies of human rights. We are thus helping to make life tolerable for everyone.

"Self-respect and the fulfillment of our most elementary duties require that we utilize to the utmost the unprecedentedly rich American opportunity to make our contribution to culture and civilization."

NOTE: The above excerpt from "Reflections of a Wondering Jew.",
by, Morris Raphael Cohen