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EDITORIAL

(Continued from Page 1)

According to the Associated Press dispatch from Lebanon, travelers spoke of Baghdad "as a city gripped by blood-lust." They described the demonstration as "a savage outpouring of primitive emotions."

This much we know. The nations were aware of the secret trials and impending executions. They did nothing publicly at least.

It is a fact that the U. S. and Iraq had severed relations since 1967, and therefore no official communication between the two was possible. But any comments made subsequent to the executions, could have been made before.

President Richard Nixon, who preferred not to refer to the executions, warned that a fourth Mideast war between Arabs and Jews could drag the United States and the Soviet Union into "a confrontation between the nuclear powers which we want to avoid. He promised "a confrontation between the nuclear powers which we want to avoid. He promised "new initiatives" toward peace there. The President said: "I consider it a power keg, very explosive."

Secretary of State William P. Rogers joined others in condemning the executions. "The spectacle of mass executions is repugnant to the conscience of the world," he said. How sad. If only he made those remarks BEFORE the executions.

Rogers cops out by explaining the U. S. was not "in a position to comment on the facts surrounding the trials of the 14 men."

But in a statement issued by the State Department, Rogers said, AFTER the hangings: "On humanitarian grounds, however, these executions are a matter of deep concern to us." He called on U. N. Secy. U Thant "to express our deep concern." Thant issued a strong statement fearing that repercussions from the public hangings would impede efforts for a peaceful settlement.

From other world governments came expressions of sorrow. Nobody did anything before the tragedy, except the Jews. They told Iraq in no uncertain terms, that unless the arrested men received fair trials there would be repercussions.

After the executions Israeli Prime Minister Levi Eshkol told his parliament "the Lord shall avenge" the hangings.

Eshkol, who is in a position to know more of the facts than have been released by the Iraqi government, stated: "the espionage charges are false," Eshkol continued: "The sole and only crime of these nine martyrs consists in their being Jews," he said. "Our brethren are prey to terror at the hands of villains."

There we have the known facts to date.

Any reasonable person can ascertain Israel's position. The fingerpointers are crouched, waiting to spring at Israel's first move, any move.

DeGaulle's Embargo

General De Gaulle's embargo on arms to Israel, defies comprehension. His manner of doing it, bypassing his ministers and issuing the order to the official concerned, were also unusual. It was hurried, as if he brooked no discussion or interference.

Whether this is a blessing in disguise is unimportant, as the Israelis contend, in opening a plant for the manufacture of arms needed for defense. It is hurtful diplomatically and adds to the burden of Israel in defending its position on the open diplomatic market. It is hard to determine what motivated General De Gaulle unless it is the usual concern for material French interests. Nobody believes his reason is to re-establish French presence in Lebanon, formerly a part of the French empire. And while he has an accommodation with the Soviet Union, that too cannot be sufficient reason. This may only be part of the whole picture.

However, what is meaningful and touching, is the

DAYENU BY HENRY LEONARD



spurt of general support for Israel among the French people and press. Israel will find its way out of the labyrinth being imposed on it but it will be good to know that so many people in France not only disagreed with De Gaulle but supported Israel. Even Mr. Stalin once said that governments come and go, but the people remain.

Ecumenism

By NATHAN ZIPRIN

Is the spirit of ecumenism which prevailed in the Christian-Jewish community over the past few years showing serious signs of erosion? The first test came in the crisis of the spring of 1967, when Nasser flexed his muscles boasting he would overpower Israel and drive all the Jews there into the sea. To be sure, there were a number of concerned Christian voices, but what was largely lacking was the Christian word, the Christian conscience. We now learn from a leading proponent of ecumenism, Rabbi Marc H. Tannenbaum of the American Jewish Committee, that anti-Israel and anti-Semitic Arab propagandists are making inroads in Catholic and Protestant churches, thus threatening to undermine the inter-faith harmony the Vatican Council of some years ago was expected to generate. According to Rabbi Tannenbaum, "there is clear evidence that Arab information specialists operating out of Arab countries, and especially from Beirut, Lebanon, have now moved massively to gain Christian support for the Arab League nations in their anti-Israel policies." What is not evident is what the churches are doing to rebuff the anti-Semitic propagandists, who have resorted to what Rabbi Tannenbaum calls a Moslem version of the medieval ritual blood libel against Jews. If the churches keep their doors open to that type of propaganda it means either they had never taken the spirit of ecumenism seriously or that they choose to conveniently ignore it when the pressures are on against Jews. . . .

Science and Religion

By RABBI SAMUEL SILVER

Wasn't it interesting that the Book of Genesis received such nice "publicity" during the moon shot?

Those intrepid astronauts were trying to tell the world that science and religion are not at odds; they are partners.

The more we learn about the universe the more we have reason to marvel at the "Brain" that concocted it all.

Some people who absorb a little science are inclined to react to the Bible with "aw". Others, like the toon-men, react with "awe."

Could the symmetries of the cosmos, so reliable that you can thrust an object thousands of miles into space and know that you can count on certain laws to work, be the product of chance?

So it was fitting that the new heroes of space should pay tribute to Genesis, the story which tells us that the world, despite its diversities is one.

Some there are who cavil at the space program. They say it is true "lunacy" to make lunar shots when money is needed to cure cancer and misery in the world.

Perhaps an auxiliary by-product of the space exploration program will be the rediscovery of the truth of the statements in the Bible that the world in One and, if men will live up the mandates of the Bible, humanity can also become One.

TELL TALES

"One Man Plus The Truth
Constitutes A Majority"

BY JACK TELL



Happy 80th to Carlo



ANNA AND CARLO

There is only one Carlo Bombara. He is a revelation, a symbol of hope for younger men to achieve his maturity without losing the drive, the energy, the enthusiasm that have tendency to wane with passing years. He is a man with courage to embark on ventures when others are beginning to totter and are desperately fighting senility.

Mr. Bombara will be 80 years old on Feb. 6, 1969. May we all be around to celebrate his reaching the century mark.

He is not alone wending his merry way spreading sunshine and making lasting friendships out of chance acquaintance. At his side is his constant companion and bride of 43 years, Anna whose confidence in her mate is absolute. She is his most loyal supporter, his greatest source of encouragement. Higher affection cannot be found. The chemistry of this pair has to be the source of perpetual activity on the part of Carlo.

You've heard us rave on many previous occasions about Bombara's Gourmet Restaurant on East Charleston. You remember, we warned you the time would come when securing a reservation will be a rarity. That time is rapidly approaching.

Last Saturday night we were fortunate to be among those invited to partake of a special food, featured about once a year. It is a delicacy of mashed potatoes and flour in a special recipe prepared hours in advance. Served in a sauce known only to the Bombaras, it is like nothing you have ever tasted. It is known as gnaccol. It is a popular dish in Italy and South of France.

Some fifty persons crowded into the elegant, little dining room. Among the chosen few were the Gus Guffres and the Joe Delaneys. They ate like it was The Last Supper. So did we, along with our own guests, our mother-in-law, Mrs. Charles Goldstein, our darling daughter-in-law Rita's mother and dad, Mr. and Mrs. Morris Friedman, Bea's cousin Lou Cohen of Palisade, N. J. and her brother Sy with his wife Mali and daughter Charlene.

It was a beautiful party for a beautiful couple. From her kitchen alcove Anna's eyes proudly followed her husband as he bounced from table to table beaming at the large number of friends who had journeyed to his abode despite the heaviest downpour in many a year. As Delaney, so aptly phrased it in his Las Vegas Sun column, "We'd have been there if we had to swim half the way."

We've eaten at Bombara's at the only occupied table in the room and we dined there when elbow space was at a premium. In neither case has the cordiality diminished or the taste of the food withered.

Like we said, there is only one Carlo Bombara.

TEL AVIV (WSN) -- Several hundred female soldiers have been assigned to help the police in Israel's three largest cities -- Tel Aviv, Haifa and Jerusalem -- guard places against possible terrorist attacks.

ROME (WSN) -- Italian Foreign Minister Pietro Nenni said Italy would not agree to attempts to settle the Middle East crisis in which his country, as a state with great Mediterranean interests, particularly in the Suez Canal, was excluded.