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New Weizmann Inst. Pres.

Albert B. Sabin, the eminent American medical scientist and discoverer of the Polio pill, has become the President of the Weizmann Institute in Israel. The Institute, formerly under the guidance of Meyer Weisgal, now moves into an administrative hand with a knowledge of science. The Institute has become, in the twenty-five years of its existence, a leading research unit not only in the Middle East, but in the world.

One can look ahead another quarter of a century to a Middle East blessed with peace. It is conceivable under such a circumstance, the Institute can make a massive contribution to the welfare of all the people of the area. It can become a focal point of intensive research for Africa and those areas which have come later on the historical scene in fuller independence.

For this, of course Israel needs peace. Somewhere in its history (Isaiah 2:3) it is written that "out of Zion shall go forth the Law." For Law, read either Torah or learning; a learning shared with neighbors; a dialogue of renaissance among all peoples. Under peaceful circumstances, the Institute can become a beacon light in period of time where darkness does most of the shining.

Israel. A 3rd Front?

by JACK SIEGEL

The Lebanese conflict with Palestinian guerrillas augurs ill for the Middle East. It represents an effort by Arab nationalists to contest that government which did not permit commando activity against Israel. The fact that Lebanon's motivation was fear of Israeli reprisal does not matter, their border was comparatively quiet. But the guerrilla move against Lebanon is also a major ploy by one or a group of Arab countries against another or a group of other Arab countries. Press stories out of the Middle East claim that guerrillas function as a state within a state in Jordan and that, from time to time, Hussein's soldiers have to quell attempts at take-over. The unfortunate aspect of this kind of nationalism is that it is directed not at its own corrupt leadership, but against Israel. Another aspect of guerrilla activity is that it lends an heroic aura to its people. They hit and run or run when hit and do not reveal losses. They claim them against Israel, which does admit them.

In 1956, under pressure and menace from the outside, General Eisenhower was asked to send troops and he did. His decision was questioned then, and perhaps rightly so. Certainly today, with distaste for foreign adventures, as a result of Vietnam, so high in this country, any further shipment of American military elsewhere abroad will have manifold dangers and negative results. In this instance, Anti-Semites will have a field day and Jews might find that American distaste for its present reality will be ventilated their way.

Regardless of the results of the Lebanon conflict, it seems that the commandos will win some real estate from which to attack Israel. If nothing else, it proves Israel's earlier claim that such bases did exist in Lebanon. But if Yasir Arafat, Chairman of the executive committee of the Palestinian Liberation Committee, has his way, his group will win freedom of movement. He

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DAYENU BY HENRY LEONARD



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defined this, in a news conference in Damascus, as "enabling the Palestinian revolution to act so as to be able to achieve victory over Israel." Arafat is also head of El Fatah, strongest component of the Liberation committee, and he means business.

If he is successful in Lebanon, the facts are sombre. It seems that Israel will then be encircled, its only apparently secure border the Mediterranean. It means more losses from more directions. It means that the International impunity with which Arab commandos continue their attacks on Israel will increase.

So far, the UN's Security Council, which is fast to act against Israel, has been mum on the conflict in Lebanon where guerrillas are being supported by Syria which just became a (non-permanent) member of the same Security Council, but with a vote.

Doubtless the Israelis have what are called contingency plans on how to handle this new development, not necessarily including the one offered by Deputy Minister Allon. But the continued attrition from ambushes, Snipers, sudden air and artillery attacks can also erode any amount of patience and fortitude and Israel might not have anywhere to turn. She might then strike out. And we must stick with Israel because, no matter how rashly she may at times pursue it, her cause is just. We must not adopt the attitude of the young American Jew on the hijack plane to Syria who said on his release how glad he was not a Zionist or a special friend of Israel, but an American. The logic here is personal and suspect.

If all options are strung out and Israel does fight, she will need the Jews of the world. But in the larger and more vital struggle--for ultimate peace -- she will need the closer support of world Jews even more.

U Thant and U.N.

BY RABBI SAMUEL SILVER

You can figure out U Thant?

We who are so devoted to Israel are admittedly sensitive.

But it would seem to me that some of U Thant's words and deeds would be objectionable to the most objective.

Notice that when the Arabs are discomfited U Thant quickly jumps to defend them.

He doesn't seem to take cognizance of the fact that the Israelis are most solicitous to reduce the cost of human life. The Israelis want peace. They are not vindictive. If they were they would blot out every Arab, for the Arab leaders want to destroy every Israeli, don't they?

The Arab terrorists boast about their assaults of human life. The Israelis seek to knock out things.

But U Thant has never discerned the difference. Indeed, he seems to put the damper on anything that is done to expose the Arab leaders.

When Arabs prated that they would like the UN to investigate the way the Israelis treat their people, a UN commission was set up. The Israelis asked that the treatment of the Jews in Arab lands should be investigated. Oh no, said U Thant.

When pilots of the world expressed such outrage against the hijacking of the plane to Syria that they wanted to stage a strike in protest, U Thant said, "Oh, no, that's not the way to do it."

The Arab terrorism has seldom evoked any protest from U Thant. The depredations of the Communists in the Middle East and Mitteleuropa scarcely ever seem to trouble U Thant.

Only when Israel, desperately trying to fend off the savagery of the Arabs, strikes out, does U Thant spring into reaction.

Can you figure him out? I can't.

TELL TALES

"One Man Plus The Truth Constitutes A Majority"

BY JACK TELL



A CAREFULLY RESEARCHED COLUMN PREPARED FOR THIS SPACE, DISCLOSING THE WIDESPREAD DAMAGE CAUSED BY ERRONEOUS STORIES IN THE TWO DAILY LAS VEGAS PAPERS, IS BEING HELD IN ABEYANCE ON ADVICE OF A RESPECTED MEMBER OF THE JEWISH COMMUNITY. IF A CORRECTED VERSION IS NOT PUBLISHED IN THE VERY NEAR FUTURE, THE FULL AND TRUE FACTS WILL BE REVEALED RIGHT HERE.

Electoral Reform?

by ROBERT E SEGAL

We the people of the United States chose our President and Vice President in accordance with Article II of the Constitution until 1804. At that period in our history, Article XII gave us the formula whereby the Electors from several states were instructed in their duties.

In our day, a maverick candidate, George C. Wallace, has polled 9,825,000 votes, making it clear that with a few more tugs and pushes, a strong minority candidate should be able to cut into the Republican and Democratic strength so deeply that the House of Representatives might have to determine the final outcome.

For this and a few other good reasons, the tide of opinion has now brought us close to the promised land of electoral reform. Recent polls indicated that 81% of the people favored substituting direct popular election of our highest officials in place of the undemocratic, wobbly electoral college plan. The House of Representatives, by a vote of 339 to 70, has put the seal of approval on the direct vote. There remain only two hurdles: Senate approval and ratification of the constitutional amendment by the legislatures of 38 of our 50 states.

As this momentous change evolves, it should prove useful to wonder out loud what will happen to so-called minority group interests if electoral college reform is adopted.

As the system now operates, any candidate obtaining the most popular votes in a state gets that state's total electoral vote regardless of the skimpiness of the victory. In the parlance of sports, this is the "winner-take-all" system. And we all know that in a close election in a big state, a rather small group of voters can prove the swing element; the decision in New York or California or Pennsylvania can hinge on how much of an appeal the winner has had to a limited number of men and women seeking Presidential support on perhaps only one issue.

But if direct voting is decreed, a voting bloc's clout becomes limited to the number of followers it can turn out. Hence, a candidate in the future may be able to disregard an appeal, say, about the Middle East or water pollution or income tax reform, and grab off a state largely by his charismatic strength.

As you follow this line of thought, you grasp the logic which led the American Jewish Congress, for example, to move away from such other liberal groups as Americans for Democratic Action and the American Civil Liberties Union in the Congress decision to testify in favor of maintaining the present system. Spokesmen for the American Jewish Congress reasoned that the arrangement we now have works in a way to make the President responsive to urban and ethnic interests.

Professor Alexander Bickel of Yale had also advanced strong arguments for staying with the present constitutional provisions even while acknowledging their imperfections. "It simply happens," he said, "that the Electoral College can satisfy at once the symbolic aspirations and remote hopes of the small states and the present, practical needs of the large ones. Not many human institutions work out quite as artistically as that."

Now the final hour of decision on electoral reform is near. The four in every five Americans declaring for it probably will find their desires realized soon. But doubts will continue to nag others.

And looming large beyond those doubts is the spectre of the possibility that a difficult of states will respond favorably to the impassioned plea of the late Senator Everett M. Dirksen to enable each state legislature to reapportion itself on factors other than population. The Senator was bent on invalidating the Supreme Court's 1964 "one-man, one-vote" ruling. Before he died, he had 32 states lined up in favor of petitioning Congress to summon a constitutional convention of his purpose. The affirmation of only two more states is all that is necessary to effect such a call.

The interests of a pluralistic society will be far better served if this effort is frustrated.