

Most Shining Hour

by RABBI SAMUEL SILVER

By the time you read this I pray Israel will have prevailed.

But whatever the situation at the time of this reading there is no doubt that American Jewry has reached its most shining hour.

During all the crises our people have experienced in Europe and the Mideast, American Jewry has unfailingly exhibited its adherence to the dictum of our faith that we are obligated to help one another.

But not even in the '67 crisis has American Jewry risen to such heights as it has in the wake of the Yom Kippur war.

As the Yom Kippur-like trepidation gripped the hearts of all sensitive people after the assault of the Arab barbarians, American Jewry has poured out of its purses and its persons support of Israel to beggar any similar manifestation of brotherliness in modern history.

In city after city, spontaneous rallies have taken place in which thousands have given millions to help our embattled confreres.

The fighting Jews of Israel and their civilian counterparts have done magnificently. But so has American Jewry.

At each gathering the faces of the people fervor and concern, and the checks have come, like snowfall, upon the platform.

It is also important that Jews correct any misconception that the Israelis are the enemies of the Arab people. The Arab leaders are the enemies of the Arab people, whose minds they have poisoned with the false belief that the Jews threaten them.

The only threat of the Jews in the Mideast is the possibility that the Arab masses may waver in their decency, dignity and democracy. And if they should waver they would throw out their oil-rich leaders, among the most savage people on earth or in history.

So in addition to the financial gifts American Jews are so sacrificially making they should also counteract the false notions abroad these days.

May Israel -- and truth -- prevail!

ARAB OIL THREATS MEANINGLESS

JERUSALEM (WNS) - Observers here reacted with relative equanimity and a measure of cynicism to the latest Arab oil threat: a five percent monthly cutback until Israel withdraws and the Palestinian rights are restored.

They pointed out that this would mean no oil at all in 20 months from now -- surely a prospect that the Arab oil producers cannot seriously face (especially as most of them have no other income). The Arab intention to influence the friends of Israel by their embargo is also held up to ridicule here.

After all it is the companies not the producers which ship the oil -- so how can the producers supervise its destination? The Nixon Administration has already shown it will not be blackmailed, observers pointed out.

At present only six percent of U.S. consumption comes from the Mideast, and with Iran promising to step up its production there is no really serious immediate threat to U.S.

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NEW YORK (WNS) -- The American Jewish Congress has charged that the decision of Arab oil states to cut production of oil was "a public relations maneuver" designed to "panic American opinion" against U. S. support of Israel.

"It was not a serious or seriously intended threat to the oil consuming public in the U. S.," said Rabbi Arthur Hertzberg, president of the congress. He said that only three percent of American oil supplies comes from the Middle East and that a five percent or even a ten percent cut of this "cannot be considered a serious menace."

The Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith meanwhile said American energy needs can be solved without Arab oil and said it was launching a nationwide campaign to counter Arab propaganda.

Seymour Graubard, the ADL's national chairman, said, "Neither Israel nor U. S. policy toward the Middle Eastern nations has any relevance to the energy crisis."

BRITAIN TRAINS ARAB HELICOPTER PILOTS

LONDON (WNS) --- Angry members of Parliament have denounced the government's refusal to suspend the training of Egyptian military helicopter pilots in Britain or to ban delivery of the helicopters to Egypt. The helicopters sales and training were disclosed in the wake of Britain's embargo on arms to Middle East combatants which has deprived Israel of spare parts for its Centurian tanks and other military items bought and paid for by Israel.

Hugh Fraser, a leading Conservative MP and a former minister in the Defense Ministry, declared "Certain people are not prepared to let Israel be vanquished."

Michael Stewart, a former Labor Foreign Secretary, called the suspension "a breach of contract" and said the embargo itself was an anti-Israeli act. Meanwhile British Jewish leaders and friends of Israel were expressing anxiety that the embargo was being applied selectively to the

detriment of Israel. Meanwhile in Paris Israeli Ambassador Asher Ben Natan delivered to French Foreign Minister Michel Jobert a formal protest against the presence of Libyan Mirages in the Sinai fighting.

Israeli Premier Golda Meir told the Knesset in Jerusalem that the British and French embargo policies were cynical and egotistical opportunism. She said withholding material that Israel vitally needed to beat back the Arab attack was shameful.

Jobert later told the French National Assembly that France will continue to send Mirages to Libya asserting that Israel has failed to supply any proof that the French-made plane is being used by the Egyptians.

Meanwhile in Canada, leaders of all three major parties criticized Syria and Egypt for renewing the hostilities in the Middle East.

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