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Brave Solzhenitsyn

by ROBERT E. SEGAL

"Print is the sharpest and the strongest weapon of our party," Joseph Stalin declared in 1923.

A half century later, courageous Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn, ideological miles removed from Stalin, has with astonishing success, raised Stalin's aphorism to an awesome height, proving print an insuperable weapon for freedom.

By achieving publication of "The Gulag Archipelago" in the West, Solzhenitsyn has given the world a new and brilliant display of heroism, risking his life willingly in his dramatic warning to free men. Quite naturally, he has won Moscow's highest tribute: in their fury over his literary exposure, the Kremlin authorities denounced him as a traitor, branding his book "unfounded slander." What greater praise could he ask?

Seeking support for their campaign against the writer, Soviet propagandists quoted from a variety of critics. Most pitiful was that of a Leningrad man, who said he was a Jew and a retired military officer. He advised Solzhenitsyn and "others who do not like to breathe clean Soviet air" to go where they like with the assurance they would soon be forgotten.

How long can Solzhenitsyn hold out against Moscow officialdom? Perhaps the backing and inspiration he received from friends who stood with him when the Kremlin made it risky, if not impossible, for him to accept the Nobel Prize for literature in 1970 will help sustain him in this present and more horrendous testing time.

His Nobel award---all the more valuable because his traducers barred his acceptance---spelled out the judge's praise for the "ethical force with which he has pursued the indispensable tradition of Russian literature." At that time, he had given the world "One Day In The Life of Ivan Denisovich," "The Cancer Ward" and "The First Circle," a stunning satire of Stalinist methods. Irked by news of the Nobel award, Kremlin pacesetters floated a campaign of slander against him. Solzhenitsyn suffered through this season of futile denigration, observing that Russian leaders had built a kind of forbidden contaminated zone around him and his family.

The 11 years the writer endured in a Stalinist labor camp, the suffering he experienced when plagued by cancer in the 1950s, the discipline he demanded for himself as he researched long and tirelessly for his literary materials have combined to give him a shining presence. Governmental vituperation



EIN KAREM, JERUSALEM...ISRAEL DEFENSE MINISTER MOSHE DAYAN VISITS SOLDIERS IN ORTHOPEDIC SURGERY DEPARTMENT AT THE HADASSAH HOSPITAL. DR. GORDON ROBIN, CHIEF PHYSICIAN IN THE DEPT., TELLS GENERAL DAYAN THAT ORTHOPEDIC INJURIES ACCOUNT FOR HALF THE WAR INJURIES.

ennobled him; the plaudits of Russian intellectuals hungry for freedom refreshed his determination.

Although official records are obliged to spell out his excellent record as a fighter in World War II, he was destined to see Russian officialdom berate him as one who glorified German militarism. This was the same Solzhenitsyn who was scorned by some vilifiers who, in their mad rush to downgrade him, asserted that he had Jewish forebears named Solzhenister.

These desperate detractors may have concluded that they wounded the writer most effectively by making him a Jew. If so, they have betrayed and ill served their shabby cause. For surely, Solzhenitsyn is Jewish in spirit; his searing indictment of thought control and prison camps and police state amounts to a charge echoed by Jews everywhere.

(LATE NEWS BRIEF: RUSSIAN POLICE, BROKE DOWN HIS DOOR AND FORCIBLY ARRESTED SOLZHENTITSYN, WITHOUT NAMING THE CHARGES.)

Fantasy

by RABBI SAMUEL SILVER

To know Rabbi Leo Stillpass is to love him. One of the world's sweetest men, Rabbi Stillpass serves Temple Beth or (House of Light) in Raleigh, North Carolina.

If you wanted to paint the picture of an ideal pastor, a leader concerned about the feelings of other people, you would end up with a pattern to which Rabbi Stillpass would conform.

And he could paint the picture himself, for he is a skillful artist.

Recently Rabbi Stillpass had a dream, which he tells about in his bulletin.

In his vision he hears that the Government of the United States is going to issue a decree forbidding the Jews of America to worship except on the days of Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur.

Soon, in the dream, frantic action takes place. The defense agencies phone the rabbis not to worry; they will take up the cudgels in defense of the right to worship. They have done it for Negroes; they'll do it for Jews.

Then comes a flood of protests by outraged and enraged Jews. By Tuesday of that week, the temple mail box is full of requests for seats Friday night. The temple board convenes in a hurry and works out a plan by which those who have been "regulars" on Friday nights will get choice seats; the others will have to be served on a first come basis.

The rabbi's dream ends thus, in his own words: "Shabbat comes. My people are lined up outside on the steps, before the open doors, jostling for a place. And the ushers are offered bribes."

Rabbi Stillpass calls his vision, "I can dream, can't I?" Happy dreaming, Rabbi!

TELL TALES

"One Man Plus The Truth Constitutes A Majority"



BY JACK TELL

(Continued from Page 1) based on justice....

"We did not accept anything the Israelis said and they did not accept what we said, so the United States had to intervene with a proposal. In the past the U.S. called for direct negotiations but submitted no proposals, but Dr. Kissinger dared to do what no other U. S. Secretary of State has dared to do. He produced a U.S. proposal. We then reached a point accepted by both sides. Therefore, my signature is for the United States, and Golda Meir's signature is for the United States."

"We have nothing against the U.S....When the United States adopts a neutral stand, when it takes a just point of view, we have nothing against them."

"I can now sincerely say that the United States has adopted a new policy, that there is a significant---though not total---change."

"The U. S. now says they favor a balance of power in the area. They are pursuing two aims: One dictated by their commitment toward Israel and secondly the safeguarding of peace in the world. I can say of President Nixon's government and of Dr. Kissinger in particular that Kissinger is exerting himself to fulfill the U.S. responsibility as a big power in keeping the peace."

There you have it from both sides. Israel's Knesset approved the agreement 76 to 35.

But Pres. Sadat's task was far more complicated. He visited eight Arab countries refuting charges by radical forces of Egypt acting by itself, compromising Arab demands and abandoning the Palestinians. The above statements quoting Sadat were made during the eight nation tour.

Mrs. Meir said the agreement was signed with the object of advancing towards a permanent peace. She, along with Sadat and Kissinger noted the lines do not constitute a permanent border, but a first step towards peace.

Sadat told newsmen the agreement was the most important achievement attained by the Arabs, reaching a new level of dignity and self-confidence.

Kissinger explained the U. S. position: "In the sense of having a formal obligation to take specific action in case of violation of the agreement, we are not guarantors."

"In the sense that we will be in some way involved if the agreement breaks down, all of recent history in the Middle East indicates that if there is an outbreak in the Middle East, the United States is involved whether or not it has engaged in prior diplomatic activity. It is certain that if there is another conflict, one or both of the parties are going to ask us for diplomatic support---and in that sense it is, of course, true that our judgment as to who violated the agreement will affect the course that we will pursue. But in the legal sense, there is no obligation that the United States has taken to enforce the agreement."

Mrs. Meir was most concerned that the opening of the Suez Canal would mean the repopulation of Egyptian cities along the waterway, the best way to normalize civilian activity in the area, necessary for real peace.

Kissinger admitted the canal opening would be advantageous to Russia but this was outweighed by the contribution it would make to peace in the Mideast.

The next big step will be disengagement between Israel and Syria. Lets keep our fingers crossed on how Kissinger will handle that one.

Meanwhile, let us all take a bow on what our country has accomplished so far.

Addenda: While most of the information in this column was available to all of us in news stories as they happened, we owe a debt of gratitude to a single sheet weekly publication for concise summarization and accurate reporting. It is Near East Report, 1341 G. St. N. W. Washington, D.C., 20005. Subscription \$10 per year. A beautiful weekly reminder of American Policy in Near East, J.T.

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