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Israel is not Vietnam

The fall of South Vietnam to the Viet Cong has brought reports from Israel of fears about its implications for United States commitments to the Jewish State. American foreign policy has suffered a defeat in Vietnam and there is no question that the American people are more leery about committing money and men abroad. But in the nuclear age, the United States even if it wanted to, could not return to a policy of isolation.

Actually, the connection between Vietnam and Israel was chiefly made by Administration spokesmen from the Johnson Administration to the Ford Administration who wanted to convince supporters of aid for Israel that they should also support aid for Vietnam. But some of the leading critics of American Vietnam policy have never accepted this connection. Indeed, the differences are so great that it is difficult to see how any linkage can exist.

Israel and the United States share common religious heritages and political beliefs. Both are democracies. The Israeli people are united in support of their state, and have shown a willingness to defend themselves, two things that were not true in South Vietnam. Indeed, Israel has never wanted American troops to aid her -- in fact Zionist philosophy would almost forbid this -- but only that she receive the arms and supplies she needs to defend herself.

While the American people were deeply divided about Vietnam, they have shown through their representatives in Congress a commitment to the survival of Israel. The State of Israel has had the support of the American people, the Congress and the successive Presidents since its creation.

Perhaps most of all, while there were differences over whether American security depends on what happens in Southeast Asia, no one doubts the vital importance of the Middle East. It is in the interest of the United States to have a strong and viable Israel in the Mideast.

This does not mean that all will be smooth sailing for Israel. The Ford Administration is still exhibiting a coolness toward Israel and through the United States is still expected to provide Israel with economic and military aid, it may not be all that Israel wants.

But this has nothing to do with Vietnam and now that the war is over this Administration may be able to devote more of its time and energies to other areas including the Middle East.

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VIKTOR AND ELENA POLSKY, PROMINENT SOVIET JEWISH ACTIVISTS AND FOUNDERS OF THE SOVIET JEWISH MOVEMENT WHO WERE PERMITTED TO EMIGRATE TO ISRAEL THREE MONTHS AGO AFTER WAITING NEARLY SIX YEARS, ARE GREETED BY JERRY GOODMAN (CENTER), EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON SOVIET JEWRY, AS THEY BEGIN A NATIONWIDE TOUR ON BEHALF OF SOVIET JEWS.

Israeli Flag Hoisted

By David Horowitz

NYMEGEN, The Netherlands (WUP) -- In a 'Madison Square Garden' type hall here in this Dutch city, jammed to the doors by thousands of South Molucans celebrating the 25th anniversary of their proclamation of independence on Friday, April 25, the blue-and-white flag of Israel was hoisted with the accompaniment of the singing of Hatikvah by an Israeli singer via tape.

The flag-raising ceremonies, also included the hoisting of the South Moluccan, the Dutch and the American flags accompanied by the three respective anthems.

Among the Americans invited to the commemoration were Rabbi A. Allen Block, spiritual leader of Brooklyn's Temple Emanu El; P. Latuhihin of St. Louis, and this writer, who was accompanied by his wife, Nan.

The flag-raising was preceded by three invocations: the first by the Rev. A. Saamena, Christian spiritual leader of the South Molucans in Holland numbering some 35,000 people -- representing three million in the Moluccan islands within the Indonesian archipelago -- the second by Rabbi Block, who blessed the audience with the traditional Aaronic Hebrew prayer, and the third by a Moslem spiritual leader who chanted the Islamic traditional prayer. The South Moluccans, as distinct from the Moslem Indonesians, are, in their majority, Christians.

The uniqueness of the historic occasion was the fact that thousands of non-Jews got to know more about Israel and Jewry and the Jewish struggle for independence in a hostile world, thanks to the leadership of H.E. General Izaak J. Tamaela, president of the Republic of the South Moluccas, and his Foreign Minister, H.E. Miss Ch. W. Sahureka, both of whom delivered major speeches on their own struggle to retain their independence from the Indonesians.

This writer, in his address, referred to the early struggle of the Jewish people in their efforts to win their independence and compared it to the current difficult battle of the Moluccas to win theirs from the Indonesians. He expressed the hope, that, as the Jewish people finally won their recognition as a sovereign nation -- both in the diplomatic realm as well as on the battlefield -- the Moluccans also, under the dynamic leadership of General Tamaela, will eventually gain their independence.

At the present time the Republic of the South Moluccas -- comprising major and minor islands in the archipelago previously known as the Spice Islands -- has established a Government - in - Exile in The Netherlands and a Mission in the United States supported by an American Committee composed of leading American figures, including nationally - known rabbis and laymen.

NEW YORK -- At the eighty-first annual Commencement exercises of The Jewish Theological Seminary of America honorary degrees of doctor of letters will be conferred upon Dr. Marver H. Bernstein, president of Brandeis University and Dr. Nathan Rotenstreich, professor of philosophy at the Hebrew University, Jerusalem.

TELL TALES

"One Man Plus The Truth
Constitutes A Majority"

BY JACK TELL



(Continued from Page 1)

energy. Israel was willing, asking in return, a statement of non-aggression. Egypt refused.

Mao Tse-Tung observed, that if among two contesting parties one desires peace and the other war, history will naturally favor the latter.

What could Kissinger and Ford be thinking, with due respect to their superior knowledge of international intrigue, of the honest intentions of the Arab nations towards peace? Is there any doubt in anyone's mind that the U.S. and Israel seek peace? Could Russia, under any circumstances, be satisfied with a democratic state of Israel in an area surrounded by allied Arab nations?

Israel's Ambassador to the U.N. stated that if Israel had yielded to Egypt's demands, it would have opened the Mideast to a process of Vietnamization. "For Israel," he said "there can be only one way, to defend itself, resist, strike back until the Arabs abandon their gruesome designs on Israel's existence."

Sen. Russell Long, chairman of Senate Finance Committee, said the American people would not support U.S. military intervention in the Middle East, even if Israel's security was threatened. "We answer, Israel has never asked for or wanted U.S. military intervention."

B'nai B'rith is urging President Ford to end "puzzlement and concern" over Mideast policy, with a public reaffirmation that America's long-standing relationship with Israel "continues undiminished."

Sen. Alan Cranston said he sees "no signs of any wavering in support for Israel in the U.S. Congress."

Sen. Henry Jackson criticized Kissinger's diplomacy, that, "Negotiated settlements that do not include movement toward a genuine peace, are certain to fail."

Sen. Jacob Javitz said Kissinger's step-by-step efforts should be continued because the differences between Egypt and Israel have already been "significantly narrowed."

Congressman Fortney Stark said, "President Sadat of Egypt told me the hatred of his people for Israel is so great that he doesn't see normalization between Arabs and Jews in this century."

Former Under Secretary of State Eugene Rostow, now a Yale professor, explains where Kissinger went wrong and his mission failed. Rostow contends that under U.N. Resolution 242, the Arabs preferred they were under no obligation to negotiate with Israel. Therefore Rostow maintains, Israel is under no obligation to withdraw until the Arabs have made peace. Also, under the cease fire negotiations, Resolution 338, called for a just and durable peace in the Mideast. "Instead," insists Rostow, "Kissinger tried to push the Israelis out of the Sinai without peace."

Middle East analyst Theodore Draper observed Kissinger turned to the concept of big-power "guarantee" which Israel would not buy.

Ford's "reassessment" is a ploy to get Israel to accept what is unacceptable. This means an increasingly rebellious Congress and a bewildered public, which, according to Harris Poll, supports Israel more solidly than ever.

Jordan's King Hussein warned that the continued refusal by Israel to withdraw from occupied territory might very well lead to another war.

U.S. Emergency Force spokesman Rudolf Stajduhar said Egyptian forces were advancing to new positions in violation of the stand-still Suez front cease-fire.

Tad Szulc, former N.Y. Times foreign correspondent, stated, the massive supply of \$15 to \$20 billion of sophisticated military equipment to Persian Gulf governments has created dangers to world peace. The U.S. is the world's leading arms merchant. Was this policy wise? The first test may be the Mideast, if a new war erupts and Israel bears the brunt of attacks by Arabs armed with weapons made in the U.S.

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