

Quotation Marks Terrorism

By Rabbi Samuel Silver

"How sad it is to see here a group of nations, many of whom have but recently freed themselves of Colonial rule, deriding one of the most noble liberation movements of this century, a movement which not only gave an example of encouragement and determination to the peoples struggling for independence, but also actively aided many of them during the period of preparation for their independence or immediately thereafter..."

"We in Israel have endeavored to create a society which strives to implement the highest ideals of society -- political, social and cultural -- for all the inhabitants of Israel, irrespective of religious belief, race, or sex. Show me another pluralistic society in the world in which two nations live together with such a degree of harmony, in which the dignity and rights of man are observed before the law, in which no death penalty exists, in which freedom of speech, of movement, of thought, of expression are guaranteed, in which even movements which are opposed to our national aims are represented in our Parliament.

"The Arab delegates talk of racism. What has happened to the 800,000 Jews who lived for over 2000 years in Arab lands...? Where are they in Arab society today? You dare talk of racism when I can point with pride to the Arab Ministers who have served in my Government, to the Arab speaker of my Parliament, to the only Beduin freely elected by secret ballot to a Parliament in the world, to Arab officers and men serving of their own volition in our armed forces and our police forces, to the hundreds of thousands of Arab tourists from all over the Middle East crowding the cities of Israel every year, to the thousands of Arabs from all over the Middle East coming for medical treatment at the Hadassah Hospital in Jerusalem. Yes, even to the fact that my delegation to the UN includes an Arab. Is that racism? It is not! That, my friend, is Zionism."

In concluding his address -- containing facts which your correspondent had long hoped would be presented to this world body -- Herzog cited the following passage taken from Yigal Allon's recent speech before the Assembly: "On this 30th Anniversary of the liberation of the survivors of the gas chambers and concentration camps, the Jewish people will not tolerate a revival of the cancer of anti-Semitism."

The Christian Century, published in Chicago, is one of the most prestigious religious journals in our nation.

An interdenominational journal, the Century is deeply concerned with spiritual values.

Yet, when the editor of this periodical, refers to the terrorism of the PLO he puts the word in quotation marks.

James Wall, the learned editor, has visited Israel. He returned to give an analytical picture of what he saw.

He saw many laudable things in Israel; he also found many faults. But he came back convinced that the Jews and Arabs represent diametrically opposite positions.

Mr. Wall is wrong, of course. The Arabs and the Jews get along nicely when their relationship is not disturbed by the Arab leaders who don't want Israeli-like democracy, good pay, human equality and good education to upset their dictatorial regimes.

In a tearful piece in the August 6-13 issue of the Century, Mr. Wall tells about the deportation of Dr. Hanna Nasir, president of Bir Zeit college in the West Bank of Jerusalem into Jordan. Dr. Nasir was in this country, lecturing about his removal by Israeli authorities. In discussing the question of whether Dr. Nasir was sympathetic to the PLO, Mr. Wall put the word, terrorism, in question marks.

In other words, the editor of this religious magazine doubts whether the brutal murder of innocent children and the macabre boasting about these killings really constitutes terrorism.

And Mr. Wall gives the impression that poor Dr. Nasir was booted out of the West Bank because of one act of violence by his students.

The Embassy of Israel has notified me otherwise. They report that the students on a number of occasions acted violently, and took part in the "stoning of security forces." The school was once shut and then reopened but the acts of horror were repeated, apparently with Dr. Nasir's complicity and then the deportation took place.

Will Mr. Wall print the Israeli side of this dispute? One wonders.

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The Ford Administration's efforts to rule by the veto will cost Nevada Consumers hundreds of dollars a year, according to Sen. Howard Cannon.

Tony Orlando, recording and television star, will be named Honorary Chairman for the National Association for Retarded Citizens at their 26th annual convention at the Sahara Hotel.

How traditionally Democrat voter groups can be attracted to the Republican Party will be the subject of a two-day statewide Republican meeting to be held at Harrah's Convention Center in Reno, October 24-25.

The Voluntary Action Center of Greater Las Vegas (VAC) places interested persons in agencies that need volunteer help to keep going. It also operates a complete Information & Referral Program for persons who have a problem and don't know where to go for help. 382-5260.



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