

DAVID HOROWITZ
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major parties to the Mideast dispute, is endeavoring to find some way of impressing Israel of the importance of her presence. Call it what you will -- pressure or mere appeal -- it is generally known that Henry Kissinger has urged Israel not to boycott the meeting. He knows -- as do all the other Council members -- that a Council meeting on the Middle East without the participation of Israel will prove meaningless.

But Mr. Kissinger must also know fully well that even with Israel's participation in a hostile Security Council that has granted a seat to Yasir Arafat's spokesman no meaningful conclusion can be reached other than another condemnation of the Jewish State in a debate certain to be fraught with recriminations and abusive dialogue.

Mr. Kissinger is also aware of the fact that the Security Council, in its resolution 242 (22 November 1967) and 338 (22 October 1973), had already laid down the basic ground - rules for an over-all settlement of the Middle East and that it can only be on the basis of these resolutions that progress through negotiations can be achieved. Israel and the Arab states directly concerned -- Egypt, Jordan and Syria (the latter at a later date) -- accepted these resolutions and, as the world already knows, some considerable progress has been made in the Sinai, progress attained through negotiations between Egypt and Israel.

The PLO murderers have rejected resolutions 242 and 338 for the very reason that these resolutions deal with Israel as a sovereign state to exist "within secure and recognized borders."

Mr. Kissinger is not ignorant of the PLO position, hence he and his aides, in their efforts to get Israel to attend the January 12 Council meeting, have embarked upon a campaign among the Arab leaders and others to have Yasir Arafat make a pronouncement to the effect that he and his PLO recognize Israel's right to exist. (Of course should Arafat have a "change of heart" and make such a pronouncement -- which this writer doubts -- it could only be taken with a grain of salt).

That there is a Palestinian question goes without saying. The Israeli leaders have always been aware of this fact and they stand ready to deal with it on an equitable basis with the legitimate Palestinians of the West Bank in some possible relationship with King Hussein's Jordan. The PLO guerrillas do not represent these Palestinians.

The Israeli stand is known to Kissinger who, with the break of 1976, was faced with some severe criticism in Washington as to the rumors of a possible shift in U.S. policy toward the recognition of the PLO. There were Congressional proddings on this question as far back as November 19 when Senator Humphrey's State Department statement related to the Palestinian issue, a statement that created quite a stir in Israel and which had originally been delivered to a unit of the House International Relations Committee by a Deputy Assistant Secretary of the State Department.

Discounting the importance of the statement, Kissinger replied at the time: "I have stated innumerable times our position on the Palestine question. The U.S. will not deal with the PLO, will not consider dealing with the PLO until the PLO accepts the existence of the State of Israel and Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338. That has been our position, remains our position..."

If this, in truth, will remain the American policy, then Israel can rest at peace and the U.S. should not be upset if Prime Minister Rabin will refuse to have his delegation participate in the PLO-inspired Security Council session opening here on January 12. In fact, Washington ought to join Israel in boycotting the session.

WASHINGTON DATELINE

BY TRUDE B. FELDMAN
ISRAELITE'S WHITE HOUSE CORRESPONDENT

We Are One

NEW YORK, N.Y. -- In an inspiring moment at the United Jewish Appeal National Conference Dinner, Rabbi Hillel E. Silverman set the tone for the theme of the 1976 conclave: "WE ARE ONE."

After chanting the 'Havdalah' services in the newly decorated grand ballroom of the New York Hilton Hotel at Rockefeller Center, he moved the 2,000 people present to rise, as the room was darkened, and sway in unison. The large assemblage did so to the strains of 'Eliyahu Hanaviv,' (Elijah, The Prophet) a traditional part of the 'Havdalah' ceremony.

Rabbi Silverman, of Los Angeles' Temple Sinai and Chairman, UJA Rabbinical Advisory Council, explained that this was an appropriate expression to "demonstrate our solidarity" in times of stress.

Later in the program, Rabbi Silverman was presented with a unique plaque -- inscribed: "Dedicated humanitarian, rabbi and scholar -- in gratitude for his selfless dedication to UJA -- and his outstanding service as chairman of the Rabbinical Advisory Council."

Shimon Peres, Israeli Minister of Defense, was the main speaker at the banquet. He said that Israel will have to face even harder trials than before; that he foresees a period of difficult, prolonged struggle, a struggle which will include disappointments and will demand sacrifices.

"But I know that in our hearts, despite all doubts and complaints, we are prepared and capable to withstand this struggle, overcome it, and emerge from it stronger than ever," Peres stated. "Our sovereignty has been militarily assailed four times within a quarter of a century."

He added that the Arab world has the money and resources of supply to acquire more weapons -- modern and plentiful. "Since the Yom Kippur War, ten Arab states have signed arms deals amounting to 10 billion dollars; half from the West and half from the East. This force, numerically speaking, is larger than the NATO force. While we shouldn't underestimate this force, we can and shall repulse it."

Peres said that the Yom Kippur War taught Israel to appreciate the value of early warning. "We mobilize every able bodied man -- more than half a million -- in the regular army and the reserves," he explained. "These men undergo rigorous training, and aside from the high taxes they pay, they serve 90 days a year in their reserve units. David didn't vanquish Goliath because he was smaller, but because he was better trained and because his motivation was self-defense not glory. I believe this is the best organized reserve army existing today -- highly motivated and based upon a cadre of experienced, courageous and wise commanders."

Why should the U.S. assist Israel militarily? Peres answers his own question: "Can freedom prevail in our world, in the face of the Soviet menace without American involvement? Can the U.S. maintain its posture and its policy without a free world? Neglect or disregard for one free country means the neglect of freedom at large. On the face of it, one may claim that without Israel, the U.S. would have fewer problems. But without Israel, the Mideast and the

Persian Gulf would already have become a Soviet arena, and the free world would lose, by being excluded from the area, and by the area become a card in the Soviet deck. "Egypt would not have turned to the U.S. without hoping to free itself from the Soviet auspices; to open an avenue towards peace, and obtain territory from Israel."

Peres went on to say that these relations do impose burdens on both sides. "For us, because of our dependence on U.S. assistance, and for the U.S. because it has to deal with an independent and sometimes conflicting judgment. Yet a democracy based on international solidarity and national independence is preferable to discipline and obedience in a dictatorial bloc, where solidarity is replaced by commands, and independence by the secret police."

He added that a militarily strong Israel will be an Israel that will negotiate until a peace settlement is achieved and a politically weak Israel will be an Israel that will fight until a complete victory is achieved. "It is not arms that will dictate our policy," he emphasized. "But strength encourages negotiations; lack of strength may lead to belligerency."

The Israeli Defense Minister also said that when the Arabs are ready for a decent compromise, Israel may offer two fundamental options: (1) An agreement in the European style -- between Israel and Jordan -- which will enable the Palestinian people to retain their identity without cutting the land into impossible pieces. (2) A federation in which every citizen will enjoy equal rights and every people will enjoy the right to be different; to worship its Lord, maintain its way of life, speak its own language, and have contact with its brethren -- the Jews with the Jewish world, the Arabs with the Arab world -- without threat or fear.

"We shall wait for such an opportunity, and until then, we must be ready to face pressures from friends and threats from enemies," he concluded. "Yet, we won't stop the attempt to search for an understanding with any Arab state ready to move towards peace with us, be it Egypt today or Syria tomorrow."


"Let's not forget that in struggle and war, in building and growth, in meeting anew and in ingathering exiles, the supreme hope motivating us is to continue the spiritual Jewish tradition, to maintain political self-reliance, and to foster a Jewish personality faithful to the Prophetic vision, contributing to the betterment of the future of humanity."

Frank R. Lautenberg, General Chairman, UJA, announced that the 1977 Conference will be held in Israel.

"Nothing could be more effective, and dramatic, than to have our campaign inauguration for 1977 held in the Jewish homeland," he stated. "We live with the certainty that we are not as dust in the wind. That there is something precious about being Jewish. That there is a sense of continuity with the generations."

"Today, Jewish life is inseparable from the fate of Israel, but many of us still think in parochial terms. Our federations and communities have never been stronger or more united. But leadership must lead. And it is the responsibility of leadership to constantly remind the community that fund-raising pays not only to meet our responsibility in Israel, but is the basis for keeping our communities strong."

After the banquet, Lautenberg -- who was elected Chairman for another term -- hosted a reception in the duplex East Penthouse atop the New York Hilton.

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