

U.S. VOTE AT UN CONSIDERED "A DEPLORABLE RETREAT"

"A deplorable retreat."

This was the description by the American Jewish Congress of the U.S. vote in support of the United Nations Security Council statement last week condemning the establishment of Israeli settlements in the West Bank territories.

Rabbi Arthur Hertzberg, president of the Congress, noted that the United States had vetoed an "almost identical" Security Council resolution last March.

"The minute changes in wording" between the resolution vetoed by the U.S. last March and the one approved yesterday, Rabbi Hertzberg said, "do not diminish the attack or disguise the intention of the U.N. to represent Israel as totally blameworthy and culpable."

"The decision of the United States to join in a predictable U.N. consensus attacking Israel is a deplorable retreat from the position taken by our government last March."

Rabbi Hertzberg challenged language in the U.N. statement assailing "measures taken by Israel in the occupied Arab territories...and particularly the establishment of settlements."

The American Jewish Congress leader commented: "There is no principle of international law that prohibits the administering authority from making economic use of the land in its control or from promoting its economic development for the benefit of the people who reside upon it -- as long as the essential demographic and geographic character of the land is preserved. This principle Israel has scrupulously

observed.

"Since the end of the 1967 war, there has been a total of some 43 authorized settlements with a combined population of little more than 4,500 Israelis, representing 0.4 per cent of the total population of the administered areas.

"During the same period, the number of Arabs in the area has increased by more than 127,000 -- including 50,000 Arabs permitted by Israel to return to the territory as permanent residents under a family reunion program."

Rabbi Hertzberg continued: "The way to prevent further economic development of this land by Israel is to negotiate a permanent peace. Israel stands ready. Where are those who accept its legitimacy as a state and with whom it can deal?"

"Our government understood all this perfectly well until now. We are deeply distressed that somehow, inexplicably, it apparently no longer does so.

"We are confident, however, that America's position at the U.S. was a passing aberration and that our country's traditional sense of justice and fair play in approaching the complex issues of the Middle East will quickly reassert itself."

NEW YORK -- The opening of the fastest-paced campaign in American Jewish fundraising history will climax on Thursday, December 9, when Israeli Defense Minister Shimon Peres addresses the 1977 UJA Leadership Dinner, at the N. Y. Hilton.



REP. DANTE FASCELL, D-FLA., CENTER, DISCUSSES THE NEWLY FORMED CONGRESSIONAL COMMISSION ON SECURITY AND COOPERATION IN EUROPE, WITH NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON SOVIET JEWRY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR JERRY GOODMAN, LEFT, AND EUGENE GOLD, CHAIRMAN. FASCELL POINTED OUT AT THE NCSJ BOARD OF GOVERNORS MEETING HELD IN NEW YORK THAT THE HELSINKI FINAL ACT IS A "TRAFFIC CODE FOR THE POT-HOLED HIGHWAY OF DETENTE."

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