

THE TYRANNY OVER WORDS

It was just over three years ago that the U.N. chose to have the word "Zionism" mean "racism."

It was Leonard Garment, speaking for the United States who said that "Under the guise of a program to eliminate racism, the United Nations is...officially endorsing anti-Semitism, one of the oldest and most virulent forms of racism known to human history," and labelled it "an obscene act."

Unfortunately, the obscenity did not stop with the re-definition of Zionism. It included the establishment of a "Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People," which the committee itself chooses to mean an instrument to undermine the very existence of the State of Israel and deny its legitimacy.

It is not necessary to review the history of U.N. discrimination against Israel, or of the role played by the Palestine Liberation Organization in the deliberations and decisions of both the committee and of the General Assembly itself, even to the establishment of the anniversary of the U.N. vote for partition -- and hence for a Jewish (and an Arab) state -- as the first annual Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People -- a day of mourning over the establishment of the Jewish State!

The PLO has become a political fixture within the U.N., given the right to participate in all General Assembly deliberations. Most recently, it was agreed that on aid to the Palestinians, the United Nations Development Program would be required to "consult and cooperate" with the PLO.

The Assembly also agreed to expand a UN staff unit that was given a budget of \$400,000 last year for a public relations campaign promoting the cause of the Palestinians, and also extended the life of the committee that provides one of the best forums for the PLO. The cost

for both activities, according to one observer, approached one million dollars.

Officially, the United States remains opposed to any dealings with the PLO until it accepts Israel's right to exist. However, there are indications aplenty that the State Department seems more open to consideration of new strategies that could lead to talks with the PLO -- at the obvious expense of Israel.

All of which -- and much more, such as the swing towards a more pro - Egyptian and less pro - Israel stance of the American public, as witnessed by the latest Harris Poll -- leads me to suggest that it is time for Israel's Christian friends to realign themselves publicly with Zionism. I am suggesting, in fact, that the old "American Christian Palestine Committee" be rejuvenated -- not to take a stand on the Israel-Egypt negotiations, but to counter the evil statements and positions on Zionism -- to counter attacks in which the enemies of Israel force words to mean just what they choose them to mean, with no rebuttal from Israel's friends.

The American Christian Palestine Committee meant Christian Zionists, and included a long list of distinguished Americans. On the political scene they included Senators William H. King of Utah, Charles McNary of Oregon, Robert F. Wagner of New York and Robert A. Taft of Ohio, and grew to include more than two - thirds of the Senate and hundreds of members of the House of Representatives. Supporters among leading Christian clergymen were John Haynes Holmes, Reinhold Neibuhr, S. Ralph Harlow, Daniel A. Pelling, Paul Tillich and Carl Hermann Voss, and among the many other leaders in public life were William F. Albright of Johns Hopkins University, commentator Raymond Gram Swing, soil expert Walter Clay Lowdermilk, Columnist Edgar Answl Mowrer and essayist and critic Meinford -- over 15,000 in its heyday.

Since the ACPC ceased operations there has been a vacuum on the American scene. From

time to time ad hoc groups of Christian friends react to the more heinous attacks on Zionism, but with the Zionism - means - racism resolution on the books of the U.N., serving as a focal point for anti - Zionist, anti - Semitic activity, more is needed than an occasional letter - to - the editor from a few friends. As the late Justice Louis D. Brandeis said then, "It is time for every Christian Zionist to stand up and be counted."

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