

NO ACTION ON SELF DETERMINATION

UNITED NATIONS (WNS) -- The Security Council adjourned recently with acting on an Arab-sponsored resolution calling for "self-determination, national independence and sovereignty" for Palestinian Arabs. The failure to act was seen as unwillingness by Black African and Arab members to embarrass Andrew Young, who in his last meeting as the United States Ambassador to the United Nations, would have been forced to veto the resolution. Young resigned as Ambassador under pressure following the disclosure that he held an unauthorized meeting with Zehdi Lahib Terzi, the Palestine Liberation Organization observer at the UN, at the home of the Kuwaiti Ambassador to the UN, Abdalla Yaccoub Bishara.

Bishara told the Council that "we cannot imagine Ambassador Young being blemished with a veto. We agreed to postpone the vote out of deference to him. My only concern was the enhancement of the status of Ambassador Young." But observers do not believe that this was the real reason. Speculation ranged from an Arab desire for a stronger resolution calling for a Palestinian state to a belief that they felt the U.S. had been embarrassed enough. Young, who was also serving as president of the Council,

ended the session with a valedictory speech in which he repeated his assertion that it was "ridiculous" for the U.S. not to speak to the PLO. "It's also ridiculous for many of you around this table not to have good relations with the State of Israel," he added. He said the "violence of the Arab world has failed to destroy Israel and the attempt to destroy Israel has cost greatly the moral basis of the existence of the Palestinian people. And yet, Israel also now is rapidly spending its moral capital, wasting it, in pursuit of violence and destruction in Lebanon." Yehuda Blum, Israel's Ambassador to the UN, said later that Young's criticism of Israel was "totally uncalled for. He was not only being openly factually incorrect but he was also morally misguided."

In an appearance on CBS-TV's "Face the Nation", Robert Strauss, President Carter's special ambassador for Middle East talks defended the policy of not talking to the PLO. The U.S. "just can't talk with people who refuse to accept the existence of other people." He said the U.S. would speak to the PLO once that organization accepts Israel's right to exist and Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338. This po-

licy was criticized by former Undersecretary of State George Ball who said the U.S. should "liberate" itself from the promise to Israel not to talk to the PLO.

Writing in the Washington Post Aug. 24, Ball said that the U.S. should offer the PLO "self-determination" in return for the PLO's "renunciation" of its objective of destroying Israel. "Once that initial obstruction was cleared away, Israel would have no basis for refusing to join negotiations to work out the appropriate modalities and safeguards," he said. But Strauss, in his CBS interview, said that while the U.S. cannot talk to the PLO it can talk to moderate Palestinians.

He said the U.S. wants to bring Palestinians into the peace process. Strauss also rejected claims that the Carter Administration's Middle East policy was in "disarray."

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ON FILM IS DISTORTED

UNITED NATIONS (WNS) -- Israel has called the controversial United Nations-produced film on the Palestine Liberation Organization "distorted." The film, "The Palestinians Do Have Human Rights" also failed to win rave reviews from Arabs when it was previewed for reporters and diplomats.

"It is a one-sided film which distorts the basic facts of the Arab-Israeli conflict," Nachman Shai, the Israeli spokesman at the UN said. "The film tries very hard to appear objective and even-handed, but everybody who is familiar with the facts can tell it is only a PLO propaganda piece."

Lebanese Ambassador Ghassam Tuani said the film was "disappointing" because he said it did not underline that the Palestinian problem started with the beginning of Zionism not the establishment of the State of Israel. PLO representative Hassan Abdel Rahman called it "bland."

The 55-minute, \$80,000 film was produced at the request

of the 23-member Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinians.

ISRAEL MAY DELAY RETURN OF OIL FIELDS

TEL AVIV (WNS) -- Energy Minister Yitzhak Modai warned that Israel may have to delay the return of the Alma oilfields in Sinai to Egypt until an agreement is reached between the two countries on how much oil and for what price Egypt will sell it to Israel. Modai made his statement after returning from

Egypt. he said the gap between Israel and Egypt on the amount and price of oil is still very wide.

He expressed hope that the issue will be settled when Premier Menachem Begin meets Egyptian President Anwar Sadat in Haifa. Israel wants Egypt to sell it two million of tons annually, about the same amount Israel now pumps from the oil wells.

But, Mosai said the Egyptians only agree to sell Israel 1.5 million tons. Israel would be required to participate in international bidding for the additional oil.

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