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Middle East Memo

(ED. NOTE: The following statement by Theodore R. Mann, Chairman of the Conference of Presidents, was published as a letter in the New York Times of Thursday, February 21)

The world has become a much more dangerous place in recent months. Especially is this so in the Middle East, and most especially for Israelis, who live in the very eye of a hurricane of human hatred.

In the midst of all this turmoil, the Administration warns of "serious and far-reaching consequences" resulting from an Israeli Cabinet decision to support in principle the right of Jews to live in any neighborhood in Hebron. The Times (editorial, Feb. 13) weighs in with its own verdict: "creeping annexation."

"Annexationist" Israel is giving up every square inch of the Sinai - settlements, oil wells, air bases, defensive lines, everything -- because President Sadat genuinely seeks peace. But Israel continues to send settlers to the West Bank and remains prepared for war and on guard against terrorism because King Hussein refuses to talk peace and the PLO refuses to abandon its vow to destroy Israel.

America has much to learn from Israel about maintaining national defenses with consistency and avoiding wishful thinking about adversaries. After cutting our defense budget and then calling for more military spending, underreacting and then overreacting to Soviet moves, the Administration appears to understand at last that no matter how much we may wish otherwise the Russians have not changed; only our view of them has. Let us now urge upon Israel our own national habit of wishful thinking. The PLO has not changed; only the view of it has.

Israel has emulated the best in America -- our democratic values. Isn't that enough? Must she emulate our follies too?

In Teheran PLO terrorists capture the Israeli embassy - prudently evacuated by the Israelis -- and when the world pays no heed the stage is set for the seizure of the American embassy. Mobs incited by the fanatic Khomeini attack our President -- "Death to Carter!" -- and the Ayatollah joins with Arafat in pledging an Iranian - PLO march on Jerusalem. Soviet troops pour into Afghanistan, and presumably to divert attention from what President Carter has called the greatest threats to peace since the end of World War II, Soviet Foreign Minister Gromyko visits Syria, which thereupon announces a redeployment of its military forces; the rumbling from Israel's north grows more ominous.

TEL AVIV (WNS) -- Joseph Ma'ayan, director general of the Defense Ministry has gone to Washington to discuss with U.S. officials production of the next generation of the Israeli-made combat aircraft to replace Kfir jet interceptor.



Behind The Scenes

At The United Nations

By DAVID HOROWITZ

A World-Union Press Feature

USSR Uses PLO

UNITED NATIONS (WUP) -- "Just as in 1929 the Soviet Union collaborated with the Nazis, who vainly sought to destroy the Jewish people, so today it uses its proxy the terrorist PLO, which is bent on destroying the Jewish State of Israel."

With these scathing words, contained in a lengthy speech delivered here last week in rebuttal to charges brought to the Security Council by Jordan and Morocco to the effect that "Israel was usurping Arab territories" in the administered areas, Israel's dynamic Spokesman here, Ambassador Yehuda Z. Blum, told the world to what lengths the Soviets have gone in abetting the enemies of the Jewish state.

"The Soviet Union is giving the PLO terrorists its fullest backing, both militarily and politically," he declared. "The evidence is overwhelming. Let me just give this Council a few examples. On 17 September 1979, the New York Post revealed that 'as many as 1,000 Palestinians have undergone indoctrination and training in either Russian military or KGB camps....The Russians supply the money, weapons, training, communications and propaganda....'

"In a documentary film entitled 'The Russian Connection,' screened recently, a PLO defector stated that 'the PLO is no longer a revolutionary organization, but a terrorist group manipulated by the Russians for their own purposes.'"

At the outset of his address, Prof. Blum put it on the record that this latest debate, during which all the radical Arabs along with their 'friends' in the so-called non-aligned group speedily jumped on the Jordanian - Moroccan bandwagon, was essentially a diversionary exercise calculated to frustrate the on-going peace process. It was obvious, he noted, that there was a convergence of interests between the 'rejectionist' States in the Arab camp and the Soviet Union, which sought to divert attention from its continuing aggression against and the occupation of Afghanistan, and all that that aggression signified.

Having thus opposed Soviet duplicity, in all its sinister aspects, Prof. Blum made it plain to the fifteen 'judges' he was addressing that "the fundamental defect in the Council debates on the Israel - Arab conflict was that they consciously and consistently ignored the threat to Israel's security posed by Arab hostility and belligerency. The present debate," he said, "is entitled 'The Situation in the occupied Arab territories.' The very formulation of the agenda item under consideration is intended to imply that the territories in question are nothing but Arab. This in itself already reflects a biased and slanted approach.

The die is cast! Reborn Israel is established in her ancient land, and, as the Prophets decreed, no power on earth can reverse the eternal promises made to the children of Israel respecting Zion, Judea, Samaria and all the Land as per Ezekiel's blueprint.

"The inseparable bond between the Jewish people and its homeland Eretz Yisrael is an integral part of world history, inextricably entwined in the cultural heritage of mankind," Yehuda Blum told the Security Council. "The right of the Jewish people to its land was recognized as a matter of course by the League of Nations and enshrined in its Mandate for Palestine...."

I Remember Sadie

BY RABBI MARC H. TANENBAUM

When the Biblical Matriarch, Sarah, founding mother of the Jewish people, died at the ripe age of 127 years, the great Biblical commentator, Rashi, said that "all her years were equal in goodness."

How could that be, considering the fact that Sarah suffered hunger, kidnapping by Pharaoh, was childless for 90 years, and saw her only son Isaac almost sacrificed? The rabbis answered that Sarah, the most righteous of women, accepted every hardship she experienced with love and the optimistic words, "Gam zu letovah - this is also for the good." That is why all her years were considered good.

Mother Sarah was a special consolation to my family as we struggled to find meaning in the death of our mother, Sadie Tanenbaum, Feb. 28. She was born 80 years ago in a Ukrainian shtetl, grew up in the midst of Russian poverty and pogroms. At age 15, she risked crossing the oceans in search of a better, freer life in Golden America.

Together with my father, she struggled through the Depression years, sustaining her family by incredible hard work in a ma - and - pa store in Baltimore. Like most wonderful mothers of that immigrant generation, she was impassioned about her duties -- to her husband, to her children's health and education, to her orthodox Judaism and to other people in need. Despite all the economic hardships, Mom found exuberant joy in living. She loved to sing in Russian and Yiddish, recite poetry, and cook constantly for her family. Like Matriarch Sarah, she was a spectacular woman of faith and hope, and the Tanenbaum family will never be the same without her.

MEXICO CITY (WNS) -- Former U.S. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger told a press conference here that Israel is justified in opposing a Palestinian state since such a state would become a Soviet military base. Kissinger was a special guest at a luncheon for Max Shein, an industrialist and philanthropist, given by the Mexican, United States and Canadian branches of the Friends of the Haifa Technion.



HENNY YOUNGMAN

...Man Of Many Talents

MAN TAKES HIS BOSS HOME FOR DINNER. A WOMAN LETS THEM IN. BOSS SAYS, "IS THAT YOUR WIFE?" HE SAYS, "WOULD I MARRY A MAID THAT UGLY?"