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Hostages in Iran

BY RABBI MARC H. TANENBAUM

The aborted "Blue Light" strike to release the 50 American hostages from their captivity by fanatic Iranian kidnapers has stirred the deepest emotions of the American people, and indeed of peoples throughout the world.

Cynics now refer to that tragic episode as the Bay of Peanuts and the bungling of the Keystone Cops. That satiric view reflects the dismay of many who wonder how the most technologically advanced nation in the world could blunder so fatally in such a critical undertaking? Others speculate whether we are not now paying the tragic price for a foreign policy that has substituted moralism and passivity for military strength which is essential for survival in a dangerous world threatened by Soviet expansionism and religious fanaticism.

While sadly regretting this blunder, most Americans will regroup and reunite around the primary moral goal of redeeming the hostages. For the kidnapping of the American diplomats is not only a fundamental violation of all international law, it is the deepest offense against basic religious and moral principles. The Bible (Exodus 21:16) regards such abduction - man-stealing, the theft of human beings, for whatever reasons as a capital offense, deserving of capital punishment. The Talmudic Rabbis characterized captivity in foreign lands as worse than death or famine, and taught that the ransoming of captives was the most sacred duty a person could fulfill, taking precedence over all other forms of benevolence or charity. Even Sacred Torah scrolls were to be sold to raise the necessary funds to redeem hostages.

The Iranian Government somehow needs to learn that Americans feel that deeply about the sanctity of the lives of the hostages, and that we will not rest as a people until they are redeemed from their unholy and cruel bondage.

Behind The Scenes

At The United Nations

By DAVID HOROWITZ
A World-Union Press Feature

Blum Blasts UN

UNITED NATIONS (WUP) -- This past month of April will go down in history as a period in which the U.S. not only failed in its rescue mission in Iran, resulting in the resignation of Secretary of State Cyrus Vance, but also as a time during which President Carter's Ambassador here at the UN took the occasion, prior to the news about Vance, to abstain on an anti - Israeli, anti - Major Haddad resolution in the Security Council and, a week later, the day of the appointment of Senator Edmund S. Muskie, to veto a pro - PLO draft on "Palestinian rights" which twice mentioned "including Jerusalem" and which completely ignored Resolutions 242 and 338.

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Ambassador McHenry, by dint of his own words in explaining his abstention on the first resolution -- in the vote of which, ironically, he was joined for opposite reasons, by the Soviet Union and East Germany -- had all the reasons in the world to invoke the veto. For in his statement he strongly condemned the PLO terrorist infiltrations into the UNIFIL areas, noting that southern Lebanon "should not remain a staging base for attacks across the Lebanese - Israeli borders against innocent civilians in northern Israel." He made mention of the murderous attack on Misgav Am "where the babies were held hostage, harmed and killed... In this situation," he admitted, "the U.S. regards this draft resolution as an unbalanced and inadequate response to the problem."

Yet McHenry did not oppose it. There was no veto.

Interestingly, all through the debates on this pro - Arab resolution -- mustering 12 votes in favor, none against with the three abstentions -- the U.S. member of the Council stood out as the single voice among the fifteen delegates citing the root cause of the trouble in Lebanon. As far as the Council was concerned, the PLO appeared to be exonerated, and the only culprits were Major Haddad's Christian Lebanese Forces and the Israelis.

While the host of Arabs and their many pro - PLO friends vented their venomous attacks at the Jewish State and Major Haddad's Forces all through the April Sessions, one voice only resounded powerfully for truth and justice in Jeremiad indignation within the PLO-infected Chamber. That was the voice of Professor Yehuda Z. Blum. "The deliberations of this Council on the matter before us, as well as the resolution just adopted by the Council," he declared, "have again been marked by a striking lack of balance and also by a selective conscience."

"Some awareness, it is true," Blum continued in a tone calm but firm, "was shown of the background to the limited Israeli action inside Lebanon following the outrage at Kubbutz Misgav Am on 7 April 1980 and based on information that the PLO was planning to launch similar attacks on civilian targets in Israel. But, generally speaking, even that display of awareness was little more than a prelude to criticism of Israel, as if the outrage at Misgav Am was an isolated event and not part of a terrorist campaign which has been going on for many years and has continued since the establishment of the UN Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) in March 1978. Thus," he told the Council, "the Misgav Am outrage is not even mentioned in the resolution."

Taking note of the fact of the UN's disinclination to point a finger at the PLO's role in interfering with the UN units in Lebanon, the eloquent Israeli spokesman went on to say that, as everyone knows, "the vast majority of the casualties sustained by UNIFIL in the line of duty have been caused, directly or indirectly, by the terrorist PLO."

TELL TALES

"One Man Plus The Truth
Constitutes A Majority"

(Continued from Page 1)

where on high. Articulate words spiced with his infectious smile.

Now resting for all eternity beside his father, Charles, for whom Joe chanted Kaddish for 27 years.

He was everyone's Uncle Joe -- even if he wasn't technically your uncle. A "goota nashuma" who now has found ever - lasting tranquility.

So many happy memories of Joe: in his North Bergen, N.J. law office; devoted to his mother Bessie, wading in the ocean, visiting Sy in Florida or Bea in Las Vegas; reciting poetry; dressed in a vested suit with felt - ribboned hat; and always his inimitable style which will never be duplicated.

He'll be missed. He enriched our lives and he so loved his family.

In the Wizard of Oz, Frank Morgan (The Wizard) said "You are not judged by how much you love, but how much you are loved by others."

Uncle Joe was truly loved.

At this juncture, Yehuda Blum challenged the world organization and put this sharp question before the fifteen members of the Council: "When, may I ask, was the Security Council ever convened for the purpose of condemning these and all the other killings of UNIFIL's men by the PLO?"

The stunned delegates had no answer.

Prof. Blum then reminded the Council that, according to its mandate, UNIFIL was to be deployed in the 'Tyre pocket' but that the PLO prevented its entry into Tyre by force.

Having cited facts and figures related to the unending violations of Arafat's gang of thugs, the valiant defender of Israel here at the UN summed up the situation thus:

"The common denominator in all this selectivity is an unwillingness on the part of the Council, the Secretariat and UNIFIL even to criticize the PLO, let alone take effective steps against it."

JERUSALEM (WNS) -- An Arab youth was killed in the northern Samaria village of Anabta in a clash with Israeli army officers. The youth, Najah Ahmad Abu Ulaya, 17, was killed when he and two other youths attacked a group of military officers who had come into the village to restore order at the local school.

NEW YORK (WNS) -- Frantic efforts are reportedly being made by the family of an Iranian Jew who was sentenced to death in the city of Hamadan west of Teheran.



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