

Down From Olympic Heights

BY ROBERT E. SEGAL

About to drown in a sea of controversy over the 1980 Moscow Olympics, those of us who oppose American participation surely are entitled to come up with new suggestions occasionally.

In that spirit, it is here proposed that the U.S. continue to pursue a firm course of non-participation as posthumous tribute to Jesse Owens.

The incomparable and fleet Jesse, who pulverized Hitler's boasts of Aryan supremacy, was himself of two minds about the 1936 Berlin Olympics which brought him four gold medals. Recalling his day of triumph, he wrote: "When I passed the Chancellor, he arose, waved his hand at me and I waved back. I think the writers showed bad taste in criticizing the man of the hour in Germany." But in his book, "Black-think: My Life As Black Man and White Man," the late superb black athlete wrote: "I was competing in the Olympics against Luz Long, Hitler's prize broad jumper, and really, against Hitler himself." The great broad jumper had to wait until dark to make his leap in Berlin; and he added: "There was only one face I could make out, and that was because it wasn't a face but a kind of glowing skeleton. It was Hitler. He was leering at me, that same leer I've seen so many times in my life, that half-smile that says people know something you don't know...something dirty."

Some who never knew or, if knowing, choose to foreget, how Hitler covered up his passion for genocide during the Olympic games, need to be reminded that all those brutal "Juden unerwünscht" ("Jews Not Welcome") signs

were hauled down from the beer gardens and shops when the world's outstanding athletes came to Berlin and gave the Hitler machine one of its most striking propaganda coups.

One who needs a refresher on the facts is Robert J. Kane, president of the U.S. Olympic Committee, who, when asked in a recent House Foreign Affairs Committee whether he would have participated in the Hitler Olympics, replied that American participation in the Berlin games of 44 years ago "did not constitute a Nazi victory as has been suggested by those who have rewritten history." Come! Come! Such outstanding athlete - statesmen as Senator Bill Bradley of New Jersey and Congressman Jack Kemp of New York, cognizant of the devious use Hitler made of his Olympic show, warned the modern American Olympians to shun the Russian Trap. They are doing good work.

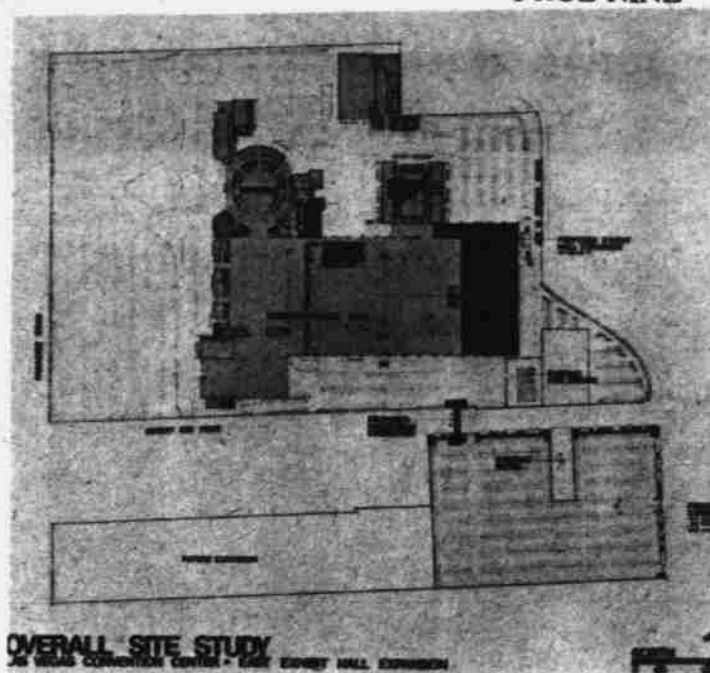
Racial and religious injustice has all too often shrouded the Olympic games in disgrace. This is a persistent blemish. Add to such waywardness the misuse of giving to a nation, rooted in autarchy, the boon of boosting its perverse governmental establishment by hosting the Olympics: and the cup overflows.

TOURISTS JUMP IN ISRAEL

NEW YORK, N.Y. -- Americans visited Israel in record numbers during the first quarter of 1980, an impressive ten per cent increase over the same period of 1979. Last year 300,000 American tourists, more than ever before, vacationed in Israel.

Despite shrinking

American tourism across the Atlantic reported by some sources, Israel's excellent value for the U.S. Dollar, hotel rates lower than most in Europe, as well as the much-heralded opening of the border with Egypt, are important factors in the continuing growth of American tourism to Israel.



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Announcing these statistics in New York, Israel Zuriel, Israel's Commissioner for Tourism to North America, added that the availability of low Apex scheduled fares and low-cost charter flight programs to Israel will do much to encourage the growth of U.S. tourism.

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