

The UN's A Circus

BY ROBERT E. SEGAL

Should the world take seriously the most recent UN resolution constituting a brazen attempt to invalidate Security Council Resolution 242 (Adopted Nov. 22, 1967)?

We won't if we heed the advice of Israel's most bellicose foe, Yasir Arafat, the PLO leader. "Frankly," he said in one of his rare relaxed moments, "we have come to consider the United Nations as a kind of circus where so-called representatives of countries perform acts and make speeches for the entertainment of the world audience."

So when they bring on the clowns in the UN General Assembly and representatives of such freedom-loving nations as Iran, Iraq, East Germany, Libya, Saudi Arabia, the Soviet Union, and Syria vote to demand that Israel "withdraw completely and unconditionally from all the Palestinian and other Arab territories occupied since June, 1967, including Jerusalem," we might do well to consider Arafat's opinion of the UN. When he says it's a kind of circus, why not agree?

But more alarming than the passage of the ill-conceived July resolution is UN Secretary General Kurt Waldheim's inexcusable new play for Third World, Arab and Communist support for his campaign for re-election to the post he has now disgraced. We refer to his late July speech to an Arab League dinner in which he hopped the Arab bandwagon rolling towards statehood. For him, there's no waiting for the resumption of talks initiated at Camp David. For him, there's no reason to adhere to that section of Resolution 242 demanding respect for and acknowledgement of the sovereignty of Israel (among other nations) and not stipulating that Israel withdraw its armed forces from all territories occupied in the 1967 war fomented by Egypt.

Kurt Waldheim has thus forfeited his claim to statesmanship and has, in effect, joined the Arab wolf pack.

Despite strong pressure to vote for the July 29 resolution, the United States, Norway, Australia, Canada, the Dominion Republic, and Guatemala joined Israel in voting nay. Perhaps even more significant was the decision to abstain from voting by France, Britain, Belgium, Denmark, the Netherlands, West Germany, Luxembourg, Ireland, and Italy. For many weeks prior to the vote, European diplomats were strongly pressured to go along with the Soviet-Arab-Third World bloc in this latest UN slap at Israel. Indeed, had Britain heeded the advice of its Foreign Minister, Lord Carrington, her UN representatives would have joined the parade. "I don't think the PLO is a terrorist organization," Lord Carrington remarked a few days before the vote -- an observation reminiscent of Neville Chamberlain's courtship of Adolf Hitler 42 years ago.

William J. Vanden Heuvel, deputy U.S. representative at the General Assembly, demanding a commitment for Israel's right to exist, let the world know that our own nation regarded the resolution as hopelessly one-sided and unrealistic. Secretary of State Edmund Muskie obviously shared this view, branding as "mischievous - making and diversionary" the numerous anti-Israel resolutions constantly coming to his desk for consideration.

Austria and other European nations voting in favor of the resolution are obviously willing to sacrifice sound political principles for more barrels of oil at even higher prices. They might do well to consider how much stability exists in Iran, a major oil producer, then go on to wonder whether they can really count on Arab favors in the clouded future.

PARTY PLANKS ARE NOT BINDING

WASH. (WNS) -- The State Department is not going to be bound by the Democratic Party platform describing Jerusalem as Israel's capital and recommending that the U.S. Embassy in Israel be moved from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem. This was made clear by David Passage, a State Department

spokesman. "The President makes foreign policy; it is not made by party platforms." He asserted that the Department is not "legally bound" by platforms. Passage referred to President Carter's written message to the Democra-

tic National Convention in New York regarding the party's platform in which he stated that "Jerusalem should remain forever undivided with free access to the holy places for people of all faiths." The President and the State Department have said that the ultimate status of Jerusalem is to be negotiated. Secretary of State Edmund Muskie, in an interview at the convention with ABC-TV said with respect to Israel's Jerusalem law that the Jerusalem issue "obviously is part of the Camp David process."

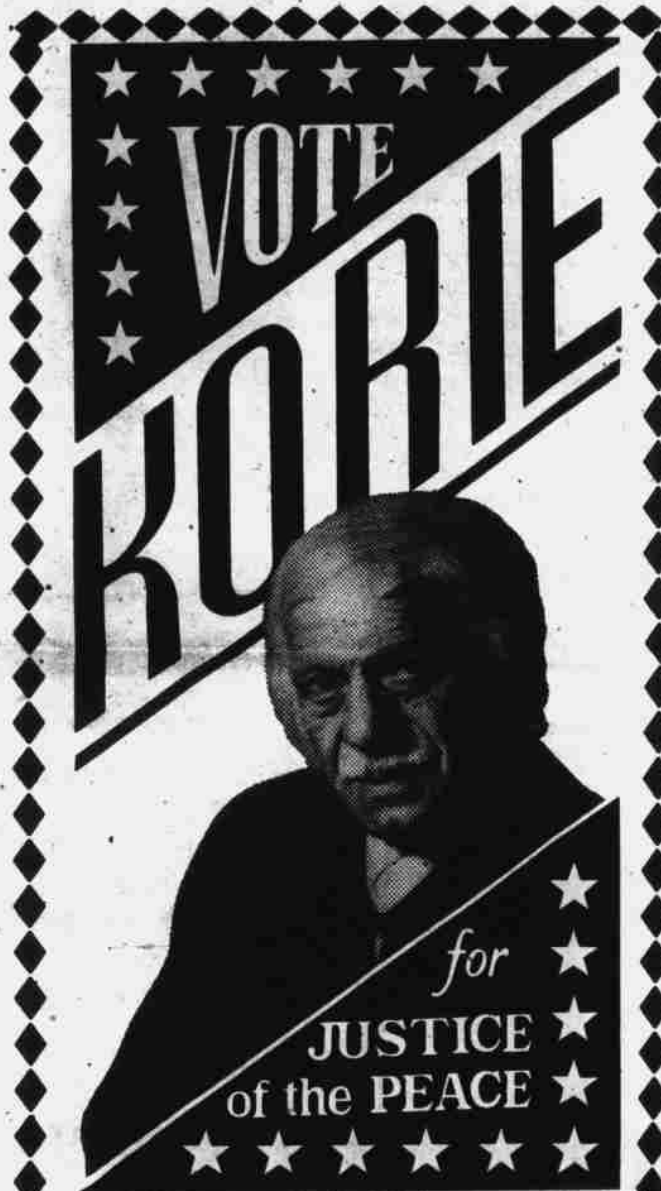
Muskie added, "But

there is a feeling in the Arab world that Israel is seeking to foreclose on any meaningful debate of that issue in the Camp David accords. The reaction in the Arab world, and indeed in the rest of the world, is very negative on that. It has sparked an emotional reaction in the Arab world which has resulted in the Saudi statement." This was in reference to Saudi Arabian Crown Prince Fahd's call for "holy war" by Islamic nations against Israel. Jerusalem is not mentioned in the Camp David agreements but is in side letters accompanying the accords. By insisting that Jerusalem is in the "Camp David process," the Carter Administration is apparently stretching the meaning and letter of the accords since

Israel stated at the time of the accords to the U.S. and Egypt as well as previously and since, that unified Jerusalem is Israel's capital.

BYRD CROWS ABOUT JERUSALEM

WASH. (WNS) -- Senate Majority Leader Robert Byrd (D. W. Va.) has denounced Israel's new law officially making united Jerusalem the capital of Israel.



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