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Time Bomb is Ticking Away

A time bomb is ticking away in the still delicate Israeli - Egyptian relations which could blow up the peace treaty so carefully worked out by the two countries with the help of the United States. This is the U.S. commitment to set up a multinational force to police the Sinai after Israel's final withdrawal, scheduled for April, 1982.

Premier Menachem Begin recently pointed out that the U.S. commitment for the force was "an integral part of the peace treaty." Begin refused to explain, saying an interpretation was unnecessary. But he was clearly implying, what some Israeli officials have threatened publicly, not to go through with the final withdrawal if the multinational force is not in place.

Creating such a force is not an easy matter. It appears unlikely that it can be done through the auspices of the United Nations as originally envisioned. The Arab rejectionist states still have a majority of support behind them at the UN in their efforts to wreck the Camp David process. The Soviet Union is certain to veto any attempt by the U.S. to have the Security Council create such a force. So the U.S. must find the members of the force itself.

That this is a difficult task explains why first the Carter Administration and now apparently the Reagan Administration has put off acting on the problem.

But it won't go away and April, 1982 is not that far off. The Begin government is pressing Washington for action and should the Labor Party win the June 30 election it is doubtful they would be any less reluctant to leave the Sinai without an international force in place.

The time to begin working on creating this force is now, before the situation has time to develop into a crisis.

Behind The Scenes

At The United Nations

By David Horowitz

A World-Union Press Feature

China is on Our Side

UNITED NATIONS (WUP) -- Sin Yen Kwai-lord is Chinese for Happy New Year, and with this salutation your correspondent last week greeted his amiable Chinese colleagues at the Xinhua News Agency whose office is adjacent to the WUP Bureau here at the UN.

We have become good neighbors ever since the Peoples Republic of China became a UN Member a decade ago and took its exalted seat as one of the five Permanent delegations in the Security Council. Visits are often exchanged and global issues discussed.

One of the positive outcomes of Peking's

membership in the UN has been to balance the power struggle within the Organization. That is to say, it has limited Soviet influence within all UN bodies and, as a result, has eased the heavy burden that Israel has had to bear in having almost singlehandedly to contend with the unending onslaughts of the Soviet bloc delegates.

Thanks to China, the Israeli delegates, for the first time, have been able to relax somewhat. Of course the U.S. and a few Western States have done their little share in 'support' of the Jewish State, but China's outspokenness has had greater significance. China is a powerful Communist nation, and the impact of its continuous attacks on Moscow has been devastating in that it has alerted other UN states to the sins of the Kremlin.

A deputy Foreign Minister of China recently charged that the USSR "is the main source of threat to world peace and the most dangerous source of a new world war." Moscow, he added, "is more and more frequently using proxies (Cubans and PLO terrorists) and organizing mercenaries to launch unscrupulous arms invasions and military coups in other countries and, with the view of encircling Europe, controlling strategic routes, seizing strategic resources and speeding up the expansion of strategic deployment for global hegemony."

Something is happening in China today which is bringing its leaders and people closer to the ideals of 'democracy' via a 'socialism' quite different from that practiced in the Soviet Union and elsewhere. Indeed, developments in China bear watching.

The Chinese people, who have had little contact with the Jewish people in the past, have come to learn more about them and their history from the discussions and debates on the Middle East here at the UN and, although their spokesmen support the Palestinians, they are fully aware of the fact that Yasir Arafat and his PLO terrorists maintain strong links with Moscow, their enemy, and do the Kremlin's bidding.

Sidney Rittenberg, formerly of Charlestown, South Carolina, who has spent the past thirty-five years in China working to promote a break-through in Sino-American relations, holds the view that China's new openness will not only benefit America but also improve Israel-China relations.

Mr. Rittenberg, who not so long ago was appointed the first American adviser to the Academy of Social Sciences in Peking, declared in an interview appearing in the current issue of Reform Judaism that "until recently China supported the Arab position in the Middle East with no publicly stated reservations about a policy seeking the destruction of Israel. Today, however," he added, "China openly supports secure borders for all Middle East nations and has reacted favorably to the Camp David accords, which it believes defused a potentially explosive superpower confrontation in the area."

The interview in Reform Judaism was conducted by Steven Schnur, managing editor of the publication which is issued by the Union of American Hebrew Congregations. "As a Jew," editor Schnur notes about Rittenberg, "he has taken a special interest in improving the image of Judaism and Israel in China. Though Jews have lived in China for more than a thousand years," he adds, "their small and scattered communities all but disappeared by the 19th century. Today only a handful of Jews remain, most of them refugees from World War II.



"More people know the term for 'Zionism' than for 'Jew' Rittenberg told Schnur, adding that 'not until 1978 and the rescinding of the rule prohibiting U.S. citizens from teaching in China did these stereotypes of American cruelty and poverty begin to disappear. Today there is no cut - and - dried political gospel' Rittenberg insists. 'The average Chinese who thinks politically refuses labels. He wants facts about how other people live, how they produce, whether they are able to speak freely. The Chinese have a better understanding of Jews in all parts of the world as a result of this breakdown in their dogmatic approach to international affairs...'

Sidney Rittenberg, a father of four children by his Chinese wife, concludes that "the Jews like the Chinese, are an ancient people with an ancient religion that has survived since the beginning of recorded time. We share many traditions and outlooks, including the importance of family the supremacy of scholarship, and an emphasis on a life of righteous actions rather than words...."

NEW YORK (WNS) -- Viktor Brailovsky, who was arrested last November on charges of "defaming the Soviet State and public order," has been transferred from Moscow's Butyrka Prison to the notorious Lefortovo Prison, it was reported by the National Conference on Soviet Jewry. Brailovsky, a leading activist of the Jewish emigration movement and editor of the journal, "Jews in the USSR," was reported in January to be seriously ill by his wife, Irinia. Brailovsky has not been seen by his wife nor have formal charges been filed against him.

JERUSALEM (WNS) -- The Labor Party pledged to "ensure recognition of all the (religious) streams in Judaism, by means of legislation if need be" should Labor win the election this spring. The plank was worked out at the party's national convention.

King of One Liners



HENNY YOUNGMAN

...Man of Many Talents.

THE BOSS LISTENED TO THE YOUNG MAN ASK FOR A RAISE, THEN SAID, "SYLVESTER, I KNOW YOU CAN'T GET MARRIED ON THE SALARY I'M PAYING YOU -- AND SOME DAY YOU'LL THANK ME FOR IT."