

Moral Hypocrisy

BY RABBI MARC H. TANENBAUM

Much of the political reaction of governments and pundits to Israel's destruction of the Iraqi nuclear reactor is simply more of that moral hypocrisy which holds the victim responsible for his victimization.

No fair-minded person who separates out the pious, self-righteous rhetoric of instant condemnation from the brutal facts of reality can conclude anything other than that Israel had no alternative but to carry out its brilliant defensive strike against that Iraqi death-factory.

When it became known that France's Giscard d'Estaing had concluded a cynical deal with Iraq for trading oil for enriched uranium, Israeli leaders spent two years in intense diplomatic activity trying to persuade both France and Italy not to hand over nuclear-bomb-making capability to the war-rattling Iraqis. In fact, it is now known that Saudi Arabia, fearful of Iraq's imperialist strategies in the Persian Gulf, secretly protested to France for the same reason. If anybody deserves condemnation, it is these governments who irresponsibly proliferate nuclear materials as if they were lollipops.

Had Israel waited until Iraq manufactured atomic bombs and, God forbid, destroyed nearly a million Jews, these same unctuous critics could be counted on to issue touching statements of meaningless regrets at memorial services. But since the Nazi holocaust, when Western leaders did nothing to prevent Auschwitz, Israel has wisely chosen to save lives rather than specializing in saying kaddish at memorial services for the dead.

CONTRACTS AWARDED FOR MX PROJECT

Several Nevada businesses are in various stages of contract negotiations to perform architectural-engineering design work on the MX project should it be based in this state, it was announced by Ed. Fike, co-chairman of the Citizens

for a Strong National Defense.

"Contract awards will be announced when the information is released by the governmental agency concerned," Fike said.

Four members of the Citizens committee met with Air Force and Army

Corps of Engineers personnel to discuss contracts for Nevada entrepreneurs and were pleased at the number of contracts under consideration.

Fike, together with Walt Casey, Bill Becker and Tim Carlson spent the day in discussions with the people who award the contracts.

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