

Bush's Remarks to the United Jewish Appeal

'Let me thank you for inviting me to speak here. It's an opportunity I welcome, even if public servants traditionally should beware the ideo of March.

Today I want to clear the air of some misconceptions. During the debate over the sale of the AWACS to Saudi Arabia, the American Jewish community was charged by some with having two loyalties. People in certain quarters grabbed the opportunity, during that emotionally heated time, to accuse American Jews of being more loyal to Israel than to the United States.

This was a scurrilous charge. It was an outrageous charge. It never should have been made. And those who made it did a profound injustice to all Americans, whose birthright it is to dissent. And I reject as equally outrageous the notion that this charge came out of the White House.

Gordy Zacks and I have discussed the matter extensively. I've also discussed it with Jack Stein. They make the point -- and I agree with them one hundred percent -- that Americans have a constitutionally guaranteed right to disagree. It's exercised -- Lord knows -- every day, in every way.

We're all citizens of the United States. If our blood is Irish, African, Jewish, Italian, or Polish it doesn't make us one iota less American. To say that someone is disloyal to America because he or she has an abiding affection for another country is an insult. It's offensive. And it's un-American.

I'm not here to stir up old passions -- passions that never should have been stirred. But this has been weighing on my mind, and it's been weighing on the President's mind.

I'm glad to have the chance to set the record straight. As the President says, as long as we talk to each other instead of about each other, we'll be alright.

Israel and the United States have been friends for too long to have to make apologies to each other. We have none to make, none to accept. We don't dictate policy to each other. We're strategic allies. We don't put each other on trial. We don't test each other. We consult. We agree; we disagree. But whatever our disagreements, we are bound to each other; in the case of freedom, in the cause of survival. We are permanent friends, joined by common values and aspirations.

This ought to be obvious. But we live in time in which even the most fundamental truths are questioned.

"The security of Israel is a principal objective of this Administration. We regard Israel as an ally in our search for regional stability." Who said it? Ronald Reagan.

"Israel is not America's client. She is our ally, and our friend -- a very reliable friend. And being our friend, she is not alone. She is not expendable. And she will never be abandoned." Who said it? Well, you know who said it.

During the AWACS debate we tried to make the point that the United States is trying to broaden its influence in the region, a region plagued by ancient hatreds and present conflict. Our interest is peace. Our interest is in not allowing Soviet-backed radical states to threaten the stability of the region.

It is in the interest of peace, in the interest of stability that there be more Anwar Sadats --

and fewer Quaddafis.

To attempt to expand American influence, to attempt to encourage moderation among Arab nations is not anti-Israel. On the contrary: it's enormously advantageous to Israel.

And now let me reaffirm our commitment to the Camp David accords as the only way to wage peace in this area of the world.

In this regard I'd be remiss if I didn't compliment Prime Minister Begin and the other leaders of Israel for their determination to move forward with the Sinai withdrawal. This was not an easy step, but it is a step that Prime Minister knew must be taken. Still, it was a painful and controversial step. But the Prime Minister has been steadfast in his resolve.

At the same time the U.S. is trying to expand and conciliate, our commitment to Israel is paramount. It is nothing less than sacred. Nothing can, and nothing will, alter it.

About a month ago, in the wake of incorrect and exaggerated press reports and commentary regarding U.S. military assistance policies for the Middle East, President Reagan sent a letter to Prime Minister Menachem Begin.

"I am determined," the President wrote, "to see that Israel's qualitative technological edge is maintained and am mindful as well of your concerns with respect to quantitative factors and their impact upon Israel's security."

Anti-Semitism takes many forms. But what is being done to Jews in the Soviet Union probably constitutes the most grievous form of anti-Semitism in the world today.

I met not long ago with top officials of the National Conference on Soviet Jewry. Leon Dulzin told me that Jewish emigration from the Soviet Union in the last several months has only amounted to "a trickle." And he said he thought the time was ripe to speak out on it.

The Soviet mistreatment of Jews is, of course, part of a broader Soviet campaign against all religious and dissident ethnic groups. Soviet Jews who are not allowed to emigrate are not necessarily the most unfortunate victims of Soviet anti-Semitism. Anatoly Shcharansky and many other continue to languish in the Gulag. The United States government -- indeed, all of us here -- are worried about his health. The President and I have met with Mrs. Shcharansky. We're doing everything we can to alleviate her husband's plight.

What has happened in Poland is, similarly, a stark dramatization of the extent to which the Soviet Union lives up to its word. The Soviet Union's influence on the developments there is unmistakable: martial law, arrests,

detention camps.

I recall the words of Golda Meir when she was Foreign Minister, and head of Israel's delegation to the United Nations. As the Soviet Army crushed the Hungarian freedom-fighters in November of 1956, Mrs. Meir took the podium at the General Assembly.

"My delegation," she said, "cannot refrain from speaking on this question. We have had such intimate knowledge of boxcars and deportations to unknown destinations that we cannot be silent."

One of my greatest frustrations as our Ambassador to the United Nations was the utter inability of that body to address itself to the continuing persecution of the Jews. I wish the U. N. wouldn't waste time talking about the expulsion of Israel, because the United States will never permit that. I wonder why the U.N. doesn't address itself to the real problems of the world; to trying, among other things, to guarantee the freedom of people from repression.

Has the world changed since the days of boxcars and deportations to unknown destinations? Is the world no longer capable of holocaust? Who can say that it isn't?

Let no one divide America and Israel. And let us never lose our faith in each other. Let us always remember that our hope, and our strength, is in each other. And that loyalty to one is loyalty to both; and that together, we shall always endure. Thank you."

BAT MITZVAH AT BETH SHOLOM



DEBORAH

Deborah Engel, daughter of Dr. & Mrs. Norman Engel, will be called to the Torah and become a Bat Mitzvah during services at Temple Beth Sholom, 1600 E. Oakey Blvd., on Saturday morning,

April 17, 1982. Rabbi Kalman Appel, spiritual leader of the Temple, will officiate and conduct the services which commence at 9:30 A.M. Cantor Simon Bergman will chant the liturgy.

The parents of the Bat Mitzvah will host the congregation to a Kiddush in the Temple's Entratter Social Hall immediately after the conclusion of services.

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