

Good Bye Yamit

BY RABBI MARC H. TANENBAUM

The clouds of smoke and rubble that lifted over the bulldozed model town, Yamit, in the Sinai desert is a symbol whose historic and moral importance seems to have gotten lost in the frantic media coverage.

Much of the media has treated the historic action of Israel's withdrawal from the Sinai as if it were a cowboys-and-Indians episode. The departure of Israel from the captured Sinai is not a Western B-movie; it represents an historic action, an extraordinary sacrifice by Israel in the cause of peace that is rapidly being taken for granted.

What other nation in recent history has handed over to its former enemies territory gained in a war of self-defense in order to advance peaceful coexistence between countries? Can't you just see Great Britain returning peacefully the Falkland Islands to Argentina? Or Iraq giving back oil fields to Iran, as Israel has just handed over to Egypt the rich oil fields it developed in the Sinai?

The costs to Israel in transferring strategic land areas, oil wells, and air fields have been staggering, and filled with risk to its national security. The costs to the Arab world have been mainly rhetoric.

And yet, at the very moment the Jewish State is taking concrete actions to uphold its Camp David peace agreement, the PLO and Arab states introduce a resolution to expel Israel from the UN. As the clouds over Yamit document Israel's commitment to peace, so the clouds of rhetoric over the UN increasingly doom that malevolent body to tragic irrelevance in real human affairs.

U.S. POLICY IS FIRM

JERUSALEM (WNS)

-- The Reagan Administration's Middle East policy will not change in the aftermath of Israel's withdrawal from Sinai, according to Howard Squadron, chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations.

The policy is based on a deep commitment to the security and survival of Israel but also on direct support for anti-Soviet elements in the Arab world, such as Saudi Arabia, Squadron said.

Squadron, who was re-elected to a third two-year term as president of the American Jewish Congress at its biennial convention in Grossinger, N.Y., spoke at a press conference as the AJCongress

leadership was about to reconvene here for the second half of its convention. About 100 delegates attended.

ISRAELI PLANES BOMB LEBANESE BASES

TEL AVIV (WNS)

-- For the second time in less than a month, Israel Air Force planes raided Palestinian terrorist bases in Lebanon. The targets were near Damour and the Zaharani River estuary near Sidon. They included El Fatah operational bases, arms and ammunition dumps and vehicles and two 100 mm. artillery pieces, a military spokesman said.

According to the announcement, the air attacks were ordered because of a number of recent serious breaches of the cease-fire which has been in effect since last July. These included a bomb explosion on a Jerusalem bus which injured an eight-year-old Israeli girl and sent a woman into shock. Other incidents that the Israeli government has charged were breaches of the cease-fire include: a bomb which was planted recently in an Ashkelon school; the injury of an Israeli soldier by a road mine in southern Lebanon; and mines planted on the Golan Heights.

Army sources criticized the United Nations Interim Forces in Lebanon (UNIFIL) for opening fire on Israeli forces to prevent them from searching the region

in south Lebanon for three Palestinian terrorists suspected of having planted mines on a Golan Heights road used by Israeli patrols. A senior officer said it was the first time in their memory that UNIFIL troops fired on Is-

raelis. The Israeli soldiers did not return the fire.

The air attack over Lebanon was the second since April 21 when Israeli jets bombed Palestinian bases over a wide area of Lebanon in retaliation.

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