

LETTERS

HARRIS POLL SHOWS AMERICANS

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DEAR EDITOR:

One perceives a high degree of hypocrisy in much of the venomous criticism heaped on Israel for its current actions. To be sure, there is much for which this tiny country could be criticized, but a good deal of what I have read is suspect.

At the root of much of the commentary is the tragic loss of innocent civilian lives. Few seem willing to recall the PLO slaughter of innocent civilians who were machine-gunned in Tel Aviv Airport, innocent civilians murdered by bombs placed in busy Israeli shopping districts, innocent school children held hostage in Israeli border cities or the slaughter of unarmed Olympic athletes in Munich -- and the list is endless.

But there is something else to much of this pious criticism that is so often unbalanced. Readers might do well to remember

or read about the cheers that went up in the United States and elsewhere each time Allied squadrons bombed enemy cities during World War II, laying waste to civilian centers and the people who lived there. How we won the war seemed of little consequence. The sense was it had to be done any way it could be done.

Now, a generation later, after having staved off enemy forces which frequently outnumbered its army by as much as 10 to 1, Israel says "No more," and we all of a sudden become smug critics.

opinion continued to be favorable to Israel. American public opinion is 79 percent positive and 13 percent negative in its feelings about Israel, up slightly from 75 - 17 percent in January, the poll said. Regarding the PLO, 73 percent consider them as either "not friendly" or "an enemy" of the United States.

How many U. N. emergency resolutions do you honestly believe would have been passed had the Arabs been successful in meeting their commitment to drive every Israeli man, woman and child into the sea?

JOSEPH J. HONICK
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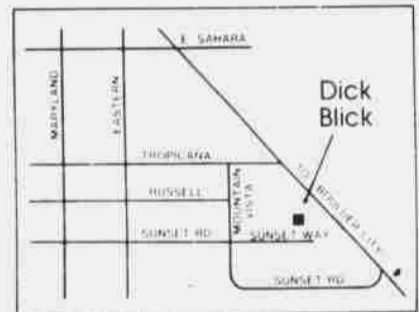
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