

## The Genocide Convention

BY ROBERT E. SEGAL

Against the backdrop of alleged threats to Israel by Turkey and quick denial of such threats by Ankara spokesmen, the international spotlight has focused briefly on the Genocide Convention again. It is regrettable that the proposal to consider 150 scholarly papers on Genocide at a conference in Tel Aviv produced confusion growing out of continuing Armenian and Turkish feuding as to the accuracy or inaccuracy of the Armenian claims that Turkey was responsible for the killing of 1.5 million Armenians some seven decades ago.

One survey tells us that 21 Turkish diplomats or their relatives have been killed by terrorists in the past nine years. This adds a dreadful chapter to the history of political slayings in our times.

Whenever the Genocide pact is in the news, the failure of the American government to ratify the treaty embarrasses every human rights advocate in our nation.

The pages of modern history include a strong relationship of the United States to the concept and significance of the compact. Our representatives at the early sessions of the United Nations in the late 1940s had key roles in drafting the remarkable Genocide Convention.

Aroused by Hitler's fiendish war against the civilized world, the Genocide proposal was accepted Dec. 9, 1948, by a United Nations General Assembly vote of 55 to 0. Our representatives signed the Convention and voted for it in good faith. Yet despite formal ratification by 80 nations, its champions in the United States Senate have never been able to beat down the obstructionist tactics of opponents.

Who are the American adversaries? In the 1950s they were primarily Senators infected with McCarthy fever and Senators hypnotized by the lure of the restrictive Bricker Amendment. Hostile towards many treaties and executive agreements, Ohio's Senator Bricker capitalized on our inability to stem the rise of Communism in Asia and to mobilize sentiment against U.S. ratification of the Genocide agreement. Together with other ultraconservative senators, John Bricker played also on the discontent over the spilling of American blood in Korea and shock at the outcome of the Yalta and Potsdam conferences. The aim of the Bricker bloc was to limit severely the scope of treaties to which the U.S. could be a party and to cut the President's authority to negotiate executive agreements.

Typical of nasty propaganda against the Genocide pact was the scare line used by the anti-Semitic Liberty Lobby: "Genocide Treaty Again Threatens: Immediate Action Required To Kill Communist Hoax." Presidents Truman, Eisenhower, Kennedy, Johnson, Nixon, Ford, and Carter all urged ratification of the Genocide convention. The American Bar Association, for years in opposition, declared in favor of ratification in 1976.

Originator and champion of the principle of the Genocide Convention, Raphael Lemkin was a Polish-Jewish lawyer. Many members of his family were murdered in Warsaw by Nazis. The Lemkin concept is defined as "the deliberate and systematic destruction of a racial, political or cultural group." Despite failure of the U.S. to ratify the pact, it represents the resolution in the minds of many government officials that justice achieved at the Nuremberg trials must not be forgotten.

The Convention has been ignored by Idi Amin in Uganda, Pol Pot in Cambodia, and other willful men who have gained power and then abused it. But just as Britain's Magna Carta and our nation's Bill of Rights have known failures, yet continue to light the road to justice, so does the concept of the Genocide Convention offer encouragement to all dedicated to liberty.

**THE PRINTER**  
Jack Eichelman  
919 East Ogden  
Las Vegas, Nevada 89101  
(702) 382-8860

NEW YORK -- A booklet aimed at helping schools, communities, and community organizations deal with anti-Semitic outbreaks has just been published by the American Jewish Committee. Titled "Anti-Semitic Incidents in the Community...Coping with Eruptions...Preventing Future Outbreaks," the booklet features case histories describing educational programs set up by communities that had been confronted with anti-Semitic vandalism, Ku Klux Klan

activities, and other manifestations of bigotry.

The 34-page booklet also contains a set of guidelines for coping with anti-Semitic incidents in the community, and a selected bibliography of books, pamphlets, memoranda and magazine articles on various aspects of anti-Semitism.

Discussing the background of the booklet, Bertram H. Gold, AJC Executive Vice President, points out in a preface that the American Jewish community has be-

come increasingly concerned about the increase in reported anti-Semitic incidents during the past two years.

"Careful studies of these outbreaks," continues Mr. Gold, "all document that most of these incidents are part of a general increase in vandalism...and are usually the work of individual teenagers or of thieves looking for valuable objects...There is no evidence of any organized campaign to victimize Jews and their religious or secular institutions." "Anti-Semitic In-

cidents in the Community...Coping with Eruptions...Preventing Future Outbreaks" is available from the American Jewish Committee, 165 East 56th Street, New York, N.Y. 10022, at \$1.50 per copy. Founded in 1906, the American Jewish Committee is this country's pioneer human relations organization. It combats bigotry, protects the civil and religious rights of Jews at home and abroad and seeks improved human relations for all people everywhere.

### FORMER WJC EXEC UNDER FIRE

PARIS (WNS) -- The president of the World Jewish Congress, Edgar Bronfman, has dissociated himself and the WJC's Executive from the statement issued here by Nahum Goldmann and Philip Klutznick, both past presidents of the WJC, and former French Premier Pierre Mendes-France calling upon Israel to lift its siege of Beirut and for mutual Israeli-Palestinian recognition.

Bronfman told the WJC Executive: "I have no quarrel with their right to make such a statement but I personally would neither join them nor would I endorse their statement." After a two hour debate, described as "stormy" at times by some of the participants, the Executive dissociated itself as well from the joint statement, with no further comment.

Klutznick, who attended the Executive meeting was attacked by Howard Squadron, a former chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, Greville Janner, president of the Board of Deputies of British Jews, and Akiva Levinsky, treasurer of the Jewish Agency.

Bronfman noted that Goldmann, Klutznick, and Mendes-France "quite properly and clearly said they were speaking for themselves as private citizens and not for the World Jewish Congress." He termed the statement as "untimely" being that Israeli forces continued their siege of west Beirut and while negotiations for a settlement to the Lebanese conflict were underway.

But Bronfman added,

"in long range terms, this statement by our friends does represent a realistic recognition and understanding of the facts that Israel and the Palestinians must ultimately not only recognize each other, but recognize their mutual state in peace and security." This he said, "can and should be done within the context of the Camp David accords, the only promising peace process."

Meanwhile, Klutznick, Goldmann and Mendes-France came under fire by other organizations. In Jerusalem, the World Zionist Organization denounced Goldmann and Klutznick for the "harmful and unnecessary interference in Israel's affairs" and declared that they "represent neither the Jewish people nor the organizations they once headed."

**GLASS GREENHOUSE**  
\*PASSIVE SOLAR ENERGY  
\*YEAR-ROUND GARDENING  
\*SPA ENCLOSURE, ETC.  
**SUN ROOMS OF NEVADA INC.**  
2901 SO. HIGHLAND, SUITE 14B  
LAS VEGAS, NEVADA 89109  
(702) 796-0662

### GRAND OPENING! JOHN M. O'LANE, M.D. F.A.C.O.G.

Obstetrics and Gynecology  
Diplomat of American Board of  
Obstetrics & Gynecology

BY APPOINTMENT ONLY  
(702) 369-0762

2545 So. Bruce, Suite No. 4  
Las Vegas, Nev. 89109

### J.B. Williams, D.D.S., L.T.D.

2700 East Lake Mead Blvd. Suite 6  
North Las Vegas Nevada 89030

**642-4678**

Taking appointments  
Open Saturdays

Porcelain metal crowns  
\$190<sup>00</sup> per tooth or unit  
Dentures \$500<sup>00</sup> per set

ONE DAY SERVICE ON RELINES & REPAIRS