

## FROM ARAFAT'S BUNKER

Before his bunker crumbles in West Beirut, PLO chief Yasir Arafat made one last ditch attempt to dupe the international public. This time, however, he had a U.S. delegation to work as his proxy. Again, as in the case of previous tries, it was a situation of what he didn't say more than what he said.

The controversy developed when a U.S. delegation, headed by Rep. Pete McCloskey, a Republican from California and known for his anti-Israel views met with Arafat in his redoubt. Arafat reportedly signed in their presence a document that would acknowledge his acceptance of all United Nations resolutions, presumably including 242 and 338, which would have implicitly implied Israel's right to exist. PLO recognition of Resolutions 242 and 338 would open the door to a U.S. - PLO dialogue. But when McCloskey emerged from the meeting to inform reporters that Arafat "signed for his acceptance of all United Nations resolutions which include the right of Israel to exist," Arafat stepped in quickly to clarify his position. He said, "All UN resolutions concerning the Palestinian question."

To observers of the PLO word game, this included exactly what Arafat said: Just re-

solution of the Palestinian question and not 242 and 338 which are the bedrock of U.S. policy in the region and which also implicitly call for the right of Israel to exist within secure boundaries. Resolution 242 does not mention specifically the Palestinian question but refers to the refugee problem. Nor does it mention Palestinian self-determination for which, the PLO says, it cannot accept this resolution.

As the controversy settled, it appeared that the delegation, seeking to make some breakthrough of the conflict in Lebanon, received a first-hand example in just how far Arafat intends to go. It serves another purpose, and that was to clarify the PLO's refusal to accept Israel. Until the PLO moves from this doomed policy, it will have an equally difficult time claiming that it represents the interests of the Palestinian people by its intransigence on this particular issue. It could have developed into a significant diplomatic breakthrough. Instead Arafat holds West Beirut hostage for his diplomatic shenanigans.

## GHANDI OPENS YAP

WASH. (WNS) -- Declaring that Israel's difficulties were due to the Jewish State being created in the Middle East to solve the problems that has existed in Europe, Prime Minister Indira Ghandi said that the only way for Israel to assure its survival and existence is to negotiate peace with its Arab neighbors.

Answering questions after a speech to a National Press Club luncheon here Mrs. Ghandi said she has been "sympathetic" to the suffering of Jews during World War II and that before the war, she had frequently spoken out against the treatment of Jews by Nazi Germany.

She claimed that she frequently had been a lonely voice in this cause because others saw Hitler as a means of stopping the spread of Communism.

On the fighting

in Lebanon, the Prime Minister deplored the large number of lives that have been lost in the fighting by what she claimed was due to Israel's military actions. She said she had written to Presidents Reagan, Leonid Breshnev of the Soviet Union and Francois Mitterrand of France because she believed these leaders had the influence to do something about the situation.

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