

Israel, A Bulwark of Democracy

The international community, critics and enemies of Israel, as well as some Jews, have come down forcefully and unfairly on the state of Israel blaming the killing of Palestinians by Christians on the Jews.

The tragic and horrifying events at the Shatila and Sabra Palestinian refugee camps in west Beirut, where Israeli military forces were stationed to prevent such occurrences sent shock waves through the Jewish State and shook the moral fabric of its people that have traditionally set standards above all others, and who, at the same time, are acutely aware of a world's silence, and thus complicity to the slaughter of innocent people throughout the world.

The Israel Cabinet's decision to establish a full, formal judicial commission of inquiry into the tragic events at the refugee camps is a welcomed announcement. The government of Israel has once again demonstrated its stature as a democracy and its deep sense of pluralism in a world of double standards and hypocrisy. No one would dare call for a judicial inquiry, for example, into the Syrian massacre in the town of Hama where some 20,000 innocent persons were killed and bulldozed over by the armed forces of President Hafez Assad.

Nor was the world overly concerned when some 100,000 people were killed in seven years of internal civil strife in Lebanon. Nor would one dare to ask for a judicial inquiry from the Arab League into the slaughter of thousands of Palestinians in 1970 by the armed forces of King Hussein of Jordan, who matter - of - factly termed the incident a "family affair."

Israel has asked to be judged differently but fairly. The actions in Lebanon have brought about accusations of a different Israel, an Israel losing the "moral edge." Once again, however, it has demonstrated its unyielding democratic tradition and strong commitment to political pluralism. This was demonstrated when some 400,000 persons rallied in Tel Aviv to protest the massacre and to call for an inquiry into the events at the camps.

Those numbers, when compared by ratio to the population of the U.S., would represent some 20 million Americans marching on Washington calling on the government for action. Critics and those who judge Israel should learn a lesson from the moral and democratic values exemplified by the citizens of Israel.

MANDY CARRECA, BAT MITZVAH AT TEMPLE BETH SHOLOM

Mandy Carreca, granddaughter of Mr. and Mrs. Melvin Lane, will be called to the Torah and become a Bat Mitzvah during services at Temple Beth Shalom, 1600 E. Oakey Blvd., on Saturday morning, October 16, 1982. Rabbi Kalman Appel, Spiritual Leader of the Temple, will officiate and conduct the services which commence at 9:00 A.M. Cantor Simon Bergman will chant the liturgy. The congregation will be hosted to a Kiddush in the Temple's Entratter Social Hall immediately after the conclusion of services.

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RECALL AGRANAT COMMISSION OF 1973

JERUSALEM (WNS) -- The decision to appoint a statutory commission to investigate the massacre of Palestinian civilians at the Shatila and Sabra refugee camps in west Beirut on September 16-17, recalled to many Israelis the Agranat Commission set up in 1973 to determine responsibility for Israel's lack of preparedness at the outset of the Yom Kippur War.

Golda Meir was Premier at the time. The late Yigal Allon, then Deputy Premier explained in a radio broadcast the distinction the Agranat Commission drew between direct blame and ministerial responsibility. The Agranat panel did not consider it an inquiry commission's role to comment on ministerial responsibility which it said, was within the purview of the democratic parliamentary political process.

The panel found then Defense Minister Moshe Dayan was not directly to blame for Israel's military shortcomings.

NEW BOSS AT WOMEN'S HOSPITAL



WILLA J. STONE

Dr. Paul Hersch, President, Domestic Division, and Chief Operating Officer of Paracelsus Hospital Corporation announced the appointment of Willa J Stone as Administrator of Women's Hospital.

Ms. Stone, who started her career as a Registered Nurse, has assumed various supervisory positions in hospitals since 1967. Since coming to Women's Hospital in 1973, she became Director of Nursing in 1976 and has progressed through several administrative levels to achieve her present position. Ms. Stone states Womens Hospital's main objectives are to be: "we intend to provide total family-oriented maternity care to the entire Las Vegas Metropolitan area. We also plan to provide affordable, quality care to all women in the community who need the specialized OB-GYN care that Womens Hospital provides."



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HIAS, the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society, is seeking to locate Jews who lived in or around the towns of Rudensk, Kaidanov (Koidanovo), and Dukara, Byelorussia (all in the vicinity of Minsk), during the period 1941 - 1944. Such persons are sought as possible witnesses in an ongoing Department of Justice war crimes prosecution. Please call or write Joseph Edelman at HIAS about this matter. The address is 200 Park Avenue South, New York, N.Y. 10003; the telephone is (212) 674-6800.

The Clark County School District Counselors' Association will hold its Fourth Annual College Fair on November 3 and 4, from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. in the South Hall of the Las Vegas Convention Center. More than 75 universities, colleges and technical institutes will be represented offering students financial aid, admission, scholarship and general information.

Body Reflections

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