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Arafat's Dilemma

PLO Chief Yasir Arafat is on the run. To where, and what the future hold for him, remains unclear. However ineffective Arafat has been during the past 15 years in seeking a "just solution" to the Palestinian problem, the view by some Middle East observers that his removal will benefit the prospects for peace in the Middle East may well be an incorrect reading of the Middle East conflict. His downfall, however pleasant on the surface, could have grave consequences.

The status quo which had existed in the Middle East, notably centered around the PLO's establishment of a state within a state in southern Lebanon for nearly seven years, was suddenly changed by Israel's action in Lebanon. The PLO was without a home, the Israeli military proved that the Jewish State was a powerful force and could not be threatened by "armed struggle," and Lebanon was once again presented as a potential pro-Western Arab state with an accord as close to a peace agreement with Israel as could have been accomplished. But the steadfast refusal of Syria to withdraw its troops from Lebanon has held up any efforts to resolve in toto the Lebanon equation.

With reports daily circulating that Syrian President Hafez Assad is providing support to the revolt against Arafat's leadership in the Bekaa valley among his mainstream Fatah organization, the tendency to gloat while the leadership and organization crumbles, is appealing. But with Assad, the leader of the "rejectionist front" of the Arab states, seeking to maintain control over his Palestinian subordinates in the PLO, the prospects for a Middle East settlement can turn from bad to worse. Furthermore, with Arafat's inability to maintain some continuity among the eight factions of the PLO, a return to increased terrorism would seem inevitable.

Before a smirk becomes a broad smile, one should consider what the prospects for peace would be without Arafat and his showmanship. For 15 years, the Palestinians, while succeeding to gain diplomatic lip service, have not increased their chances for creation of a homeland. This is clearly in the interests of Israel. The PLO has been routed from Lebanon and its leadership in shambles. Again, this is good for Israel. But the mutineers propose something which would not be in the interests of Israel, and that is a more radicalized PLO with renewed dedication to terrorism. Arafat, it should be remembered, is not on the run for failing to carry out his policies, but for being accused of flirting with peace and moderation.

HAIFA (WNS) — Scientists at the Technion-Israel Institute of Technology in Haifa, have developed a new instrument which will enable doctors to detect vision problems at an early, treatable stage. The device, which can be wheeled to the patient's bedside, measures the electrical activity in the brain associated with vision. The device is easier to use and less expensive than models currently in use.



Behind The Scenes

At The United Nations

By David Horowitz

A World-Union Press Feature

Arafat — The "Goat To Azazel"

UNITED NATIONS (WNS) — Syria's expulsion of the hitherto UN-acclaimed Yasir Arafat coupled with the split within Fatah have made those delegations which had participated so enthusiastically in the acclaim not only feel somewhat ashamed and embarrassed in having given a terrorist the status of a head of state. Some are also beginning to realize that Israel's case against the PLO has been a valid one right along.

In expelling the master-mind behind the hijacking of planes and the murder of men, women and children, the Syrians charged him with being "a defeatist" who had "chosen the path of the wilderness."

This charge, significantly brings to mind a strange passage in the Bible dealing with two goats, one to be sacrificed as a sin-offering to the creator; the other to take upon himself all the sins of Israel and sent alive to Azazel into the wilderness. Azazel, a mystic term, undoubtedly has reference to a satanic element.

"And he (Aaron) shall take of the congregation two he-goats for a sin-offering.

And he shall take the two goats and set them before the Lord at the door of the tent of meeting. And Aaron shall cast lots upon the two goats: one lot for the Lord and the other lot for Azazel. And Aaron shall present the goat upon which the lot fell for the Lord and offer him for a sin-offering. But the goat, upon which the lot fell for Azazel, shall be set alive before haShem, to make atonement over him, to send him away for Azazel into the wilderness...(Verses 7-10)

After having performed the ritual with the goat that fell to the lot of the Lord in verses 11-19, the passage continues to explain the symbolism of the live goat in verses 20-22:

"And when he had made an end of atoning for the holy place...he shall present the live goat. And Aaron shall lay both his hands upon the head of the live goat, and confess over him all the iniquities of the children of Israel, and all their transgressions, even all their sins; and he shall put them upon the head of the goat, and shall send him away by the hand of an appointed man into the wilderness. And the goat shall bear upon him all their iniquities into a land which is cut off; and he shall let go the goat in the wilderness..."

Arafat's demise and the current turmoil within the PLO have their mainspring without any doubt in Israel's "Peace for Galilee" operation last year. Even TIME magazine, usually known as being unfriendly to Israel, notes in its July 4th issue that "the split within Fatah, the PLO mainspring group that has always been Arafat's power base, is largely a reaction to last year's forced evacuation from Beirut." (Even in this admittance TIME hates to give full credit to Israel for the evacuation).

That Arafat's PLO game is dwindling became evident when the French Government recently refused to allow an "International Conference on the Question of Palestine" to convene at the UNESCO headquarters in Paris from 16 to 27 August at which the PLO proponents expected some 150 states to attend. The French gave their reason for the refusal the fear of an upsurge in terrorism.

Having lost Paris as their site to vent their venom against the Jewish State, the Arabs turned to Switzerland which reluctantly acceded to their request for the session to be held in Geneva. Originally scheduled to be held in 1984, the Conference proponents decided to move the meeting ahead to this year because, as they noted, the "(Israeli) actions against Lebanon and the Palestinian people" called for urgent action.

As Cain, expelled from the Garden to roam about, so Arafat finds himself in a similar situation. "Let him go to Azazel in the wilderness."

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Things are rough with me. Just got a letter from my bank. It says, "This is the last time we will spend 20 cents to let you know you have 18 cents."