John Glen Speaks Out On Israel, Lebanon, Soviet Jews

Senator John Glenn, the Ohio Democrat who is seeking his party's presidential nomination, says the United States should develop "contacts" with the Palestine Liberation Organization to dissuade it from its terrorist policy.

In an interview with the Long Island (N.Y.) Jewish World, Senator Glenn said he favored "any kind of contact" with the PLO in which "you get messages back and forth."

"If we expect to get them out of their terrorist ways, out of being international thugs, which is what they are, "Senator Glenn told the Jewish weekly, "I would hope we could have some sort of contact...."

The interview appears in the current (June 24) issue of the Long Island Jewish World. It was written by Stewart Ain, contributing editor, and Naomi W. Lippman, editor. Highlights of the interview follow:

On his poor image in the Jewish community

The Senator said he recognized this to be the case, attributing it to what he called "misquoting, misrepresentation . . . misunderstanding . . . And once that got across, it's hard to erase. But as far as my background on voting for Israel, on economic and military matters," he said, "it's been steady and straightforward all the way through." Senator Glenn added: "To me, the security of Israel is not something that's negotiable. I've supported Israel and I think I've been a very good and loyal friend of Israel. So for whatever reasons that other impression is created, I think it's wrong."

On negotiations with the PLO

"I never have advocated any unilateral negotiations with the PLO — never in the past nor would I in the future. All I've said about the future is that if they say they are going to stop terrorist attacks and recognize Israel, as I think all the other Arab states should, now that's something else again.

"But that is not going to happen and we know it's not. So I'm not advocating it and never have advocated it."

However, he added, "if we expect to get them out of their terrorist ways, out of being international thugs, which is what they are — a terrorist organization — I would hope we could have some sort of contact that somehow would let us get some way of getting people out of those terrorist ways."

On Soviet SAM missiles in Syria

"We can't force them out right now, short of a war-like act in that area, and I don't think we would try to do that. I think we should try to keep diplomatic pressure on and get the Soviets to try to reduce their support for the Syrians as best we can."

On Arab recognition of Israel

"There can't be any doubt in the Arab world about Israel's ability to exist. And now is the time for them to come forward and do the same thing that Egypt did. They can't possibly think that by any combination of arms they can take over Israel. And Israel's security is not something we're going to negotiate on."

On the U.S. role in Arab-Israel negotiations

"Our role through the whole thing . . . is not to dictate what was going to happen in that area but to be the suggestor, to be the catalyst. That was the wisdom of Camp David as I saw it . . . I think we too often have been prone to say . . . that we were putting forth (ideas) . . . Where we can, we should make suggestions of what we think would be a fair

and equitable way to go. But they're the ones that have to make the peace settlement. They're the ones who are going to have to live side-by-side. We don't."

On the Reagan Mideast plan

"I think the Administration made a big, grievous error . . . We lost about a year and a half that could have been used to push the Camp David process. Let's get back to the Camp David process, where the emphasis should have been all the way through."

On a freeze of Israel's West Bank settlements

"... As we proceed with Camp David... as we got negotiations underway, it might be helpful in showing good faith in that process if a moratorium could occur on more West Bank settlements." However, Senator Glenn told the Long Island Jewish World, "I have never said that should be a precondition and that we had to stop before we get on with Camp David."

On moving the U.S. embassy to Israel

"I'm quite willing to say that Jerusalem should be the capital of Israel and that when the final configuration (of Jerusalem) is set after all the negotiation under Camp David, then we will in fact move our embassy there. There's no rush on that. We have good diplomatic relations and let's make that part of the whole Camp David process."

On Saudi Arabia as a moderating influence in the Middle East

"I would have hoped they would have been much more forceful in moving to support Hussein's efforts.... As far as I know, (they) still support PLO activity. I think they could have cut more of that off. I would have hoped they would have been more forthcoming in that so that we can get on with the Camp David process again."

On imposing sanctions against Israel

"I've been against those. In fact, I think the Administration made a big error in trying to turn off arms sales to try to pressure because what you do is create suspicion of lack of support for the future."

On helping alleviate the plight of Soviet Jewry

"I met with Dobrynin three weeks ago . . . I brought it up If they want better relations (with the U.S.), then why don't they let the Jews out of the Soviet Union who want out Why keep them penned up? I told Dobrynin that if they want better relations with the United States I can't think of anything that would create a favorable impression in this country than if they let the Soviet Jews who want out. Let them go."

On Israel's bombing the Iraqi nuclear plant

"I think that was wrong. I made no bones about that I did not agree that the only action that could be taken was to just go over and take out a facility that was suspected. I think that sets a very poor precedent."

On the war in Lebanon

"I didn't agree with (it) when it first occurred . . . As some of the stockpiles of weapons were discovered . . . obviously that has changed the whole picture of the PLO and their ability to . . . conduct the terrorist activities.

"So looking back on that now, okay, the PLO is out of there now and the weapon stockpiles are gone. So that danger has been reduced and the thing now... is to get back to Camp David... The Arab nations know that they cannot take over Israel. Let's get going with peace...."

OUR MAN IN HAIFA CARL ALPERT

Open For Business But Not Always

HAIFA — It is a typical picture, known the world over; the small Jewish storekeeper who opens his little shop at 6 in the morning and, with the help of his wife and perhaps a part-time employee, remains open till 11 at night. He serves the neighborhood well, gives credit, saves his hard-earned money, and sends all his children to university. That has been the picture in most countries — but not in Israel.

Visitors not accustomed to local custom may find shopping a frustrating experience. Between 1 and 4 every afternoon all stores, except restaurants and cafes, close up tight. Come 7 p.m., again the doors clang shut.

These closures are the result of local city ordinances. The principle is that little storekeepers must be prevented from making slaves of themselves. They, too, are entitled to rest, relaxation and decent hours. Compelling the closures by law

ensures that no one breaks out of line. If it were left to voluntary compliance, some individuals would keep open 18 hours a day, and the competition would soon compel all of them to do so.

The result is a general reduction in shopping hours which affects not only visitors, but the average local shopper as well. When the doors do reopen the stores are frequently jammed. Consumer associations have protested, but to little avail; the merchants have succeeded in keeping the laws on the books.

City inspectors make the rounds to ensure the law is complied with. Occasionally a storekeeper will cheat a bit. He will keep his door closed and locked, but if he recognizes a regular customer outside he will let him in. Those caught violating the law are subject to fines. The big supermarkets apparently decided to flout the afternoon closing regulation. In some cities they were fined for each afternoon they served customers, but the fines were so small that it was worth their while to violate and pay up daily. Here in Haifa all small stores close, but the supermarkets are open every afternoon. (It's mighty convenient). Are they still paying their daily small fines? Come 7 p.m., however, the city inspectors crack down on everybody.

Of late there has been a tendency to open special markets especially in large shopping centers, on Saturday evening, after the Shabbat is over. Certain limited stores, which cater almost exclusively to tourists, can obtain permission to remain open all day and nobody questions the credentials of those who shop. In any event, these are for the most part souvenir shops.

The subject was brought to the fore again recently, but the merchants insisted loudly that they are entitled to protection for their social right to hours of rest, without fear of losing business to others who remain open. And so, woe to the Israeli who suddenly finds he needs a loaf of bread or a container of milk on short notice, at the wrong time. If it's 2 o'clock, Friday afternoon, he's not going to be able to get that food until Sunday morning. And that's why it's wise to keep on good terms with the neighbors. A bag of flour or a package of margarine, required in the middle of baking, is not going to be available otherwise.

Dr. Peter J. Licata

wishes to announce the opening of his office for the practice of

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