

Established in 1965 by Jack Tell



The Only English-Jewish Newspaper in Nevada
P.O. Box 14096 Las Vegas, Nevada 89114
Published Bi-Weekly in Las Vegas, Nevada
Price per copy 15¢ — Per year \$12 — 2 years \$20
PHONE 702/876-1255

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P.O. Box 14096, Las Vegas, Nev. 89114
Member of World-Union Press
Member of American Jewish Press Association
Member of Worldwide News Service
Now in 19th Year of Continuous Publication
Serving the Jewish Community of Nevada

American-Soviet Seasaw

BY ROBERT E. SEGAL

Ever since spunky Samantha Smith, the Manchester, Maine, fifth grader, engaged Yuri Andropov in pen-palship, hopes for a better break in relations between Washington and Moscow have risen and ebbed in a tantalizing rhythm.

It started in the Spring when Samantha, 11, said she pretty much knew what President Reagan thought about dealing with the Soviet Union. "But I didn't know what Andropov thought, and I'm worried about nuclear war, so I decided to write him," Samantha recalls.

Seven times the age of Samantha, Mr. Andropov promised Samantha that he would continue to do everything possible to prevent a Soviet-U.S. war. He topped off his pledge by inviting Samantha to Moscow. She accepted, and the world media continues to report on these Maine-to-Moscow open-ended negotiations.

Not long after this international thrust for peace got underway, President Reagan, addressing the National Association of Evangelicals, referred to the Soviet Union as the focus of evil in the world. In this view, the people who run this "Evil empire" reserve unto themselves the right to commit any crime, to lie, and to cheat.

Well, the days pass by, and the threat of a nuclear no-win war casts darkness over the hopes for that unfashionable concept, detente. But now and then the sun breaks through.

Developments center on talk of mounting a summit session in the months ahead. Chances for such a series of discussions brightened during the recent seven-nation economic conference at Williamsburg. Mr. Reagan got a feeling that the support he received there for his position on arms control presaged an improvement in American-Soviet relations.

Early in June following a meeting between W. Averell Harriman, former U. S. Ambassador to Moscow, word emanated from the State Department that Washington was ready to join Moscow in a serious search for concrete steps needed to make progress towards an amicable understanding.

A few days later, Secretary Shultz and Soviet Foreign Minister Andre Gromyko held what appeared to be frank and fruitful discussions. These did not constitute a love fest. But even as Mr. Gromyko, in a key speech to the Supreme Soviet, hammered away at America's attitude towards Moscow (calculated "to disrupt the existing structure of the Soviet strategic potential"), and Mr. Shultz sharply criticized Moscow's rejection of U. S. arms proposals, it became apparent that expectations of progress were good.

As these winds continue to blow now hot, now cold, the wonder grows that Moscow adheres to its hard line on religious oppression. For a brief moment, the Soviet grant of emigration to Israel for 15 Pentecostals seemed a rainbow sign. Five of these Protestant fundamentalists had found

Behind The Scenes

At The United Nations

By David Horowitz

A World-Union Press Feature

Lebanon — "Was It Worth The Cost?"

UNITED NATIONS (WUP) — In the light of the bitter controversy raging in Israel over the Begin Government's role in Lebanon — a controversy sparked by an intransigent Opposition Labor Party and some communists — a recent Middle East document issued by the Conference of Presidents takes on special significance by the fact that it sums up the views of American Jewry on the subject as presented by the leaders of the Major American Jewish Organizations.

The document, which reinforces what this writer has already noted on several occasions, poses the following questions: "What are the results of Israel's move into Lebanon? Did Israel benefit? Did our country gain? Are the chances of Middle East peace improved?"

It then notes: "Every observer will have to draw his or her own conclusions, but these facts speak for themselves:

1. The PLO state-within-a-state in Lebanon has been destroyed, and with it the independent base of operations of both the PLO and the international terrorist movement. The terrorists themselves have been scattered across the Arab world, their huge arsenal seized, their proud boasts of jihad and revenge emptier than ever. Wherever the PLO sits today — in Tunis or

asylum in the U.S. Embassy in Moscow for nearly five years. Suddenly, their prayers were answered; and they and others in their little circle were on their way to the Holy Land.

This contrasts with new dark chapters for Jews in the Soviet Union. A group of eight Soviet Jews, led by Col. General David Dragansky, came down hard on "international Zionism" and called for the establishment of an anti-Zionist Committee of the Soviet Public. The sharp drop in the granting of visas to Soviet Jews is an added indication of Moscow's determination to break the 1975 Helsinki accord agreement it signed.

Some believe Andropov is too ill to continue for long to intensify the Soviet campaign against religious freedom, to negotiate further with Washington, and to come to grips with the challenge to make and keep a pack on arms control. But if improved relations between Moscow and Washington are not forged soon, no world leader will be able to drown out the voices that cry for an end to the mad race to planetary destruction.

King of One Liners



HENNY YOUNGMAN

...Man of Many Talents.

IN CONCLUSION, I LEAVE YOU WITH THE WORDS OF A FAMOUS PRO FOOTBALL PLAYER, WHO SAID: "IT'S NOT THE WAY YOU PLAY THE GAME, IT'S THE WAY YOU BET THAT COUNTS."

Damascus or any Arab capital — it lives at suffrage of the host government, unlike the heady days in Lebanon when PLO gunmen ruled, raped and pillaged the land and plotted the destruction of the Jewish State. Mutiny against Arafat are further confirmation of the defeat and disarray in which the PLO finds itself.

2. Israel's towns, villages and kibbutzim in the north are no longer at the mercy of the PLO rocket attacks. Life has returned to normal in Kiryat Shemona, Ma'alot, Misgav Am and all the other places that once were scenes of bloody PLO raids. 3. Lebanon itself — impotent for years in the face of PLO occupation — now appears ready to regain its sovereignty and restore its national independence with the strong backing of the U. S.

4. The circle of peace that began with Egypt and Israel has been widened to include Lebanon as well. True, there is no formal treaty, but the agreement reached on a variety of security arrangements between Beirut and Jerusalem underscores the close cooperation already achieved between the two countries...

5. Soviet influence and prestige in the region have fallen to a new low after U. S. and Israeli equipment proved so superior during the Lebanese fighting. True, Syria has been heavily rearmed by the Kremlin, but the USSR remains shut out of Middle East diplomacy...By the same token, American influence is at a new high...

6. U. S. — Israel relations are now stronger and closer than they have been in many years. The suspension of the sale of F-16 jets has been lifted formally by President Reagan. Approval of Israel's long-standing request that U. S. military credits be available for the production of Israel's new jet, the Lavi, is expected...

7. On the international scene as well, Israel's willingness to withdraw its forces stands in sharp contrast to the Syrian-PLO refusal to quit Lebanon. And Saudi Arabia, the one country that could do no wrong, in America's eyes, is no longer the universally acknowledged 'moderating' pro-Western force in the Middle East.

"Was it worth the cost?" the document asks in conclusion. "In dead and wounded, in the injury to its good name inflicted by a hostile and distorted press, in the tragedy of Sabra and Shatila, Israel paid heavily for its move into Lebanon. The final verdict, of course, belongs to history. For today, Israel's enemies are in disarray, Israel's friendship with America strong. And life has returned to normal for thousands of Israelis who lived for years under seize. Surely that is worth something."

It is worth everything — not only for Israel but eventually also for our Arab cousins: all children of Abraham who have their destined place in the Crescent.

TELL TALES

"One Man Plus The Truth
Constitutes A Majority"

Valerie Wiener Appointed Press Secretary For Harry Reid

(Continued from page 1)

and a master's degree in journalism from the University of Missouri, Columbia, and a master's degree in contemporary literature from Sangamon State University. She also attended McGeorge School of Law at the University of the Pacific.

A native Las Vegas, Valerie graduated from Las Vegas High School. She was named Outstanding Citizen of Clark County in 1967.

"I'm looking forward to working with someone who has both the professional experience and enthusiasm that Valerie has," Reid said. "I am certain she will be an asset to my staff."

Valerie said that working for Reid is a "dream come true" for her to combine her respect for the congressman with her love for her home state in this position.