

Affirming The Democratic Process

The Israeli Supreme Court's decision to reverse the Central Elections Committee's ban on two political parties is a welcome affirmation of the democratic process in the Jewish State. However detestable one may view the positions espoused by the far rightwing Kach Party or the Progressive List for Peace, a colition of Israeli Arabs and Jews, they rightfully should be allowed to participate in the July 23 Knesset elections.

The Kach Party is headed by Meir Kahane, the founder of the Jewish Defense League. The Elections Committee decision to bar the Kach party was based on the grounds that its philosophy calling for the expulsion of Arabs from Israel threatened democratic institutions. The Progressive List, composed of Arab and Jewish figures in Israel, calls for the establishment of a Palestinian State and negotiations with the Palestine Liberation Organization. Defense Minister Moshe Arens could have banned the Progressive List on grounds of national security, but refused, although he said he viewed the List as subversive.

While the fuss over the parties was short-lived, it should be pointed out that Kahane ran for a Knesset seat in two previous elections and did not get enough support from the voters. Allowing Kach or the Progressive List to run is similar to allowing Communist candidates and members of the Lyndon LaRouche gang to run for political office in the United States. It does not threaten the fabric of the democratic process, but simply affirms that process.

Temple Emanu-El

Conservative Congregation
4241 - W. Charleston Blvd.
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Fri. Nite Services - 8:00 P.M.

Trees Are Planted In Israel To Honor Memory of NAACP's Clarence Mitchell

A stand of trees has been planted in Israel in memory of Clarence Mitchell, the civil rights leader who died March 14 in Baltimore. The trees are located in the Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Forest whose honorary sponsors include every Black and Jewish member of Congress.

A long-time supporter of Israel, Mr. Mitchell was a member of the U.S. delegation to the United Nations in November, 1975, when the "Zionism is racism" resolution was passed. He fought vigorously against the resolution which was sponsored by the Arab states and their allies in the General Assembly. Mr. Mitchell also served as a leading speaker at a New York rally called to protest the U.N. action.

Following Mr. Mitchell's death, Chaim Herzog, Israel's president, sent a personal message of condolence to Mrs. Juanita Mitchell, expressing his sympathy and deep appreciation for her husband's friendship and active support for Israel.

Mr. Mitchell was a principal leader in the Leadership Conference on Civil Rights. As the chief Washington lobbyist for the NAACP for over 30 years, he helped secure passage of the landmark civil rights legislation of the 1960's; the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the 1965 Voting Rights Act; and the 1968 Fair Housing Act.

The Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Forest was started in 1974 in the Galilee. Originally, 39 trees were planted to symbolize each year of Dr. King's life. The forest is administered by the Jewish National Fund.

LETTERS

(Editor's Note: A local Las Vegas woman is rightfully upset with a French City giving a medal to a former SS Commander. The following letter to the Deputy Mayor of Bayeux describes her feelings.)

Dr. Andre Benamou
Deputy Mayor of Bayeux
Bayeux, France

Dr. Benamou:

On the day that the news of your award to former S.S. officer Harmel hit the paper, my husband and I were in Israel, specifically, at Yad Vashem, the Museum of the Holocaust. Needless to say, your name and deed came up in our discussions with rabbis and officials there.

How could you close your senses to 6 million silenced souls? All the more so knowing your own Jewish background? The man you chose to honor was instrumental in murdering millions for one "crime;" having Jewish blood in their veins. People like me, and people like you. I suggest you go to Israel, to the Holocaust Museum - and take a look at the photograph of the woman clutching her infant child; in the same photo and right behind her, aiming a shotgun at the back of her head, is a man - your honoree perhaps.

There is no room to forgive the heinous and deliberate acts of individuals like Heinz Harmel. Time will never take our blood from their hands. Your conciliatory attitude toward members of the 10th SS Waffen Division bodes ill for the future existence of Judaism. You are like a tiler of soil where poisonous plants grow. Acts such as yours lay the groundwork for the comfortable nurturing of evil. That these SS agents feel "at ease" anywhere is wrong and criminal, and that you abet this incriminates you.

Fortunately for us, the press does report and thereby expose events such as the one in Bayeux. We have to know who our enemies are before we can successfully plan for our future.

Susan Weinstein

cc: Rabbi Fischer
Yad Vashem

First Asia-Jewish Colloquium Planned For Singapore

MELBOURNE (WNS) — A major Asia-Pacific Jewish Colloquium will be held in Singapore September 11-12, the first of its kind in this region, according to Isi Leibler, president of the Executive Council of Australian Jewry (ECAJ). It will parallel the Seminar on Anti-Semitism held under the sponsorship of the University of Melbourne and the Australian Institute of Jewish Affairs.

Leibler said, in a summary of the Seminar, that both events "will serve to bring to the attention of Australian Jewry the important role it will inevitably and increasingly play in world affairs." Australia, with a population of 14.9 million, is home to an estimated 75,000 Jews, the largest Jewish population in the Asia-Pacific region. The Jewish population of other countries in the area ranges from 4,300 in India and 4,000 in New Zealand to only

150 in the Philippines.

The Melbourne Seminar on "Anti-Semitism and Human Rights" last month concentrated on the "ideological convergence" between the far rightwing and the extreme left in contemporary anti-Semitism. Both employ anti-Zionism and the rightwing propagates the notion that the Holocaust never occurred.

Leibler noted that, at the Seminar, "There was general agreement that both historically and at the present time, Australia has been spared not only the worst excesses of the Western World's anti-Semitism, but virtually any significant organized sources of anti-Jewish feeling."

Nevertheless, Leibler observed, "there is agreement that anti-Semitism does exist and may be on the rise. Some of this renewed anti-Semitism here," he said "represents the Australia facet of the organized ideological sources of the extreme

right and left which exist around the world, while church and media sources bitterly hostile to Israel and its Jewish supporters and often couching their hostility to Jews in the imagery of traditional anti-Semitism, also exist here."

He said Australian Jews are also concerned over "the increasing instances of apparently unorganized anti-Semitism, ranging from hooligan-style harassment and abuse of synagogue-goers from passing cars to swastika daubings and instances of vandalism."

But another theme that emerged from the Melbourne Seminar, he said, was that "in the contemporary world, the Jewish community generally has allies in the government of the democracies, friends and supporters in most mainstream ethnic, religious and political groups, and possible legal remedies for instances of organized anti-Semitism."

I KNOW WE SHOULD GO TO THE FUNERAL HOME



BUT, I NEVER KNOW WHAT TO SAY.

The fact is that nothing can be said to express adequately our loss or make the bereaved family feel better. But that doesn't mean that a visit and an expression of sympathy won't be helpful. Bereaved persons tell us that it's not the words that are helpful but that someone cared enough to go to the funeral home and express their sympathy in person. Sometimes just a hug or holding your friend's hand briefly is a good way to say "I care." When a friend loses a loved one go to the funeral home. Express your sympathy and offer your assistance. You'll be appreciated for caring.

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