

Established in 1965 by Jack Tell

LAS VEGAS ISRAELITE

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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Eban Responds To 'Heritage' Criticism

There was one negative Jewish religious note in the general chorus of praise that has been greeting the Public Broadcasting System's nationally-televised series "Heritage: Civilization and the Jews." Orthodox leaders felt it distorted Judaism as they understood it.

Abba Eban, certainly one of the most distinguished personalities in the political and intellectual life of Israel and America, was consultant and narrator for the series. Speaking at a meeting of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, he said he felt that the series would achieve its purpose: "to teach millions of people about Judaism and the Jewish contribution to civilization."

The series of nine one-hour programs attracted what must certainly have been the largest non-Jewish audience any TV program concerning Jews has ever had.

Eban, speaking at that meeting, responded to the Orthodox criticism by declaring that while he believed the series was "deeply reverent" toward Jewish tradition, he felt nevertheless that "a little solicitude" for Orthodox views would have eased the controversy and that "changing a few hundred words" could have prevented it entirely.

But he went even beyond that, backing his words with deed. He disclosed that the series will be edited, to meet Orthodox objections, for viewing in Australia, Germany, Israel and Britain. It is evidence of Eban's intellectual stature that he not only admitted a segment of Jewish viewers deserved "solicitude" but also that he had acted to meet such concerns in the version for overseas audiences.

Behind The Scenes

At The United Nations

By David Horowitz

A World-Union Press Feature

Final Sinai Withdrawal A Miscalculated Error

UNITED NATIONS (WUP) — In light of the critical statements Egyptian delegates are continuously making here and in view of President Mubarak's stubborn attitude vis-a-vis Israel, it should now be clear to all students of history that the April 1982 Israeli withdrawal from the remaining eastern strip of Sinai and the forcible dismantling of the garden-like Yamit settlement constituted a miscalculated error, a tragic move currently troubling Israelis.

In 1981 former Prime Minister Menachem Begin, himself worried about a possible Egyptian renege following total withdrawal, had been warned by a number of Middle East experts including this writer not to relinquish the strip, only to postpone final withdrawal until he and his Cabinet become fully

satisfied that the Cairo regime honors all its commitments to the Camp David accords. "Postponement" would not mean abrogation of the treaty.

Still very worried and despite the many Egyptian anti-Israeli statements, Begin, nevertheless, reluctantly ordered the withdrawal. He succumbed to the constant proddings of Mubarak.

Later that year, after withdrawal and the tragedy of Yamit, this writer and his wife, Nan, during a visit to Israel, attended a private motzej Shabbath tea reception at the Begin residence in Jerusalem. His lovely late wife Aliza was hostess and Begin himself holding a tray served cookies. It was during this really heimish and pleasant reception that the issue of Sinai came up between this writer's militant wife Nan and Begin whom she had met during Irgun days. "But, Yamit?" Nan bemoaned, "Yamit, Yamit!" The Prime Minister understood as he no doubt reflected back when he was struggling with both Sadat and Carter in vain for Yamit and other Israeli Sinai infrastructures. "It'll go down to the grave with me," he replied in deep sadness.

And now the latest report is that Mubarak refuses to meet with Shimon Peres of the Coalition Government. He has given the same alibis — Lebanon, the Palestinians, etc. Not so long ago Sadat's successor had let the cat out of the bag. According to a report by Agency France Presse, during a meeting with Morocco's King Hassan he is quoted as having stated that "Camp David lives only in the minds of the Arabs...For us in Egypt, it is now devoid of all meaning, because Egypt has obtained from Camp David what it wanted..."

So there we have it. He has betrayed his former "peace-partner" Menachem Begin and thus embarrassed the U.S. host and middleman to the signing of the Camp David accords.

In 1981 when this writer had urged Israel not to withdraw from the remaining one third of the Sinai, a noted Hebrew University professor had spoken up likewise. Prof. Mordecai Nisan had taken it upon himself to dissect the Camp David accords and show how on almost every clause Egypt stood guilty of violation.

In a penetrating exposition, appearing in Midstream, Prof. Nisan came to the conclusion that "the grave Egyptian violations of the Treaty's letter and spirit might, under certain circumstances, impel Israel to decide against implementing the final withdrawal from Sinai scheduled for April 1982. He then cited two legal points which are relevant to the situation:

"A recognized principle in international law establishes that treaties between states are valid only so long as the circumstances under which they were formulated still hold good. This principle, known as Rebus Sic Stantibus, is valid in the context of the Egyptian-Israeli Treaty. Israel's willingness to abandon crucial strategic and economic resources in the form of territory, Military bases, and oil was a function — at least in part — of certain regional circumstances that since 1978-79 have disappeared. Iran no longer sells oil to Israel;

Saudi Arabia is a hostile enemy with astronomical amounts of military weapons, the Russians are deeper into the region (Afghanistan, Syria); Egypt's military capacity has dramatically increased: PLO global status on the upswing, and Israel is subject to unrelenting international pressure.

"...Thus, based on international law, Israel might decide to refrain from withdrawing in April, 1982. This would not be a violation of the Treaty, but a legitimate readjustment of matters consistent with the new regional and international situation and in line with Israel's fundamental national interests..."

Prof. Nisan made it a point to show that the Knesset vote to approve the Camp David accords and to authorize the Government to remove the settlers from Sinai "was made" upon the express condition that 'all the problems relating to the Treaty are resolved and that such agreement finds expression in a written document.' "In no sense," declared Prof. Nisan, "can it be said that all the problems relating to the Treaty have been resolved."

"The Moment of Truth" was the caption of his exposition. Israel did not heed. Egyptian witchcraft prevailed.

BONN (WNS) — Some 50,000 Marks (\$17,000) will be made available next year to mark various former Jewish cultural sites in the Lower Francony District in the federal state of Bavaria. A decision to that effect has been taken by the cultural committee of the district government. Most of the work will involve putting commemoration markers on buildings of former synagogues which had either been destroyed or are being used for non-religious purposes. The project, which will be carried out in cooperation with the district's Jewish community, was approved by 130 small towns and villages in the district.

TEL AVIV (WNS) — Trades union delegates from the People's Republic of China, Bangladesh, Malaysia and Indonesia, none of which have diplomatic relations with Israel, are among the some 300 delegates to the Fourth World Congress of the International Textile, Garment and Leather Workers Federation, which met here last month. The congress is the first such gathering in Israel. Its delegates represented some 5.5 million workers worldwide.

TELL TALES

"One Man Plus The Truth
Constitutes A Majority"

(Continued from page 1)

become head of the U.S. Information Agency, the only person Murrow took with him from C.B.S. to work with him in Washington was Robert M. Evans. It was after Murrow's fatal illness that Bob Evans returned to C.B.S. news to become broadcast correspondent.

Evans was C.B.S. Bureau Chief in Moscow, covering the Soviet Union across Siberia to the China border. He has worked on both sides of the Iron Curtain in Eastern and Western Europe.

In the Middle East, he has interviewed Arab leaders and has made many trips to Israel, meeting Cabinet Ministers and every Israeli Prime Minister for the last two decades.

A native of North Carolina, he is a graduate of the University of North Carolina and Yale Law School and holds the degree of Master of Jurisprudence from Oxford University.

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