

Genocide Pact Action Stalled

By Robert E. Segal

As the current election campaign began to heat up, President Reagan announced he would urge the Senate to approve the Genocide Convention (after long years of delay).

This raised new hopes for those who have worked so doggedly to place the U.S. in the wide zone of nations determined to erect barriers against a replication of a campaign of slaughter like the one perpetrated by the Nazis a half century ago.

Nearly 100 nations have given formal approval to the Genocide pact. The fight against it in this country was originally led by Ohio Senator John W. Bricker and other lawmakers who feared dilution of American sovereignty and carried the banner of states rights. Close to the core of opposition was the anti-Semitic Liberty Lobby and nativist groups sharing that organization's philosophy.

Senate Majority Leader Howard Baker, a likely candidate for President in 1988, promised to advance the proposal in the Senate soon after Mr. Reagan advocated U.S. ratification. Even Senator Jesse Helms of North Carolina was quoted as expressing his support.

But the autumn days hurried by, our representatives in Washington were eager to get home to campaign, filibusters threatened, and, as many expected, the new move to place the U.S. imprimatur on the Genocide treaty withered and died.

The Genocide agreement formula was conceived in the mind and heart of Raphael Lemkin, brilliant Polish-Jewish lawyer. Civilization owes him recognition and gratitude for shaping and nurturing the plan.

With the Nazi descent into barbarism fresh in their minds, framers of the pact made it clear that Genocide means a number of acts committed with intent to destroy in whole or in part a national, ethnic, racial, or religious group. What are these

serious bodily or mental harm, deliberately inflicting bestial offenses? They include killing, causing on a group conditions of life calculated to bring about its physical destruction in whole or in part, imposing measures intended to prevent births with the group, forcibly transferring children of the group to another group.

Examples cited were the killing of 6,000,000 Jews, 3,000,000 Slavs and almost the entire Gypsy community of Europe by Hitler; 1,200,000 Armenians in 1915 by the Turks; 600 Christian Assyrians in Iraq.

After 67 nations ratified the convention, claims of Genocide being committed were made, inter alia, in regard to blacks in southern Sudan, Kurds in Iraq, Nagas in India and the Ibos in the Biafran War in Nigeria.

Obviously, failure to win approval in Washington over the many years of campaigning for acceptance has soiled America's record of strong commitment to human rights throughout the world.

No national lawmaker has been more persistent in championing the Genocide Pact cause than Senator William Proxmire who has made 2934 efforts to win Senate approval.

Nor has any group in America fought harder for the cause than the expanded Jewish community. The dedicated Ad Hoc Committee On The Human Rights And Genocide Treaties came into existence early in the fight largely through Jewish efforts. Over the years, the Jewish Labor Committee and other Jewish units drew 54 major national organizations to the ranks. Included were many key labor groups, the National Catholic Conference For Interracial Justice, the Episcopal Church, Methodist Church Board of Social Concerns, United Churches of Christ, and the American Veterans Committee.

It is especially significant that the American Bar Association, long opposed to U.S. ratification of the Genocide contract, decided eventually to support the proposal.

D'Amato: Israel Aid Should Be Listed Under U.S. Military Budget

NEW YORK (WNS) — Calling Israel "the only realistic rapid deployment force" in the Middle East, Sen. Alfonse D'Amato (R. NY) said that military aid to Israel should be removed from the classification of foreign aid and "placed under the heading of the military budget."

Appearing on International Dateline produced by Americans for a Safe Israel for National Jewish Television, he also accused Egypt of "abrogating the Camp David accords."

D'Amato told host David Bar-Illan that compared to the "160 billion we spend on NATO," assistance to Israel costs "practically no money," and that aid to Israel "strengthens" Am-

erica's strategic position. American economic and military aid to Israel will reach \$2.6 billion in fiscal year 1985. If the military portion were made of the U.S. budget as is the case with the NATO countries and Japan, much of the criticism of U.S. aid to Israel would be removed, D'Amato noted.

International Dateline is televised every Sunday at 1 p.m. Eastern Time on National Jewish Television. The program is received in 110 cities in 27 states.



Ben Gurion University Reopens In Longest Delay Among Universities

TEL AVIV (WNS) — Ben Gurion University of the Negev in Beersheba opened its doors for the start of the academic year following the approval by the university's executive committee of a balanced budget based on guidelines of the Planning and Grants Committee of the government's Council for Higher Education.

All universities in Israel, apart from the Technion in Haifa, delayed the opening of their academic year because of budgetary problems. But the others opened after a week's delay, leaving only the Beersheba institute still closed due to the lack of funds caused by cut-backs in government

fundings to Israel's universities.

Shlomo Gazit, president of Ben Gurion University, withdrew his earlier letter of resignation, telling the executive committee that his decision had been "greatly influenced by the messages of support from public figures in Israel and abroad and from the university's academic and administrative staff."

Gazit tendered his resignation recently because of what he described as the "complete lack of understanding of the needs for higher education in Israel in general, and of the Ben Gurion University in particular."

Valley Bank Of Nevada's Precious Metals Investment Services Recently Celebrated Its One Year Anniversary

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601st Israeli Soldier Is Killed In Lebanon Attack

TEL AVIV (WNS) — An Israeli soldier was killed and four others were wounded when an unarmored personnel carrier truck was attacked by three terrorists in the central square of Sidon in South Lebanon. The death of the soldier brought to 601 the number of fatalities sustained by the Israel Defense Force in Lebanon since the IDF invaded that country in June, 1982. The three terrorists were apprehended.

According to military sources, the truck was part of an IDF convoy which included a jeep. It was described as a "Safari" vehicle, with a roof and open sides.

Soldiers sit back-to-back on two parallel benches on the truck and face outward with their weapons primed to fire on attackers from either side.

The truck was passing through "Sand Square" in central Sidon, a junction where the main North-South and East-West highways meet. It is heavily travelled by IDF units and has frequently been the scene of attacks. As the vehicle passed a parked car in the square, three terrorists emerged, opened fire on the convoy at close range and escaped in their car, military sources said.



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