

That Precious Right To Know

By Robert E. Segal

When Washington marked the anniversary of the U.S. invasion of Grenada, Oct. 25, the question of the American media's traditional right to "go in with the troops" on any future military engagements stood out as a vital issue not completely resolved.

Vice Admiral Joseph Metcalf 3rd, commandant of the 15,000-member Navy, Army, and Marine task force that moved into Grenada, acknowledged a year ago that he made the decision to keep newsmen away from the conflict area during the first two days of the attack. When journalists complained, he advised them not to take their grievance to a higher authority. "If you want to argue with somebody, you've got to argue with me, not the Defense Department," he said. The legendary buck stopped with him.

But when the rescue of medical students had been completed and resistance forces overcome, complaints did go forth to the Pentagon from the media brass. After considerable consideration of the troublesome policy, the military sources made concessions, chief of which was to have a press pool constructed for future similar martial strikes.

Several aspects of the year-long debate over the Grenada information black-out help to explain deepening opposition to the Reagan Administration's indulgence in government-by-restriction measures. Nobody has expressed such anxiety better than Senator Patrick Leahy (D., Vt.). Speaking before the powerful, conservative American Newspaper Publishers Association, Senator Leahy said: "If we let things drift, if important information remains beyond our grasp, we will soon lose the means to criticize government effectively."

It is not surprising that the publishers' association as well as the American Society of Newspaper Editors monitored the Pentagon's reaction to complaints about the Grenada news freeze with great care.

The Pentagon follow-up scenario went thus: The Joint Chiefs of Staff set up a panel of officers and journalists to review Defense Department policy on the press and military operations. In August of this year, that panel concluded: "It is essential that the U.S. news media cover U.S. military operations to the maximum degree possible, consistent with missions security and the safety of U.S. forces."

Two months later, Defense revealed the make-up of the press pool destined to cover initial stages of any surprise military operation (the Grenada sortie being a prime example). The pool would include correspondents from news agencies, magazines,

radio, and television, but none from individual newspapers.

Exclusion of war correspondents some newspapers might wish to dispatch to the combat areas raised the hackles of publishers and editors. Said Arthur Ochs Sulzberger, publisher of The New York Times: "It reveals the Administration to be out of touch with journalism, reality, and the First Amendment." In a few days, the Defense Department, now more sensitive to the criticism, decided to include one newspaper reporter in the pool.

This may satisfy a few in the war coverage field; but grave doubts are certain to cling to the startling episode.

Here several considerations must be raised.

First, it is helpful to have television journalists and cameramen covering combat; but the cliché that holds one picture is worth a thousand words really isn't valid when we go to war. Coverage and analysis in depth by our newspapers are absolutely essential. For too long, millions have failed to realize that being fascinated, pleased, startled, or shocked by pictorial reporting provide no assurance that we can obtain the full coverage needed.

Again, the tendency of government to control the flow of vital news, to shrink the bounds of the Freedom of Information Act, and to try to censor articles and books on national security by former policy-making officers of the government does grave harm to the right of all to be well informed. These restrictive trends are incompatible with democratic traditions that have helped make our nation strong and our citizens truly free.

Shamir Urges Alternative World Body To United Nations

JERUSALEM (WNS) — Deputy Premier Yitzhak Shamir has called for creation of a new United Nations, an alternative organization that would include only the democratic countries.

Shamir, who is also Foreign Minister, spoke November 11 at a symposium on the ninth anniversary of the United Nations resolution that equated Zionism with racism. He contended that the resolution was passed because the Arabs and their allies

have an automatic majority in the General Assembly. He noted, however, that even so, they have failed to recruit the support necessary to expel Israel from the world organization.

The symposium, held at the Presidential residence, was attended, among others, by Sen. Daniel Moynihan (D. NY), a former U.S. Ambassador to the UN, and Benjamin Moniez, the Ambassador of Costa Rica, one of the few countries that voted against the Zionism-racism resolution nearly a decade ago.

United Way Announces Federal Grant For Food And Shelter Providers

Clark County has been chosen to receive federal funds to supplement emergency food and shelter programs in the area. This is the third such grant Clark County has received within the past year and a half. The previous grants provided 540,080 meals to the indigent and 449,820 nights of lodging to the homeless while only spending \$2,422 (.5%) for administrative fees.

A 12 member board, chaired by County Commissioner Thalia Dondero and staffed by United Way, will determine how the funds awarded to Clark County are to be distributed among the emergency food and shelter programs run by local service organizations in the area. Under the terms of the grant, local voluntary organizations chosen to receive funds must: 1) be non-profit, 2) have an accounting system and conduct an annual audit, 3) practice non-discrimination, 4) have demonstrated the capability to deliver emergency food and/or shelter programs, and 5) if they are a private voluntary organization, they should have a voluntary board. Qualifying organizations are urged to contact Wanda Randall at the United Way for an application, 798-4636.

27 Colleges Cited By B'nai B'rith Hillel For Adopt-A-Refusenik Program

The National Student Secretariat of B'nai B'rith Hillel Foundations presented certificates to 27 colleges and universities for their participation in the organization's Adopt-a-Refusenik program.

The students also honored the University of Pennsylvania with its Human Rights Award for its program, which has been in operation for four years.

The other schools cited are: American University, Arizona State University, Boston University, Brandeis University, California Tech, University of California-Los Angeles, Case Western, Claremont Colleges, Columbia University, University of Florida, Franklin and Marshall College, Hofstra University, Hunter College, Indiana University, Kent State University, Los Angeles Valley College, University of Miami, University of Michigan, Rutgers University, Temple University, University of Texas, Texas A&M, University of Toronto, Tulane University, Tufts University, Vassar College, and Washington University.

NEWARK, N.J. (WNS) — More than 1,000 people of different faiths, including Gov. Keane and several religious leaders, gathered to show support for the synagogue where several weeks ago vandals scrawled anti-Semitic slogans on its walls and drove a tractor through its walls. Rabbi Ira D. Rothstein, spiritual leader of the synagogue, stood side by side with the Rev. Robert Wozniak, pastor of St. Robert Bellarmine Roman Catholic Church here, scrubbing the walls to erase the anti-Semitic slogans.



22 E. OAKLEY AT LAS VEGAS BLVD LAS VEGAS OPEN 24 HOURS	3681 MARYLAND AT TWAIN LAS VEGAS OPEN 24 HOURS	574 N. EASTERN AT BONANZA LAS VEGAS OPEN 24 HOURS	
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350 N. NELLIS AT STEWART LAS VEGAS OPEN 24 HOURS	850 S. RANCHO AT CHARLESTON LAS VEGAS OPEN 24 HOURS	3750 FLAMINGO AT SANDHILL LAS VEGAS OPEN 24 HOURS	1941 N. DECATUR AT LAKE MEAD LAS VEGAS OPEN 24 HOURS

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