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## The Art Of Bureaucratic Double Talk

There were two stop-the-presses stories within the last two weeks dealing with Nazi war criminals. The first was an announcement in Washington, that the Justice Department will conduct an investigation into the whereabouts of Auschwitz death camp doctor Josef Mengele. The second was in Ottawa, that a commission has been appointed to investigate Nazi war criminals living in Canada.

The news is good, and the intended actions are long overdue. But what exactly is the news and what precisely do the actions amount to? On the surface, both announcements indicated major decisions to pursue Nazi war criminals and to hopefully bring them to the bar of public justice. But that was only a surface appearance.

Actually, it was bureaucratic double-talk, governmental gobbledegook. And the bureaucrats in Washington and in Ottawa, having writ, moved on in silence about what their announcements actually meant.

Consider the announcement by U.S. Attorney General William French Smith. "We will," he told reporters, "use the effective technique which OSI (The Justice Department's Office of Special Investigations) has used in the past to trace and locate Nazi war criminals." How's that again. Effective technique? What technique?

After all, Nazi war criminals have been living in the U.S. since the end of World War II, some of them in the lap of luxury, with the full knowledge of the American intelligence community. And in the case of Mengele, the release last month of previously classified U.S. Army intelligence documents suggested that Mengele may have been arrested and freed by U.S. military forces in Austria in 1947.

Moreover, Nazi-hunter Serge Klarsfeld charged, in the wake of the Justice Department's announcement, that the American authorities could have, but failed to arrest Mengele between 1945-49 when he lived more or less openly in his native city of Gunzburg, Bavaria, in the U.S. occupation zone of West Germany. "It is practically impossible that the (American) authorities did not notice Mengele's presence," Klarsfeld told the French news agency, Agence France Presse.

So much for "the effective technique" of American efforts in tracking down and apprehending Nazi war criminals.

As for the announcement in Ottawa about the establishment of a commission to bring Nazi war criminals to justice, Canada's Justice Minister John Crosbie said the commission has until December 31, 1985 to render its report and findings. But there are some flies in the Commission's ointment.

According to a report by the Canadian Law Enforcement Commission, war criminals living in Canada have been able to escape prosecution because extradition has not been sought, or because it has been blocked by legalities or

because of the nature of the requesting country's judicial system, or because of the aversion of the Canadian justice system to retroactive legislation.

The former Solicitor General, Robert Kaplan, zeroed in on the vital problem concerning the commission: the inordinate length of time to be allowed for its report and findings to be submitted. He noted that many suspects who may come under investigation might simply disappear.

And that, to use a Yiddish expression, is where the dog is buried.

## Behind The Scenes

At The United Nations

By David Horowitz

A World-Union Press Feature

### Au Revoir Jeane Kirkpatrick

UNITED NATIONS (WUP) — It will have to be an "Au Revoir" with Jeane Kirkpatrick. Whatever she plans to do, she'll not be leaving the global political scene, her voice will still be heard and reckoned with. She has proved herself by words, acts and deeds in leadership to attain even the highest office of this nation. This is a widespread view.

Surely, the United Nations will not be the same without Jeane Kirkpatrick. No matter how loyally her successor General Vernon A. Walters will adhere to the principles she has become famous for, she will be sorely missed here, especially by the Israelis.

How does one go about evaluating this singularly unique American Deborah?

There is but one answer: Jeane Kirkpatrick is brutally honest, forthright, fearless and courageous. She brings to mind the dedicated spirit evinced by the Founding Fathers of our Republic.

Last year when Bnai Zion, the American Fraternal Zionist Organization, honored her with the "1984 America-Israel Friendship Award" — this year bestowed upon Senator Alfonso D'Amato at last week's Award Dinner — the distinguished publicist-editor Ernest E. Barbarash invited this writer to pen a few words about her role at the UN for use as an introductory article in the annual Bnai Zion Voice.

As we say au revoir to our friend Jeane, it may be well to recall some of the highlights of that article which, in essence, was a tribute to her valiant stand consistently taken in support of Israel:

Having covered the UN since the early days at Lake Success and Flushing Meadows — a period which witnessed the historic Partition decision of 29 November 1947 — I must state that I have never seen a U.S. head of Mission, with the possible exception of Patrick Moynihan, like Ambassador Kirkpatrick so devoted in upholding the defense and rights of the State of Israel against a cabal of Arab states, Communist and third world countries determined to force Israel into status of a pariah.

## King of One Liners



HENNY YOUNGMAN

...Man of Many Talents.

This guy dies and leaves the shortest will. It said, "Being in my sound mind, I spent my money!"

Now, it is a fact that, in her defense of Israel, she has thereby also been defending the best interests of the United States.

Jeane Kirkpatrick had set the pace for her UN delegation when, during her first year here, she aired her views in a feature article appearing in The New Republic. In this feature, entitled "Dishonoring Sadat" and subtitled "the PLO is Not a Peace Partner," she noted, among other things, that "it is shocking, so soon after (Sadat's) death, influential Americans should be proposing solutions that would take us down the pathway Sadat scorned. It is especially shocking that they should suggest negotiating with the deadliest enemies of peace in the area..."

Expressing some concern that the death of Sadat

(Continued on page 5)

## TELL TALES

"One Man Plus The Truth  
Constitutes A Majority"

(Continued from page 1)

Woodcuts from the Sefer Minhagim (book of customs) show merry-makers dressed as harlequins and an etching from 1780 by Caspar Jacobz Philip shows an elegant ballroom in Amsterdam where beautiful masked couples are dancing to the music of an orchestra. In western Europe and the United States the masks and costumes of the Purim-shpil assumed the form of masked balls held on Purim, with the income derived from them given to communal charities.

How did the custom of wearing masks and disguises first originate? One possible connection is with our forefather Jacob. In order to receive his father's blessing Jacob disguised himself in his brother Esau's clothes. A more appealing explanation is the link with the verse in the Bible, "And I shall surely hide My face on that day." The Hebrew word to hide, 'hester,' is very similar to the name 'Esther,' having the same root. So from this the custom developed of hiding or masking one's face on Purim.

Nevertheless the custom of donning masks and masquerading on Purim was the subject of many Halachic disputes. In the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries famous rabbinic authorities in Poland and Italy came out in favor of masks but other equally learned authorities banned them. Those for masks saw it as a means of adding to the gaiety of the holiday whilst those opposing it felt it was violating the law if men and women wore each others clothes. It also transgressed the prohibition against fashioning graven images.

### Purim Celebrations

Masks and merriment reached new heights when Purim was celebrated in Tel Aviv in the twenties and thirties. The carnival or Adloyada consisted of a procession of magnificent floats accompanied by bands. The streets were decorated with flags and banners and the festivities came to a climax with colorful masked balls and breathtaking firework displays.

Today Purim is celebrated throughout the whole country. Besides the traditional reading of the Megillah, which is broadcast live from Tel Aviv's Great Synagogue, there are broadcasts on the radio of different Megillah readings so that everyone can hear the familiar chants and melodies. Every city, village, settlement, kibbutz, army unit, institution and school has a Purim celebration. Jerusalem's Ben-Yehuda pedestrian mall is a center of festivities on Purim, when most of the city's population, young and old, dress up in fancy dress, don masks and take to the streets in joyous abandon.

The theaters and other places of entertainment perform special Purim programs, radio and television have skits and satires and musical shows in honor of the day, and the newspapers and magazines print funny stories and jokes.

Once a year on Purim the world is turned upside down and no one knows who is who in a glorious day of exuberant celebration.