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Thanksgiving 1985

By Rabbi Marc H. Tanenbaum

The images of Thanksgiving, celebrated on November 28th, are historic and heartwarming. Pilgrim founders, turkey and stuffing, the festive board.

For the Pilgrims themselves, the origins of Thanksgiving traced back to the Bible on which they constructed their actual identities, their covenanted community, their very Exodus to the New Zion in America. As Bible-believers, the Pilgrims knew that the rituals of Thanksgiving began with the ancient Israelites who regarded the offering of thanks to God for their daily blessings of life and good health as the supreme expression of their humanness.

In the Messianic age, the Pharisaic Rabbis later taught, all sacrifices in the Jerusalem Temple will come to an end, except for that which trains the entire people in the duty of gratitude. That obligation is to continue forever. The Prophets ranked ingratitude -- that is, taking for granted the Divine daily gifts of food, clothing, shelter, and taking other people for granted -- as the supreme sin, one that reduces people below the level of dumb animals.

We need only to look about us to see how pervasive and humanly destructive that decline of elemental gratitude, taking everything for granted, has become -- between husbands and wives, parents and children, employers and employees, and between people and public servants. Thanksgiving has become too frequently a matter of heartburn over gorging oneself, rather than heartfelt thanks for the things that really count in our lives. In an age darkened by conflicts, hatred and terrorism throughout the world, that condition can be relieved only by a rebirth of plain, old-fashioned thanksgiving for everyday gifts of life, liberty and nurturing love for one another.

Behind The Scenes

At The United Nations

By David Horowitz

A World-Union Press Feature

Netanyahu's Historic UN Breakthrough

UNITED NATIONS (WUP) — Thanks to the initiative of Israel's dynamic Ambassador, Benjamin Netanyahu, it has finally happened here in this 'Lions den' where the ever-roaring cats have had their full sway in continually abusing the 59th Member State, Israel.

Now, for once and at last, the victim of this vicious abuse -- despite feverish Arab opposition but thanks to the approval of Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar -- took over one of the most important UN chambers, Conference Hall 4, for the convocation of an unprecedented con-

ference on "Israel, Zionism and the UN" where mighty voices were heard in condemnation of those evil voices previously uttered in hate and murderous assault in this same chamber by the enemies of mankind.

The date was 10 November and the occasion marked the 10th anniversary of the General Assembly adoption -- by vote of 72 for, 35 against with 32 abstentions and 3 absent -- of the infamous resolution equating Zionism with racism. It is well to keep in mind that, counting the abstentions and the 3 absent, almost an equal number of Member States refused to approve the slanderous draft resolution.

Now, who were these mighty voices who, in full unison, transformed the UN for a day from a house of anti-Israeli rhetoric to a place consistent with the equity and justice called for in the Charter of the World Organization? They were those of Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan; former US Ambassador to the UN Jeane Kirkpatrick; her successor General Vernon Walters; Bayard Ruston; former Costa Rican Ambassador the Rev. Benjamin Nunez; Alan L. Keyes, U.S. State Department; Conor Cruise O'Brien, former Deputy chief of Ireland's UN delegation; Rahamin Eliezar, Falasha leader, and, of course, the moving spirit of the Conference, Ambassador Netanyahu. President Reagan sent an approving message.

Kenneth J. Bialkin, chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations which co-hosted the event attended by an audience of close to one thousand, also delivered a major address. The UN session was divided into two parts with a brief coffee-break in between.

There was nothing like this in the whole history of the UN that such a vital Jewish audience and such a galaxy of distinguished speakers on behalf of Israel and in condemnation of the malcontents here should be assembled within the confines of this World Parliament of Man with the specific purpose of condemning an Assembly resolution and demanding that it be expunged.

The occasion was of particular interest to this writer in view of the fact that last August, in this space, your correspondent had called upon the U.S. to challenge the UN to expunge the "Zionism-is-racism" resolution. After citing the UN Charter, the column continued:

"The writer would urge all delegates, especially those Representatives notorious for their slander and vicious attacks against Israel, to restudy the Preamble and the Charter as a whole and make some efforts to amend their glaring violations of their original commitments to membership, but more especially admit their grievous sin in having pushed through on 10 November 1975 the Zionism-racism' resolution and seek to erase it from the records...A general move to expunge this anti-Semitic resolution should become a priority action during the forthcoming session..."

King of One Liners



HENNY YOUNGMAN

...Man of Many Talents.

I went to Miami and got a suntan. When I got the bill, I turned white again.

While 10 November 1975 is a day that will live in infamy, 10 November 1985 is a day that will live in glory -- thanks to Ambassador Netanyahu and Secretary-General de Cuellar who refused to heed the prodding of the Arabs to ban the Conference. Declared Clovis Maksoud, Observer to the Arab League here, the next day, in criticism of de Cuellar; "The Secretary-General has political and moral authority to articulate his judgment on the clear violation and abuse. He should not shy away from condemning Israel's reckless behavior and its abuse of privilege and contempt for its agreement with the Secretariat."

In opening the unique Seminar, Ambassador Netanyahu declared:

"On behalf of the Israeli Mission to the UN, I would like to welcome all of you to this historic conference on Israel, Zionism and the United Nations. We did not choose this date or location by accident. It is impossible to discuss the experience of Israel in the UN without discussing the most egregious assault on Israel's legitimacy. That assault gathered steam in the 1950's and 1960's and culminated in the passage of the resolution equating Zionism with racism on November 10, 1975..."

"The discussions about Israel in the UN have been turned into a chorus of hate. If this body is ever to return to its original purposes, it must first rid itself of its obsessive campaign against Israel...That is why, on the 40th anniversary of the UN and on the 10th year of this Resolution, the Mission of Israel has convened this seminar. We believe that it is indispensable to the continuing effort to eradicate the slander. The record must be set straight for the sake of the truth and the UN itself..."

Declared President Reagan in his message: "Today, I am proud to pledge my support for the removal of this blot from the UN record."

NEW YORK, N.Y. — The Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith has received a letter from Austrian Chancellor Fred Sinowatz indicating that his government will pursue the extradition of former SS officer Alois Brunner from his present home in Syria. The letters follows a meeting between Mr. Sinowatz and two ADL officials in New York several weeks ago. Frank Reiss, the League's European Affairs director, and Elliott Welles, director of ADL's Task Force on Nazi War Criminals, presented the Chancellor with a file of correspondence referring to Brunner, one of the most active participants in the destruction of European Jews.

TELL TALES

"One Man Plus The Truth Constitutes A Majority"

(Continued from page 1)

of the event.

Persons involved in coordinating the dinner include co-chairmen Mel Golden and John Chiero. Project chairmen are Harry Weinshenker and Byron A. Smith.

Smith, who is also a member of the City of Hope national board of directors, says, "The Las Vegas community has always been very supportive of the City of Hope, and we are pleased to be able to honor one of the city's outstanding citizens and leaders in return."

Sheriff Moran will receive the highest honor of the City of Hope -- the Spirit of Life Award. Proceeds from the dinner will be used to establish a research fellowship at the City of Hope in his name.

The City of Hope National Medical Center and Beckman Research Institute provide care at no direct cost to the patient and lifesaving research to those suffering from cancer and leukemia; heart, blood and lung diseases; diabetes and other hereditary and metabolic disorders. Admission is by referral from physicians, hospitals or health agencies.