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An Historical Anniversary Goes Unnoticed

It nearly went unnoticed. Had it not been for the Israel Embassy in Washington, it is quite possible that few in Washington would have remembered that crisp spring afternoon seven years ago last month when then Premier Menachem Begin of Israel and the late Egyptian President Anwar Sadat signed the Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty.

While some have surely criticized both Cairo and Israel for the failures of the treaty, Israel's Ambassador in Washington, Meir Rosenne, stressed at a reception in March that for the last seven years no soldier has been killed on either

All those concerned with the Middle East and particularly Israel-Egyptian relations, however, realize that while Rosenne's statement is true, there have been brutal scenes of hatred between Israelis and Egyptians. This includes the violent massacre of several Israelis at Ras Burka in the Sinai last year by an apparently deranged Egyptian soldier.

In addition, Israeli officials in Cairo have been targeted for assassination. Egyptian extremists just recently killed an Israel Embassy staff employee and other diplomats in Cairo travel carefully in the Egyptian capital, fearing they may be the next victim.

Nor has the Egyptian government been forthcoming in pressing for increased trade and tourism between the two countries. Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak also needs to come to grips with increased domestic turbulence, and a worsening economic situation that must be remedied.

Overall, relations between the two countries need to be improved, and the Egyptians surely need to go out of their way to prove to the Israelis that they remain committed not only to the letter of the peace treaty but also the spirit of the document. Unfortunately, the anniversary of the signing of the accord between Israel and Egypt went nearly unnoticed in most of official Washington, but it must not go unnoticed by the two parties for whom it remains most important.

Behind The Scenes

At The United Nations
By David Horowitz

A World—Union Press Feature

Was Waldheim A Dr. Jekyll And Mr. Hyde?

UNITED NATIONS (WUP) — Was Kurt Waldheim a "Dr. Jekyll-and Mr. Hyde" split personality? He probably was. But, unlike Dr. Jekyll, he knew his Hyde.

Strangely, there seems to be no let-up to the

Las Vegas Israelite

mushrooming Waldheim case. This past week both Israel and Austria, having been granted permission to enter the UN's "holy of holies" to examine the archives, instructed their Ambassadors to start the investigation. The day of their arrival here, the news reached this headquarters that a third country, the United States, had requested and received permission to examine the secret files.

What they are after and what Ambassador Netanyahu and Austria's envoy found was file number 79/724 listed under Kurt Waldheim's name. Following his discovery, Mr. Netanyahu, sworn to secrecy under the agreement, was non-commital except to say that the matter calls for further investigation. The Austrian was also silent. (The question still remains: could the file have been tampered with during the ten years Waldheim headed the UN?)

All the secret files -- some 40,000 -- filling the vaulted archives deal with war criminals, suspects and witnesses compiled by the UN War Crimes Commission through the years 1943-1948. To date, only three, those of Eichmann, Engele and Barbie have been turned over to law enforcement agencies. Now there is a fourth, that of Waldheim.

Interestingly, in a statement issued in Washington and which reached your correspondent here at the UN, Senator Alfonse D'Amato disclosed that in April, 1980, U.S. Attorney-General Benjamin R. Civilietti had written to the then Secretary-General Kurt Waldheim requesting that he give assistance to attorneys of the Office of Special Investigations of the Department of Justice to examine documents relating to Nazi war criminal files in the UN archives. "I would be grateful for any assistance," Civiletti wrote to Waldheim, "that you or the members of your staff are in a position to offer as the Office of Special Investigations begins the task of examining these records."

Strangely, there was no follow-up on the American request.

"Despite that" so-called U.S.-UN "agreement," Senator D'Amato declared, "no documents ever reached the Office of Special Investigations, as we have, to date, not even seen materials which can offer a fresh look at an obscene era of our history. I am calling upon our Attorney-General," D'Amato added, "to seek the release of these files and I am calling upon the UN and its Secretary-General to provide OSI with not just file number 79/724, but the entire archive."

The dynamic and ever-alert Senator, after noting that the "Waldheim name appears in a 1948 Army document known as the CROWCASE (Central Registry of War Criminals and Security Suspects) list" recording UN's War Crimes Commission File 79/724 as Waldheim's, made this meaningful statement:

"One has to wonder whether or not the former Secretary-General knew that he was presiding over an international agency for peace that held a file containing his own name, and for that reason never acted on an agreement that allowed our Office of Special Investigations to see those archives."

Indeed, one wonders! Kurt Waldheim may well have been more than a "Dr. Jekyll-and Hyde" type, as we noted above. In Jekyll we had a absolute dual personality who couldn't control Hyde over him. In Waldheim, it appears, we had a Jekyll who not only knew but welcomed Hyde in the sense that he, Waldheim, found something in common with Yasir Arafat who, together with his murderous PLO, found some comfort and even glory under the Waldheim canopy. It was under this canopy that the Racism-Zionism resolution came into force, and that the pro-PLO Secretariat Unit with its many offshoots emerged -- periodic publications, TV-radio shows, films, etc.

As Dr. Jekyll, Kurt Waldheim bent over backwards to befriend Jewish personalities. On one occasion, in the presence of this writer who was always in good graces with the former UN Chief, he exchanged gifts with the noted Cantor Joseph Malovany who was received together with his artist wife in his sanctum-sanctorum up on the 38th floor. A most friendly exchange of words ensued. Cantor Malovany's gift was a composition of his own taped on a record - Cantorial rendition of Isaiah's vision of world peace. Waldheim's gift was an album of valuable UN stamps.

The fact remains, Simon Wiesenthal, who met with Perez de Cuellar here the day the Waldheim file was examined last week, had termed Kurt Waldheim a "Liar."

43rd Anniversary Of Warsaw Ghetto Uprising

The 43rd anniversary of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising will be marked at memorial services Sunday afternoon, May 4 in the Felt Forum of Madison Square Garden at ceremonies honoring the memory of the Six Million Jews who perished at Nazi hands.

The public is invited and admission is free, it was announced by Benjamin Meed, President of the Warsaw Ghetto Resistance Organization and Chairman of the United Commemoration Committee of Metropolitan New York, sponsor of the annual event.

Among the speakers at the services, which begin at 12 noon, are:

Elie Wiesel, author and Distinguished Professor of Humanities, Boston University.

Benjamin Netanyahu, Permanent Representative of Israel to the United Nations.

Edward I. Koch, Mayor of New York.

The service will include a candle-lighting ceremony by Holocaust survivors and their children. Misha Raitzin, a concentration-camp survivor and member of the Metropolitan Opera Company, will chant the traditional El Mole Rachamin (O Lord Full of Mercies).

In announcing the event, Mr. Meed stated:

"In April of 1943, the quiet warmth of Spring in Warsaw was shattered by an outcry from the oppressed Jewish Ghetto -- Enough! No more degradation! No more subservience! No more slaughter!

"The weeks of feverish preparation were over. Shots rang out, mines exploded, and the words 'Warsaw Ghetto Uprising' were written with blood into the pages of Jewish history.

"In the weeks that followed this first organized civilian resistance in Nazi Europe, courageous young Jewish men and women gave new meaning to heroism and self-sacrifice. Isolated and alone, they repelled onslaught after Nazi onslaught. The walls crumbled, the food, water and ammunition ran out, and flames turned the Ghetto into an inferno. Yet still the martyrs held off the Nazis, while the world looked on, mute. In the end, the Ghetto was smoke and rubble, but the battle cries raised that Spring echo through the years imploring us, and all generations to come, to remember. And to make sure, as we gather and commemorate, that mankind never knows another Holocaust."

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When my wife asked me to start a garden the first thing I dug up was an excuse.