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In The Aftermath Of Passover

Just as the Passover holiday arrived last month marking the exodus from bondage of the Jewish people more than 2,000 years ago -- a special group of Jews who suffered under similar persecution because of their religious beliefs emigrated from Russia to Israel.

Isai and Grigory Goldstein are two brothers from Tbilisi, the capital of Soviet Georgia. They waited nearly 15 years and suffered through repeated harassment and persecution from the Soviet internal police before finally being allowed to emigrate to Israel.

In fact, the two brothers and Isai's wife, Elizabeta -- all three are physicists -- were dragged from a farewell party in Moscow just days before their scheduled departure, leading some Soviet Jewry activists in the U.S. to suspect that the Soviets were going to pull the plug on their trip to Israel.

"Our dream has at last come true," said Elizabeta. "We want no more publicity. All your attention must now be given to those who have been left behind. There are still hundreds of thousands waiting to leave."

In fact, as Elizabeta Goldstein uttered those words while clutching the hand of her 15-year-old son Avi at an airport in Israel, it was estimated that more than 400,000 Soviet Jews have begun the emigration process. Moreover, 20,000 have been refused permission to emigrate. In March, only 17 Jews were allowed to leave the Soviet Union, one of the lowest monthly totals in recent years.

The message brought out by the Goldsteins is similar to that from former Prisoner of Conscience Anatoly Shcharansky, recently released in an East-West prisoner exchange. He, too, stressed the need not to forget the many thousands of Jews left behind in the Soviet Union unable to leave for Israel and also unable to practice freely their religion in the Soviet Union without fear of persecution.

In the aftermath of Passover, a time when Jews gathered peacefully around Seder tables in the United States, Canada and elsewhere, it is a time to reflect on the suffering of Jews 3,000 years ago and draw the parallel to that time of oppression with the hardships suffered today by Jews in the Soviet Union. Incredible as it is, the separation of time has not eased the plight of some Jews.

Behind The Scenes

At The United Nations

By David Horowitz

A World-Union Press Feature

Imperative: Ultimatum To Pro-Terrorist States

UNITED NATIONS (WUP) — On the strength of a unanimously-adopted Security Council resolution last December 18 which called "for

the immediate release of all hostages and abducted persons wherever and by whoever they are being held," the United States at this particular times will be fully in its right to confront Syria with an ultimatum to move quickly to facilitate the freeing of the American and other hostages held by the Khomeini-inspired 'Islamic Holy War' fanatics in the Syrian-controlled Bekaa Valley.

Without President Assad's consent these murderous terrorists would not find a haven in Lebanon and it is therefore incumbent upon him to expel them forthwith. These are the very ones -- take note, Washington -- upon whose hands still remain the bloody stains of the 241 massacred U.S. Marines.

Notice of the American ultimatum to Damascus should be brought to the attention of Iran, Libya, Southern Yemen and to the other radical pro-terrorist states which provide a safe haven to them; nay, train and finance their murderous undertakings.

Without the funds supplied them by Libya, Syria, Iran and several other Arab League states, the Abu Nidals, the Habashes, the Jebriils, the Abu Musas, the Abasses, the Hawatmehs -- and, of course, the Arafats who receive their funds

mainly from Saudi Arabia, etc. -- would become helpless and paralyzed. And so would the other German, Japanese and Italian fanatics become impotent. Their funds come from the self-same source.

In formulating its ultimatum -- in consultation with its friendly allies -- the United States must never forget the Damascus-sanctioned massacre of the Marines nor the gleeful comment made by the then Syrian Minister of Defense Mustafa Tlas who publicly celebrated the foul deed and threatened further attacks.

"Terrorism is an undeclared war," stated Israeli Ambassador to the UN Benjamin Netanyahu at a recent Washington Conference on International Terrorism. "Terrorists," he added, "are servants of the governments that launch them. Military force, then, becomes a legal response. A posture of weakness invites further aggression...If a government has harbored, trained and launched terrorists," he stressed, "it becomes a legitimate object of military response..."

Thus, as the United States had the full legal right, based on Article 51 of the UN Charter, to punish Libya for its murder of Americans, it has a

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TELL TALES

"One Man Plus The Truth Constitutes A Majority"

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one-third of the city of Salonica -- which was brought about through the enthusiastic involvement of his commanding officer! More insulting to our intelligence is that a person who carried the mantle of international human rights for a decade could contend that he never heard of this brutal chapter of the Holocaust until forty-three years later.

MYTH -- Kurt Waldheim is innocent of any personal crimes.

FACT -- The crimes commission of Yugoslavia, in a letter to the United Nations dated December 29, 1947, charged Waldheim with murder and slaughter. The U.N. commission accepted the Yugoslav document and recommended prosecuting Kurt Waldheim. Since then, for reasons that are not yet clear, nothing has been done either by the U.N. or the government of Yugoslavia to pursue this case.

MYTH -- It is reasonable to assume that Kurt Waldheim has been exonerated of all criminal charges based upon the analysis of the U.N. file by the current president of Austria (himself a former judge), who said the documentation he saw would not have warranted any legal action against Waldheim.

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FACT -- The Wiesenthal Center's legal counsel, Martin Mendelsohn, personally confirmed in Yugoslavia that the Yugoslav file on Waldheim contains many more documents than are currently in the U.N. archives. There can be no final disposition of the criminal charges against Waldheim without public access to the Yugoslav files.

FACT -- Indeed, it has been both frightening and intriguing to watch the world's former chief human rights officer insist on maintaining his trail of lies all the way to Capitol Hill before an incredulous, unbelieving House Human Rights panel.

Why? Surely the seasoned international veteran knew he had other options. For example, Mr. Waldheim, like other former Wehrmacht officers, could have come clean about those dirty years and gone on with his private and public life. One ranking Wehrmacht officer, who was much more directly involved in Hitler's war effort, did just that, and went on in later years to become the supreme commander of NATO. But Waldheim, as shrewd as any political operator on the world scene, grasped the situation differently. He apparently concluded that many of his countrymen are sick and tired of hearing about the Holocaust and the other evils of the Nazi era. By steadfastly maintaining he was "only doing what hundreds of thousands of loyal Austrians were doing during World War II", he knew he would reap the political windfall. It is not surprising, then, that West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl took the unprecedented step of intervening in the election campaign of a neighboring state by calling Waldheim "a patriot," and berating the "arrogance" of people born after WW II who tried to attack his friend. Kohl, you will recall, is the man who, in forcing last year's visit with President Reagan to SS graves at Bitburg, gave legitimacy and momentum to all those in the former "Greater Reich" who wish to whitewash the crimes of the Nazi era by erasing the differences between the perpetrators and victims of history's greatest crime.

Kurt Waldheim should be placed on our State Department's watch list of undesirable aliens. While we may never know if he was guilty of murder, we do know that he is a cynical, unrepentant liar. On the eve of the 40th anniversary of the Nuremberg war crimes tribunal, America should send Waldheim and all those who seek to erase the memories of the horrible reality of the Nazi era, a signal that we will not reward their selective amnesia. Let us instead heed the silent cry of the victims of the greatest crimes in history, never to forget.

(Rabbis Marvin Hier and Abraham Cooper are Dean and Associate Dean (respectively) of the Simon Wiesenthal Center, an institution with over 310,000 member families in North America, which is devoted to the study of the Holocaust and prevention of anti-Semitism and future genocide.)