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A Syrian Smoke Screen

Syrian hatred for the State of Israel is a widely acknowledged matter of fact. But the revelation that the Syrian Defense Minister has authored a virulently anti-Semitic book seems to confirm the worst of fears: that Syrian enmity towards the State of Israel is only matched by its hatred for the Jewish people. Syrian claims that it is not anti-Jewish but only opposed to Zionism are now revealed as nothing more than blatant lies.

The disclosure of the book, "Matzah of Zion," authored by Mustafa Tlas, Syria's Defense Minister, was made by the Los Angeles based Simon Wiesenthal Center. They obtained a copy of the book which is believed to be widely circulated in Syria. It revives the blood libel forgery against the Jewish people and calls the true religious beliefs of the Jews "black hatred to all humanity and all religions."

Rabbi Marvin Hier of the Center said: "The fact that such a high ranking Cabinet officer of the government of Syria could direct such a campaign of hatred and anti-Semitism against the Jewish people is an indication that the Golan Heights dispute is only a smoke screen for the real intentions of the current Syrian regime who would obviously like to rid themselves of any Jewish presence in the Middle East."

The Reagan Administration has ordered the United States Embassy in Damascus to look into the matter, according to a letter Secretary of State George Shultz wrote to Rabbi Hier on July 3. He added that "I can assure you I share your deep sense of outrage that individuals continue to write such works which clearly serve only to further hatred and anti-Semitism against the Jewish people."

Furthermore, Hier contacted government leaders in Canada, France, Italy, Great Britain, West Germany, the Vatican, and the UN Human Rights Commission, requesting that they "formally protest this revival of anti-Semitism at the highest levels of the Syrian regime." Shultz is the only government official who has replied so far to the Center's request.

It is imperative that the other governments take up this issue on the highest diplomatic level. The publication of this vitriolic anti-Semitic falsehood by a high Syrian government official poses a clear and present danger to the safety of the 5,000-member Syrian Jewish community, and to Jews in other Arab countries, who live in the shadow of ruthless and murderous regimes.

Behind The Scenes

At The United Nations
By David Horowitz
A World-Union Press Feature

A 'Monument' To Peace On Egyptian-Israeli Border

UNITED NATIONS (WUP) — While this Organization has proclaimed 1986 the International

Year of Peace, it appears that only one country among all the Member UN States is actually doing something about implementing the proclamation — Israel.

Thanks to the initiative of an American, Leon H. Charney -- author of the recent revelatory volume "Special Counsel" recounting the behind-the-scenes story of the Camp David accords -- the machinery for the establishment of the world's first International Peace Park on the Egyptian-Israeli border has been set in motion.

The Park, to be situated 35 miles south of Rafiah on a newly-completed two-lane "peace road" connecting Rafiah on the Mediterranean coast with Eilat, will commemorate the Camp David accords and will serve as a living model of the 1978 unprecedented event in honor of Menachem Begin, Jimmy Carter and the late Anwar Sadat.

A project of the Jewish National Fund, the Peace Park is budgeted at five million dollars and, according to national chairman of the project, the former Carter Counsel Robert J. Lipshutz, "it will provide a visitor/educational center with Camp David displays, camp grounds, meditation glens, picnic and recreation areas."

Mr. Lipshutz' close colleague during the Carter White House years, Leon Charney, is serving as international chairman of the Peace Park movement. "We hope to have the Park in operation by 1988 for the tenth anniversary of the Accord," he stated in an interview. "All the peace-loving countries of the world will be invited to participate in this project by contributing actual or symbolic flora and fauna to the gardens of the nations which will be part of the overall plan. Feasibility studies are now underway in Israel to determine the exact nature of the park sections to be developed."

The setting up of this international Peace Park on the border of the land of the ancient Pharaohs brings to mind two significant prophetic passages contained in chapter nineteen of the book of the great Prophet Isaiah.

Verse 19 predicts:

"In that day there shall be an altar to YHVH in the midst of the land of Egypt, and a Pillar at the border thereof to YHVH. And it shall be for a sign and a witness..."

But verse 24 is more telling and should serve as a cue to President Mubarak and his aides to move forward with normalization with Israel, for this prophecy, which must be fulfilled, decrees:

"In that day shall Israel be a triumvirate -- Hebrew shellishia -- along with Egypt and with Assyria, a blessing in the midst of the earth; in that YHVH of hosts hath blessed it (the shellishia), saying, 'Blessed be Egypt My People, and Assyria the work of My hands, and Israel Mine inheritance.'"

It is clear here that Isaiah foresaw a triple alliance in peaceful coexistence between a reborn State of Israel and two of its traditional enemies, Egypt and Assyria (Ashur) pointing to

the beginning of a new age of world peace. May the International Peace Park soon to arise be symbolic of the beginnings of the fulfillment of this prophecy.

Interestingly, Mr. Nabil Osman, press attache of the Egyptian Mission to the UN, will appear as the featured guest at a Breakfast Briefing -- the first of a series -- on behalf of the International Peace Park Project to be held on Thursday, July 31, in the JNF Library, 33 East 67th Street, New York City, according to an announcement made this week by Alan Freidberg, executive director of the JNF of Greater New York.

It was also announced that the noted Actor, Jack Lemmon, has accepted to serve as the Honorary President of JNF project.

Judaism And Pornography

By Rabbi Marc H. Tanenbaum

The Attorney General's Commission on Pornography issued its 1,900 page report last week and immediately was caught in a cross-fire of controversy.

Some social scientists have criticized its methods which concluded that there is a link between hard-core pornography and sexual violence and sex crimes. Civil liberties groups condemned the report's call for vigorous law enforcement and citizens' watch groups as a possible license for censorship or vigilantism. Those are valid concerns and they need to be given serious consideration.

But I hope all this controversy does not distract us from the main point of this study -- and that is that American society is in serious moral trouble, and pornography is both a cause and a symptom of that moral decay.

Who in his right mind can justify child pornography as anything other than child abuse and human degradation?

In 1984, Dr. Lawrence Grossman of the American Jewish Committee wrote a pamphlet on A Jewish View of the Pornography Issue. In that study, he states that "Judaism is not a prudish culture, and it associates no stigma with sexual activity. But sex must not be a spectacle, and must not, as pornography does, reduce human beings to erotic objects for commercial exploitation."

What can be done about pornography within the constraints of the American constitution is a matter for serious discussion. What is not debatable is that Jewish tradition and pornography are clearly incompatible.

TEL AVIV (WNS) — President Chaim Herzog has accused Europe of "lack of guts, lack of decision and lack of leadership" in the fight against international terrorism. His remarks were made in an Israel Radio interview when asked to comment on the attempted bombing of an El Al plane at Madrid airport.

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(Continued from page 1)

Tourist Office in New York City.
JNF established the forest in memory of Leon Klinghoffer, whose brutal murder by terrorists aboard the cruise ship Achille Lauro catapulted him to international attention, and his wife Marilyn, who dedicated the final months of her life to fighting terrorism. The forest is located in JNF's American Independence Park, containing memorials to great Americans and established during the nation's Bicentennial as a testimonial to the friendship and vision shared between the United States and Israel.

JNF is the organization responsible for afforestation and land reclamation in the Jewish state.