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A Welcome Step

A little-publicized measure that was passed by the U.S. Senate late last month is of vital importance not only to the general community but particularly to the Jewish Community.

The measure, sponsored by Sen. Charles Grassley (R. lowa), denies foreign tax credits to American corporations that operate in countries that support or harbor terrorists. The measure also prevents these countries from using tax revenues to subsidize training terrorists.

For too long, countries such as Libya, Cuba, Iran, Syria and South Yemen have been harboring terrorists on the run from democratic nations where they faced legal action and have also been training grounds for terrorists.

For too long, some of these countries have benefitted from having American or other Western corporations operating within their borders and thereby contributing to the economic coffers set aside for terrorist activities.

Many of these corporations have taken a callous and cavalier attitude toward the scourge of terrorism by conducting business as usual activities. Of course, these firms benefitted economically and many of their spokesmen justified the corporate activities as purely economic ones.

Unfortunately, this myopia aided -- even if it was inadvertent -- the cause of terrorism. And ironically, the terrorists did not always reciprocate by withholding attacks against either the property of these firms or the citizens of the countries in which the firms were headquartered.

It is time that a sense of morality replace economic greed. It is time that the financial basis for terrorist operations be hit and hit hard. The Senate measure is one such step, and a welcome one at that.

Behind The Scenes

At The United Nations

By David Horowitz

A World-Union Press Feature

Abram Charges Low-Level Officials Impede Alliance With Israel

UNITED NATIONS (WUP) - Making his debut with the press as the newly-elected President of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, Morris B. Abram -- who through the years 1965-1968 served as the U.S. Representative to the UN Commission on Human Rights under President Johnson and as a Senior Advisor to the U.S. Mission under Ambassador Goldberg -- charged that in the face of the ongoing excellent relations between Washington and Jerusalem there are a numer of junior Government officials who have been working sneakily to impede these relations.

The noted American-Jewish leader termed these hate-mongering individuals "spoilers" raising their ugly heads out of "the lower-level bowels of democracy."

Appearing on the platform in the Jewish Agency Building, 515 Park Avenue, together with the new Executive Director of the Conference, Malcolm Hoenlein -- both of whom have recently returned from a visit to Israel where they had conferred with Israeli leaders -- Mr. Abram made it a point at the outset of his statement to emphasize "the overwhelming impression" he got from his visit there and from a previous visit with American officials in Washington, an impression "that the leaders of each country feel a degree of friendship, trust and closeness with the other than is remarkable and unprecedented in the

history of U.S.-Israel relations..."

The renowned attorney and human rights expert added that he had come to this conclusion 'despite, or, indeed, because, of the so-called 'blips' in that relationship that we all know about: the Pollard case, the differences of views on the Lavie aircraft, the charges about cluster bombs. etc. What is truly significant," he continued, "is that neither of the two countries will let these differences threaten or jeopardize the relationship that exists. While these matters will be addressed, they will not be permitted to undermine U.S. - Israel ties... The great achievement in U.S.-Israel relations is that both sides recognize and appreciate the mutual and reciprocal benefits that each country derives from and gives the

"These views are held at the highest level in Washington and in Jerusalem. Nevertheless," -and here he alluded to the few spoilers -- it must also be acknowledged that there are some people in the American Government bureaucracy who appear determined to weaken this alliance. They do so by leaks, by false charges, by manipulating the media...Such people operate out of a variety of motives. They are not highranking government officials, but they have caused damage, particularly in the media. I believe their atttempts to disrupt the U.S.-Israel relationship are embarrassing to the Administration as they are annoying to Israel..."

During the question period, this writer asked Mr. Abram if he could tell in what particular branches of government these "spoilers" are sowing their poisonous seeds of hate against the State of Israel. In his reply, he singled out two branches of Government, the Justice and the Treasury Departments, the Customs division. In mentioning these two branches he made it clear that the individuals involved are of a lowlevel status but manage somehow to do their dir-

ty work underhandedly.

The former President of Brandeis University and head of a number of other vital institutions. including the American Jewish Committee, the Field Foundation and the United Negro College Fund, etc., was emphatic in stating that "the great issues affecting the Middle East peace find

a U.S.-Israel congruance that is most gratifying: on the refusal to negotiate with terrorists, including the PLO; on the insistence that there must be direct talks between Israel and its neighbors; on the primacy of Resolution 242, on the Soviet threat to regional stability; on the dangers of Muslem fundamentalism; on Israel's need for vast military and economic assistance from the U.S.; on the threat that terrorist gangs pose to all civilized society; on Israel's need to maintain qualitative military superiority over the Arab states that surround it; on Israel's commitment to face-to-face negotiations -- on these vital issues, America and Israel stand as one..."

Such unity of purpose, Morris B. Abram concluded, "makes me proud as an American and as a Jew who loves Israel, and who sees the Jewish State as a great partner in the enterprise of defending democracy and advancing the fron-

tiers of freedom..."

The Road To Morocco

One of those remarkable developments that seems to happen all too infrequently in the Middle East but nonetheless is able to capture the world's imagination, took place last week when Premier Shimon Peres boarded an Israel Air Force jet and flew to Morocco for talks with King

Just when all hopes for a breakthrough in the deadlocked Middle East dispute seemed to be fading, Peres' visit has provided a new injection of optimism to that battered region. Hassan, too, has to be applauded for taking this bold initiative and risking the wrath of the Arab rejectionist

Peres took along the Moroccan-born chairman of the Labor Party's Knesset faction, Rafi Edri, and his media adviser Uri Savir. Also joining the Premier were broadcast teams from Israel radio and television. Peres was in Morocco as Hassan's guest at the King's summer residence at Efrana, about 160 miles southeast of the

capital, Rabat. What substantial action, if any, comes from the talks will only become public over the next few months. But certain aspects of his visit shine bright. First, the talks between Peres and Hassan marked the first public meeting between an Arab leader and an Israeli Premier since Anwar Sadat's visit to Jerusalem in 1977.

And while there have been numerous reports of private, secret meetings between various Israeli officials and Arabs in the past, the public nature of this meeting caught many observers by surprise. Hassan will no doubt be subjected to much criticism from his Arab brethren. Syria called the meeting an act of treason, and immediately severed diplomatic relations with Morocco.

But Jordan and Egypt expressed cautious optimism. President Hosni Mubarak described the meeting as a "good initiative" that should be supported by those who favor peace. One group that does not seem to favor peace is the Palestine Liberation Organization, which denounced the meeting. The PLO's reaction, unfortunately, was predictable and largely dismissed.

In Israel, reaction was broadly positive. Officials cautioned about expecting too much from the talks in Morocco. But as one official noted, there was the possibility of the realization of formation of a moderate bloc of Arab nations which would seek peace with Israel. These nations could include Morocco, Jordan, Saudi Arabia and Egypt, which already has a peace treaty with the Jewish State.

The remarkable visit, even without substantial evidence of immediate progress in the Middle East, does clearly aid in the efforts to calm Middle East tensions and lead toward a broader understanding in the region. The simple fact that the head of the Arab League and the Premier of the Jewish State sat down and talked with one another is a welcome sign that peace can and must be achieved.

King of One Liners



HENNY YOUNGMAN ... Man of Many Talents.

Personally, I'm against political jokes. Too often they get elected to office.