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Thanksgiving 1986

By Rabbi Marc H. Tanenbaum

The images of Thanksgiving, which we celebrate on Thursday, November 27, 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 their entire life was built, 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 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 gifts of food, clothing, shelter, and taking other people for granted -- as the supreme sin, one that reduces people below the level of 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 expanding tyrannies and widespread hunger and poverty, that condition can be relieved only by a rebirth of plain, old-fashioned thanksgiving for everyday gifts of life, democratic freedom, and nurturing love for one another.

Behind The Scenes

At The United Nations

By David Horowitz

A World-Union Press Feature

U. S. - Israeli 'Partnership'

UNITED NATIONS (WUP) — Whatever was involved in the controversial American - Iranian 'arms deal' and the alleged Israeli connection -- and despite harsh criticisms leveled at the Administration and the President himself -- one must say that the close relations between The White House and Jerusalem have never been closer and as firm as they are today under Ronald Reagan.

In fact, what we have is something neither the Soviets nor their radical and so-called moderate Arab friends here at the UN like -- a U.S.-Israeli partnership on both economic and defense issues, a partnership which some im-

portant Israeli officials view as an alliance.

While the U.S. ill-advised secret move in terror-dominated Iran was aborted and undoubtedly made the President realize he had been misdirected by some of his close advisors who should have pointed to Assad's Syria as the main culprit, all this nevertheless antagonized the Arab world whose representatives here are ganging up to protest the UN Partition vote with a special anti-Israeli convocation this week.

Pointing to the firm U.S.-Israeli partnership, the renowned Washington-based Heritage Foundation this month released a vital background document written by Charles Brooks, an official of the National Jewish Coalition headquartered in the capital. Sent to this correspondent here at the UN, it declares that "the Israeli decision to participate in research on the Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI) promises to be the most important project ever formally undertaken between the two nations."

Author Brooks then proceeds to reveal that "never before has a joint U.S.-Israeli military project offered so many satrategic, technological, economic and political benefits for both countries," adding that "the U.S. stands to gain not only a stronger ally in the Middle East, but a much improved technology base for the SDI program," and "Israel stands to gain a stronger defense capability and access to the technical and economic benefits of participating in the world's most advanced technology research program."

The important Heritage Foundation document continues to point out that "building an Israeli defense against Soviet-supplied SCUD-B, SS-12, SS-21, and SS-22 surface-to-surface missiles deployed in Syria would serve U.S. interests by strengthening Israel's defenses, which should help stabilize the Middle East's military balance. It would benefit SDI by calling on Israeli expertise in laser technology, aero-mechanics, computer software, micro-electronics, and propulsion systems..."

In order to reap these benefits, the document adds, "it is vital that the U.S.-Israeli cooperation on SDI be allowed to develop fully," thus it suggests that the Reagan Administration should:

1. Vigorously oppose Congressional efforts to reduce allied participation in the SDI research program;
2. Establish a U.S.-Israeli working group as soon as possible to accelerate research and development on the anti-tactical ballistic missile (ATBM) system for Israel;
- and 3. Begin working with Israel to upgrade the Israeli air defense system against tactical ballistic missiles.

The significant Heritage document goes on to note that "when Ronald Reagan unveiled his Strategic Defense Initiative in March, 1983, he offered U.S. allies the opportunity to participate in the project. Three years later, in May 1986, with the unanimous support of the Israeli cabinet, Israeli Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin signed a

King of One Liners



HENNY YOUNGMAN

...Man of Many Talents.

Football Game: A contest where a spectator takes four quarters to finish a fifth.

Memorandum of Understanding with the U.S. Secretary of Defense Caspar Weinberger signalling a go-ahead for Israeli involvement in the program. This prompt Israeli response," the document emphasizes, "derived in large part from the growing threat to Israel from ballistic missiles armed with conventional, chemical and nuclear warheads...Israel's chief adversary is Syria, which boasts Soviet-supplied SCUD-B, SS-12, SS-21, and SS-22 surface-to-surface missiles..."

The Heritage document concludes: "SDI cooperation serves the interests of both the U.S. and Israel. It strengthens U.S. and Israeli ties as well as the SDI program itself, but clearly cooperation is most important for Israel. For the ability to defend itself against a growing Syrian short-range ballistic missile threat may some day be necessary for Israel's very survival."

JERUSALEM (WNS) — Israeli Air Force helicopters destroyed a terrorist boat at the port of Sidon in South Lebanon, the Army said. The helicopters returned safely to base. A booby-trapped car exploded the same afternoon, near the security zone in southern Lebanon. Three UNIFIL soldiers from Fiji and three Lebanese were killed, as well as the two terrorists inside the booby-trapped car. Three Fiji soldiers, two Lebanese civilians, and one soldier in the Israeli-backed South Lebanese Army (SLA) were wounded. The Mercedes car passed a UNIFIL road-block, some 10 kilometers north of Rosh Hanikra.

TEL AVIV (WNS) — Yitzhak Kogan, a former electronics engineer who became an Orthodox Jew during his 12-year quest for permission to emigrate from the Soviet Union, arrived in Israel with his family on November 16. Kogan, who won the name of "Tzadik (holy man) of Leningrad," was greeted at Ben-Gurion Airport by an ecstatic crowd of Habad Hasidim.

TELL TALES

"One Man Plus The Truth
Constitutes A Majority"

(Continued from page 1)

As you can realize, to live under these circumstances created by the KGB is not funny at all. My apartment is under visual and audio surveillance. Young men whose very appearance causes me to shiver follow me where I go. What if they decide to hit me or "by chance" push me under a passing car, or G-d knows what else could enter the heads of these "sweet" young men? All my letters are read and copied. I receive only those telegrams the KGB allows me to get.

I cannot believe -- who can -- that such a mighty country as the Soviet Union terrorizes a person simply because she does not desire to live in this country and declares it openly. Is it revenge for my public position defending Jews' right of repatriation to Israel? Is it to create a famous martyr to be exchanged for a spy caught red-handed or valuable equipment, or to exert pressure on Israel?

What is the rational reason for this behavior? Who in the Soviet Union thinks it profitable that at international meetings at the highest level, a personal meetings with heads of states, my name and fate must be discussed again and again?

If no rational answer can be found, one has to look for an irrational answer. Perhaps then my terrible story acquires a deeper meaning of unjust proportion. I have become that person whose fate serves to illustrate the tragedy of the Soviet Jew who desires to emigrate to Israel. I am made to be seen by the whole world as walking along the path of martyrdom and humiliation, symbolizing the Jewish people and its suffering.