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The Way Of Torah

"We reject violence, vilification and provocation of all sorts. We also condemn battles and demonstrations, conducted under the guise of safeguarding Torah values or morality, that are actually crude vehicles for achieving other purposes."

This statement of principle, signed by representatives of moderate Orthodoxy in Israel, appeared recently in the form of an advertisement in the Jerusalem Post. We find this declaration a refreshing counterpoint to the stories of ugly clashes between ultra-Orthodox and secularist extremists that dominated the headlines earlier this year.

Among the prime movers in the publication of this statement were a number of leaders of Bar-Ilan University, an Orthodox-sponsored institution where some 12,000 students -- secular as well as observant -- live and study together in an atmosphere of respect for Jewish tradition and for each other. The signers included Bar-Ilan's president, Michael Albeck, and 19 other prominent Israeli rabbis and educators.

Noting that "the unity of the Jewish people is in danger" and that Israel's physical as well as spiritual existence is in jeopardy, the moderate-Orthodox leaders called for dialogue between the religious and secular communities to achieve a renewed national consensus regarding the character of the Jewish state. "We must strive to reach an accord that stems from mutual respect and tolerance," they declared, adding:

"Fraternal enmity is not the way of Torah."

We applaud this forthright call for an end to violence and extremism and welcome this initiative of Israel's responsible Orthodox leaders for dialogue without recrimination that will restore peaceful coexistence and amity to the Jewish people and the Jewish state.

Behind The Scenes

At The United Nations

By David Horowitz

A World-Union Press Feature

Netanyahu Tells UN: Stop Arab Wars Instead Of Blaming Israel

UNITED NATIONS (WUP) — The Arabs and their diminishing supporters here may have had a field-day as the Assembly moved to a close in a financial crisis. Exploiting the perennial agenda items relating to the so-called 'Palestine Question' and the Middle East, they took the usual vicious offensive against Israel and its people during the past two weeks, an offensive which culminated in their boastful 'International Day of Solidarity With the Palestinian People' held on December 1 at which a diatribe-message was read out from Yasir Arafat.

However, their feverish effort to besmirch the Jewish State and blame Israel for their troubles turned into a mockery as Ambassador Benjamin Netanyahu ascended the verbally befouled dais and delivered a devastating speech which, with its accompanying calendar listing hundreds of acts of inter-Arab violence within the span of this past year alone, proved conclusively with facts and figures that the major cause of all the troubles in the Mideast lay within the ever-feeding Arab world itself.

"The benefit of the calendar," Netanyahu told the surprised Assembly delegations, "is that it is based on an impartial compilation of press reports...What we see in this year's report, I regret to say, is not very encouraging. 39 pages in length, the report lists 716 separate incidents. Without a doubt, it describes a substantive escalation of Middle Eastern violence which includes outright war, bombing of open cities, chemical and gas warfare, attacks on neutral shipping, border disputes, subversion, assassination, hostage-taking, kidnapping or journalists, murder of diplomats, wholesale massacre of civilians, car bombs, and sundry other forms of terrorism."

Israel's eloquent spokesman noted that "although the violence reaches everywhere, we can identify a few pockets where it tends to concentrate: First, the Iran-Iraq war, now about to enter its seventh year, and fast approaching the distinction of being one of the bloodiest conflicts in this century. Second, Lebanon, mostly around Beirut and Tripoli, where Syria manipulates rival militia gangs in endless intramural slaughter. Third, the Sudan, where Libyan-inspired rebels seek to destabilize the regime. And, fourth, the Sahara, where the SPLA and the Polisario, backed respectively by Libya and Algeria, are seeking to subvert Moroccan authority.

"Clearly, in the past year in the Middle East an enormous amount of human energy has been devoted to carnage. Lives have been wasted, property destroyed and peace obliterated. Towns and cities, entire nations, in fact, live in fear. Whole economies are on the verge of collapse. And no end appears in sight."

Netanyahu then asked: "Will any of this be discussed in this debate? Hardly. Will any resolution be passed to seek relief, let alone solutions, to these conflicts? None. If there is any reference to all what I have just said from the delegates of these warring countries, they will admonish us for interfering in, as they put it, their 'internal affairs.'

"Cross-border violence, the use of illegal means of war, the threats to basic international norms, the sufferings of millions, these are not legitimate subjects for review and discussion so long as they involve inter-Arab bloodletting," Netanyahu reprimandingly, told the Assembly, and added, "All in the Family, so to speak. But, as we have seen, it is not all in the family. It spills over quite readily beyond the Middle East, as far afield as London and Paris, Rome and Vienna

King of One Liners



HENNY YOUNGMAN

...Man of Many Talents.

A woman shot her husband with a bow and arrow. She didn't want to wake up the kids.

and Istanbul, Berlin and Barcelona, Athens and Antwerp and Karachi. And even if it were limited to the Middle East, is not the proper focus of the UN and this debate the ways to resolve the entire spectrum of political and military conflict. Or do we draw a line and say -- Stop all debate if the perpetrators are Arabs?"

At the outset of his masterful address, Benjamin Netanyahu analyzed the whole debate on the 'Palestine Question' and the 'Middle East' as being nothing but a "pre-set ritual" at which "speaker after speaker will either totally ignore the entire array of conflicts in the Middle East or blame them on Israel -- as the jargon has it, on 'the Palestinian Problem' --. In fact, every groundless accusation that can be conjured up will be leveled at my country."

And so it was. But the Assembly was forced to hear the truth.

Jewish Leaders Share General Concern Over 'Transcam'

By Rabbi Marc H. Tanenbaum

Like the rest of America, Jewish leaders have been preoccupied with trying to sort out the bizarre Iran-U.S.-Israel arms connections.

In the face of the firestorm of charges and denials, few responsible Jewish leaders with whom I spoke were prepared to make any public statement about this incredibly complicated mess. But some internal consensus appears to be emerging.

First, most serious Jewish leaders believe that only the principal actors in this drama -- in the United States, in Israel and in Iran -- have authority to shed light on these events. Then, Jewish leaders support other Americans in welcoming the several investigations of the "Transcam." And the general feeling is to let the chips fall where they may.

Beyond that, Jewish leaders are concerned that the office of the presidency and secretary of state among others not be undermined. While no person is above the law, due process must be pursued in a way that does not enfeeble American leadership. And then Jewish leaders are concerned that in the desperate confusion, the scapegoating of Israel for the failure of others is not allowed to take place. Clearly, Israel shares America's convictions about the value of human life, and did everything it could to save three American hostages.

As for the Swiss bank accounts, the Contras and the secret Soviet arms to Iran, let the investigations uncover everything that needs to be uncovered before any of us make snap and wrong judgments.

TELL TALES

"One Man Plus The Truth Constitutes A Majority"

(Continued from page 1)

parents.

On Saturday, January 10, 1986 during a Mincha Service, Ford Gechtman will be called to the Torah and become a Bar Mitzvah.

Ford has Cerebral Palsy. Therefore, I want to recognize and acknowledge his fortitude and his desire to have a Bar Mitzvah. It means a great deal to him and to his family. Ford has overcome the challenge life has presented to him and has spent many hours preparing and learning his Torah Blessings through memorization. In addition, he will be sharing his Bar Mitzvah by proxy with a youngster from the Soviet Union.

We are all extremely proud of Ford, for choosing to share his Bar Mitzvah experience with us here at Temple Beth Shalom.

It is truly an honor and a privilege for me to be able to teach Ford and help him achieve his Bar Mitzvah observance.

May he always cherish that spiritual experience with thankfulness to God.