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Jews, Japan and The Pacific Rim

By Rabbi Marc H. Tanenbaum

Three years ago, I first proposed to a group of Jewish leaders that a systematic program be launched to try to improve relations between Japan and the Jewish people. The proposal was turned down.

At that time, the only issue that bedeviled Japanese-Jewish relations was Japan's capitulation to the Arab boycott of Israel. Because an inter-agency committee of Jewish groups works to counter that boycott, it was apparently felt that Japan was being taken care of.

Then, several months ago, a number of newspaper stories broke out reporting on the sale of nearly a million copies of anti-Semitic books published by right-wing Japanese authors. In the wake of that ugly development, Jewish leaders changed their minds and authorized a meeting of Jewish academic and business experts on Japan and the Pacific Rim.

At that important meeting held in Washington, D.C., last month, a new appreciation emerged of the growing importance of Japan and the Pacific Rim in geo-politics and international economics. It was clear that a number of rightist Japanese were cynically using anti-Jewish stereotypy as a way of signalling their anti-Americanism and of trying to undermine Japan's democracy.

With Japanese Embassy and media people present, it was universally agreed that the time is now ripe for undertaking a comprehensive effort both in Japan and the United States to uproot these poisonous weeds before they become too deeply rooted. You will be hearing more about the "new frontier" of Jews and the Pacific Rim in the months ahead.

Behind The Scenes

At The United Nations

By David Horowitz

A World-Union Press Feature

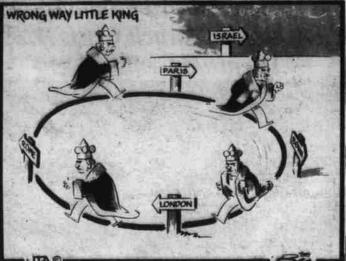
International Confab, a "Suicide For Israel" - Rosenthal

"Israel Cannot Live Within '67 Borders" -- Netanyahu

UNITED NATIONS (WUP) — "Israel cannot live if it goes back to the 1967 borders."

Thus declared Ambassador Benjamin Netanyahu when accepting the 1986 Bnai Zion America-Israel Friendship Award at the organization's 80th Annual Award Dinner held at New York's Hilton Hotel earlier this month.

His statement was an obvious answer to the clamor by the Arabs and their friends for the convocation of an international conference whose aim will be to call for Israel's relinquishment of Samaria, Judea and Gaza – a return to the 1967



boundaries, as a first step, then - the enemy's goal - to the 1948 lines and, finally, to the sea.

Holding a spellbound audience enthralled with his inspiring presentation of the historic facts facing the Jewish State, Netanyahu let it be known that the 1967 borders are "indefensible" and that a return to them would be tantamount to committing suicide. The ongoing Palestinian riots, he said, were orchestrated by the PLO and the other radical Arabs via broadcasts from Baghdad and Damascus as well as by Arafat's henchmen in Israel proper including his so-called moderate mouthpiece, Hanna Seniora, editor of an Arab paper in the Old City. He made it plain that the sworn enemies of Israel, having failed in war, are adopting a new stragegy, anarchy.

The same point was made by the former New York Times editor, Abe Rosenthal, whose regular column "On My Mind," entitled "No Suicide for Israel," appearing a few days after the Netanyahu address, reflects the view also of this writer. The following points he raises are worth noting:

1. Causes: The critics' implication is that the cause of the current crisis is Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's opposition to an international conference and his refusal to agree in advance to cede West Bank territory. This is not true. The cause is 40 years of Arab refusal to accept the existence of Israel, 40 years of furious hostility and military attempts to destroy her.

2. Occupation: Some critics also act as if it were Israel's occupation of the West Bank and Gaza in 1967 that led to so many years of unrest and skirmishing there. This too is a historic distortion. It was the Arab countries that seized Gaza and the West Bank, which were to be part of the Palestinian state under the 1947 UN partition plan, and occupied by them for 20 years not in peace but with constant harassment and attack against Israel.

Finally Israel struck back. Her unhappy occupation of the West Bank is a result not the cause, of aggression -- Arab aggression.

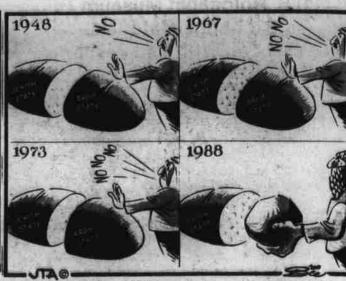
King of One Liners



HENNY YOUNGMAN ... Man of Many Talents.

An 85-year-old man was crying to a policeman. "I got a beautiful blonde, long-legged 25-year-old girl at home. The policeman said, "Are you nuts? That sounds like a dream come true."

The old man still crying said, "But I forgot where I live."



3. Negotiation: With whom and for what? The U.S. proposes an international conference within the Big Five participating. Since Britain and France are cool to Israel and the Soviet Union and China are hostile, the chicken is being invited to negotiate under the sponsorship of four foxes and a lame dove. To think the major powers would not pressure Israel for Arab advantage is not only naive but black comedy...

4. Stakes: Israel is fighting for survival. The Arab states are fighting out of anti-Isrel hatred and fear of the Palestinians. The young Palestinians are fighting for a new Palestinian state because they hate the ruler of the present state with a Palestinian majority: Jordan. They plan to eliminate King Hussein one day and swallow Jordan as part of their own single Palestine.

As things stand, any ceded West Bank territory will become a de facto state run by the PLO and other Palestinians sworn to destroy Israel. Those young Palestinians would not be hurling stones from their territory but rockets.

Solutions: Open pressure on Israel to make concessions must be accompanied by open pressure on the Arabs. Palestinians must accept totally and clearly the right of Israel to live

(Continued on page 14)

TELL TALES

"One Man Plus The Truth Constitutes A Majority"

(Continued from page 1)

public at no charge. The topic will be "The American Jewish Community in the Year 2001: A Trends Analysis Review on the Future Direction of Jewish Life."

Dr. Windmueller received his B.A. with HIGH HONORS in Political Science in 1964 and the M.A. with a Ford Tutorial Scholarship in 1966, both from the University of Cincinnati. In 1967, as Graduate Teaching Fellow in Political Science, he received an M.A., and in 1973 his Ph.D. in International Relations, both from the University of Pennsylvania. Since 1966, he has held part-time adjunct academic appointments at Rutgers University, Virginia Commonwealth University, University of Pennsylvania, City College of New York, Hebrew Union College (NY) and State University of New York at Albany.

Then for fifteen years he was involved as Assistant Area Director, American Jewish Committee in Washington; Program Specialist, American Jewish Committee in New York; Executive Director, Jewish Association for College Youth in New York; and from 1975 to 1985 as Executive Director, Greater Albany Jewish Federation. His current appointment is as Executive Director of the Community Relations Committee of the Jewish Federation Council of Greater Los Angeles.

This background as a Jewish Communal professional combined with his experience as an academician has given him access to the trends and issues that will be challenging American Jewry.

Every mature member of our community should want to attend this lecture. Please bring the young members in your family.