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An Initial Reaction To East Germany's Upheaval

By Marc H. Tanenbaum

Most Jews, I believe, welcome the collapse of the totalitarian oppression in East Germany, as well as elsewhere in Eastern Europe. But clearly there is a growing anxiety among many Jews, as among others, over what a possible reunification of East and West Germany could mean to the future of constitutional democracy in the Federal Republic, as well as to its foreign policy.

Pundits will be reflecting for months to come over the possible effects of a reunified Germany on the future of NATO and the European Economic Community. Within that context, there are specific Jewish concerns.

The Federal Republic of Germany has been the strongest economic and political supporter of Israel on the continent since the end of World War II. On the other hand, East Germany, the German Democratic Republic, has for the past 40 years been the fiercest anti-Israel, pro-Arab country among the Warsaw Pact allies. Demagogic anti-Israel propaganda has been the daily diet of the East German population.

Indeed, studies on terrorism disclose that the GDR has been the major training center for international terrorists — especially the Palestine Liberation Organization — for decades. What effects could those hostile policies toward Israel have on a possible reunified German foreign policy?

On the domestic front, should hundreds of thousands of East Germans relocate in West Germany, it is inevitable that there will develop conflict among West and East Germans for jobs, housing, health care, education and social welfare.

Such domestic turmoil is ready-made for exploitation by the right-wing Republican party in West Germany, now headed by a former Nazi SS officer. That neo-fascist party has already made some gains in recent elections.

GDR has also been double talking Jewish leaders about reparations to victims of Nazi persecution. What influence, if any, would they have on the Federal Republic's more open reparations and pro-Israel policies?

This is therefore not a time for irrational paranoia, but for rational vigilance and concern.

Behind The Scenes

At The United Nations

By David Horowitz

A World-Union Press Feature

The Unbroken JerUSAlem-Washington Bond — U.S. Thwarts UN-Arab Attempt To Condemn Israel

UNITED NATIONS (WUP) — Proof of the unbreakable bond linking the United States with

Israel — based on the reality of America's historic and early biblical-Hebraic-inspired tradition, as detailed in this writer's recent three columns under the headings (1) "Common Destiny Links America to Israel"; (2) "Israel, America Share a Common Destiny"; and (3) "Why America Will Stand With Israel" — was borne out this past week when, in opposition to the entire Security Council, Washington's Ambassador Thomas R. Pickering thwarted an Arab-inspired attempt to smear the Jewish State and vetoed a draft resolution on the "occupied Palestinian territory," strongly "deploring the policies and practices of Israel."

Once again, as in many past cases, America's allies, the United Kingdom, France, etc., joined Israel's enemies in voting with them, without giving any thought to the fair analysis of the situation in the territories presented by Ambassador Pickering who, it should be noted, mastered the Hebrew language during his happy days in Israel as Washington's envoy.

After noting that the "U.S. is deeply distressed by the continuing violence and confrontation in the occupied territories," the ever alert and dynamic Pickering took strong objection to the entire Council procedure. "In our view," he declared, "repeated recourse to the Security Council with one-sided draft resolutions does not contribute to this process, nor to the real reduction of confrontation in the territories."

"Such resolutions and the divisive debate that accompanies them," he continued, "do not help to alleviate conditions in the area, nor do they help create an atmosphere conducive to the establishment of a constructive dialogue between Israelis and Palestinians. On the contrary," he emphasized, "such resolutions and debates exacerbate tensions and distract the parties from the critical issues that need to be addressed in the region."

The delegates of Britain and France, listening nervously, were undoubtedly put to shame as Mr. Pickering continued scoring their unfair actions against Israel. He made it clear that "the text before the Council today, like others before it, criticizes Israeli actions without any regard for the existing political and security situation in occupied territories. For example, there is no reference to acts of violence directed by Palestinians against Israelis and by Palestinians against other Palestinians. All members are aware that the U.S. is not willing to support unbalanced proposals of this kind. Our voting record in this Council is clear..."

Israel's Ambassador Johanan Bein devoted a large part of his rebuttal to citing examples of "violent murders perpetrated by the PLO. Since 1988," he said, "more than 150 Palestinians have been murdered by PLO hit squads for failing to toe the line. The methods used in that campaign of terror had been particularly brutal with the victims often kidnapped, tortured, and finally executed by beatings, hatchet blows or multiple stabbings. Some had been burned or buried alive, hung in the streets and schoolyards, while others were found with their ears, arms or legs hacked.

King of One Liners



HENNY YOUNGMAN
 ...Man of Many Talents.

My friend is a born loser. He came to Las Vegas and bet against the Harlem Globetrotters.

"Once again," Ambassador Bein continued, "the Security Council had been convened by countries who claimed to be concerned about the welfare of the Palestinians. Yet, it was only a pretext with which to attack Israel. Had the concern been genuine, they would have condemned the slaughter of Palestinians by the PLO, they would have appealed for restraint, they would have called for a dialogue, and they would have added their voices in support of Israel's peace initiative," he declared.

Instead of wasting valuable time and funds on divisive and unbalanced debates, the Security Council should instead be convoked to condemn the PLO and the Arab leaders — as well as those Western states supporting them — who send children, boys and girls age 8 to 15 into battle with deadly weapons in violation of all humanitarian law and of a recent UN draft convention on the rights of children, adopted by the Economic and Social Council.

Here is a challenge for some of the decent members of this world Organization to follow up on the work of the Economic and Social Council's proposed Convention on the Rights of the Child and demand that the Security Council serve notice to the PLO and the Arabs here to put a stop to the illegal dispatch of Palestinian children into the battle lines in the territories.

News Analysis: Why Shamir Agreed To Accept Baker's Five-Point Proposal

JERUSALEM (JTA) — Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's nearly unqualified acceptance of U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's five-point proposal for an Israeli-Palestinian dialogue has clearly enraged the hard-line faction in his Likud bloc.

But it has also given political pundits here a feast of speculation.

The question being asked is why Shamir, who prides himself on his leathery toughness, backed off from a position to which he had held firmly during weeks of long-distance jousting with the Bush administration.

The answers offered range from a desire to keep the Likud-led coalition government intact awhile longer to a notion that the Palestinians themselves can be counted on to wreck the process, thereby getting Israel off the hook.

The Inner Cabinet's 9-3 vote to accept the Baker plan was indeed a retreat by Shamir, given the importance diplomacy attaches to the nuance of language.

Israel's acceptance was made contingent "on the understanding" that the United States would soon provide assurances that it will rule out any Israeli negotiations with the Palestine Liberation Organization.

It was understood there would be U.S. assurances on other Israeli concerns. But an "understanding" was not what Shamir had fought for this past month.

He had insisted until recently that Israel's acceptance of Baker's five points would be "conditional" on certain U.S. undertakings.

In the world of diplomacy, there is a vast difference between the two. As Vice Premier Shimon Peres, Shamir's Labor coalition partner pointed out, setting conditions would have been tantamount to rejection of the American proposal.

Labor was perfectly content to accept Baker's points without amendment. A Likud rejection could have precipitated a potentially fatal government crisis.

According to the political analysts, that was one factor behind Shamir's decision.

The prime minister and his aides, they say, were genuinely worried that Peres would be able to put together a narrowly based, Labor-led governing coalition with some of the ultra-Orthodox parties.

Likud was seeking the same hedge against collapse of the unity government. But its talks with the Agudat Yisrael party were going badly.

Agudah is at the point of seceding from the coalition unless its demands for concessions in

(Continued on page 14)