
OUTPOST

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CLINTON APPEASES MOSLEM TERROR

Herbert Zweibon

Politicians are often accused of saying one thing and doing another, but seldom has a case of doubletalk been so egregious as that of the Clinton administration on the problem of dealing with Arab terrorists.

During his recent confirmation hearings before the Senate, Secretary of State Warren Christopher answered questions about Arab terrorism in a manner that would please --and did please-- Israel's strongest American supporters.

In sharp contrast to the Bush administration's plan to remove Syria from the State Department's list of nations that support terrorism, Christopher forcefully declared that "Syria will remain on the terrorism list--and terrorism will remain an important element of our high-level dialogue--so long as Syria gives support and safe haven to terrorist groups." There was no hemming and hawing about Syria not being able to control the terrorists; there was only Christopher's vow that "U.S. export sanctions and prohibitions against U.S. aid or military sales to Syria thus will remain in effect" and "I intend to pursue these issues vigorously with Syrian authorities."

As for the problem of Iranian-backed terrorist groups, Christopher asserted that "relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran are impossible as long as Iran supports terrorism."

Instead of the old Bush line about how Libyans, not Palestinian Arabs, were responsible for the bombing of Pan Am flight 103, Christopher pledged to "bring to justice those responsible" for the attack, refusing to rule out the possible involvement of PLO affiliates. Without hesitating, he replied with a firm "Yes" when asked if he regards the PLO as a terrorist group, and a firm "No" when asked if the PLO could have any role in the Arab-Israeli negotiating process.

When the panel asked specifically about Israel's deportation of 400 Hamas leaders, Christopher began by emphasizing that President Clinton "strongly condemned the acts of violence and terrorism directed against Israel that provoked the deportations."

Well, then. If the U.S. refuses to normalize

relations with countries that sponsor terrorism; and if the U.S. will pursue terrorists who attack Americans, even if it may be politically inexpedient to do so; and if the PLO and Hamas are terrorist groups--why, then, was the first foreign policy act of the Clinton-Christopher administration the use of brutal pressure on Israel to surrender to the demands of the deported Hamas terrorists and their Arab friends?

If Hamas was guilty of "provoking" the deportations by engaging in "violence and terrorism," why did the Clinton administration bully Israel into exposing its citizens to further violence and terrorism by readmitting the Hamas leaders?

If the U.S. repudiates the PLO and intends to get tough with states that sponsor terror, why did the Clinton administration permit the PLO and pro-terrorist Arab states to manipulate the United Nations Security Council?

If President Clinton was sincere when he pledged to reverse the Israel-bashing policies of the Bush years, and to reinvigorate U.S.-Israeli relations, why is he now repeating Bush's anti-Israel pressure and undermining U.S.-Israeli relations with severe, one-sided pressure on the Jewish State?

Warren Christopher said all the things he needed to say in order to win confirmation. Unfortunately, it is now becoming painfully clear that neither he nor the president he serves are ready to put those words into practice.◇

Herbert Zweibon is chairman of Americans For a Safe Israel.

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BAKER'S JEWS, MEET CLINTON'S JEWS

Among the most reprehensible aspects of James Baker's State Department was the prominence of four Jewish policymakers who labored day and night to prove that they were not pro-Israel by bending over backwards to be pro-Arab. Dennis Ross, Daniel Kurtzer, Aaron Miller and Richard Haas played a key role in shaping the harsh anti-Israel bias of the Bush administration. That was a prime reason so many Jews voted against Bush last November. Given Bill Clinton's strong criticism of the Bush Middle East policy, Jewish voters seemed to have good reason to believe that a Clinton administration would take Mideast policymaking out of the hands of Baker's Jews and put them in the hands of individuals who appreciated the crucial strategic importance of the U.S.-Israel alliance.

How disconcerting it is, then, to discover that the foreign policy team assembled by President Clinton seems no better than Bush's--and may even be worse. To begin with, instead of cleaning house, Clinton has retained three of Baker's Jews, Daniel Kurtzer, Aaron Miller and Dennis Ross. Add to that two of Clinton's Jews--Samuel Berger, a Peace Now supporter, and Martin Indyk, a vocal advocate of more U.S. pressure on Israel, have been appointed to senior National Security Council positions. For supporters of Israel, hope has dissolved into foreboding. While it is too early to throw one's hands up in despair, there is good reason to fear that difficult times lay ahead.◊

THE A. J. CONGRESS'S ARAB FRIENDS--EXPOSED

In December, the American Jewish Congress stunned the Jewish community by holding a joint conference with the National Association of Arab Americans, a leading pro-PLO lobby. The conference concluded with the release of a joint statement in which the AJC and the NAAA called for more "U.S. involvement" (meaning more U.S. pressure on Israel) in the Arab-Israeli negotiations.

Americans For a Safe Israel responded by pointing out that the NAAA, at its 1989 convention, presented its award for "distinguished service to the Arab cause" to Abu Jihad, the PLO leader who was responsible for the brutal massacre of Israeli athletes at the 1972 Olympics. The AJC "has sullied its reputation" by collaborating with such Arab extremists, AFSI warned. The AJC insisted the NAAA has become moderate, and showed no remorse for its behavior. But the AJC is going to have a hard time explaining the NAAA's latest outrage.

It seems that at a recent ceremony in Los

Angeles, the NAAA bestowed its "lifetime achievement award" upon none other than Alfred Lilienthal, a fanatical lifelong opponent of Zionism and Israel. In 1947-1948, Lilienthal, a leader of the anti-Zionist American Council for Judaism, lobbied at the United Nations against the creation of a Jewish State. After Israel was established, Lilienthal continued to devote his energy to anti-Zionism, authoring a torrent of books and pamphlets against Israel. Well known for making repulsive remarks about the Holocaust, Lilienthal used part of his L.A. acceptance speech to complain that "the bones of Mengele are exhumed to inject Holocaustomania so that no one makes a logical decision about establishing peace in the Middle East." The ceremony concluded with the audience singing happy birthday to "Al Farid," meaning "the unique" in Arabic, the nickname by which Lilienthal is known to his Arab friends.

Lilienthal's brand of hatred for Israel is indeed unique--as is the AJCongress's continued poor judgment in choosing to ally itself with Lilienthal's Arab pals.◊

SAVE THE ARABS

The Soviet Union crumbled only when it became clear to its leaders that American military superiority could not be overcome, that the subjugation of the Russian people led to the social and economic decay of their country, and that the trampling of human rights at home would lead to repercussions abroad. Likewise, the Arab regimes cannot be expected to change their feudal ways so long as they believe that Israel can be overcome, and that the international community is not concerned about their cruel treatment of the Arab masses.

America's human rights agenda for the 90's should, therefore, begin with the goal of liberating the millions of Arab citizens from despotic rule. Dictators who suppress individual rights--such as the right to vote, the right to freedom of worship, the right to emigrate, and equal rights for men and women--deserve to be quarantined by the Free World.◊

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THE WATER ISSUE AND ISRAEL'S SECURITY

Herbert Zweibon

Increasingly in Israeli political circles one hears talk about "the water issue." As the Rabin government moves ever closer toward surrendering some portion of the Golan Heights and granting some form of self-rule to the Palestinian Arabs living in Judea and Samaria, concerned Israelis are pondering the dangers that will arise if the main sources of Israeli water, which are located in those territories, are in Arab hands.

The average rainfall in Israel today is just barely sufficient for the nation's needs. At least 30% of Israeli water comes from the Kinneret basin, much of which originates in the Golan Heights. Can Israel risk losing such a large quantity of water? What if Turkey decides that it needs to divert more water from the Euphrates River in order to meet its growing needs--and what if Syria, thereby deprived of some of the Euphrates water, decides to compensate by dipping into the water supplies of the

Golan, thereby depriving Israel? What will Israel do? Would that be sufficient cause for war?

The future of the Judea and Samaria regions is likewise crucial to Israel's water needs. Four years ago, Minister of Agriculture Avraham Katz-Oz --a Labor Party minister in a national unity government-- warned that in disposing of Judea and Samaria, Israel needed to be sure that there would be "a legal and political infrastructure which will ensure Israeli control and management of the water sources in Judea and Samaria in any future political situation." If Israel did not maintain control of the territories, but instead permitted the local Arabs to control them, "the fate of the national water supply could be determined by the actions of whatever Arab authority controlled the evacuated areas after withdrawal" (to quote another Agriculture Ministry document). Even if the Israeli plan for Arab self-rule guaranteed Israeli access to Judea-Samaria water sources, troubling questions arise.

What if, for example, Arab terrorists sabotage Israeli water supplies in the territories, and the Arab autonomy government insists that it has no control over

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Review Essay

Rael Jean Isaac

LIBERALISM AND THE JEWS

Ruth Wisse, *If I Am Not For Myself...* (Free Press, 1992, \$22.95).

This eloquent and incisive book, at once pithy and profound, should be read and reread--segments of it deserve to be memorized--by every reader of Outpost.

The subtitle is "The Liberal Betrayal of the Jews," and what Wisse shows is the way in which liberalism has undermined the willingness of Jews to demand for themselves what they (and the liberalism they espouse) are so quick to demand for others--equal treatment, or as Wisse puts it, the "right to an unexceptional existence in the community of nations." Her major point is not that liberals have betrayed Jews (although she lucidly describes the ways in which they have done and continue to do so). Wisse's chief concern is with liberalism's more sinister impact on Jews: in holding with religious fervor to liberal assumptions no matter how much contrary evidence accumulates, Jews are led to betray themselves and each other. In one of Wisse's many memorable formulations:

"Jews are the only American minority whose members do not as a matter of course support the land of their people, and some of whose members join in the political effort against it. The banner under which they manifest this aberrant political activity is liberalism, or the Left."

Why and how does liberalism inexorably lead Jews to blame themselves for the hatred of their enemies, thus damaging their ability to resist that hatred? Wisse points out that liberals have a deep faith in rationality, in cultural pluralism, in an open society, and in the rule of law. Believing that all problems are open to negotiated

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LETTER FROM ISRAEL

Aryeh Shomron

ARAB NEGOTIATOR SPEAKS HIS MIND

Anybody who wonders about the long-range agenda of the Palestinian Arab leadership need look no further than the Autumn 1992 issue of the *Journal of Palestine Studies*, popularly known as the intellectual voice of the PLO (it is co-sponsored by the PLO's Institute for Palestine Studies, and edited by Hisham Sharabi, a veteran member of the PLO's Palestine National Council). It includes a reprint of an interview with Haider Abed al-Shafi, head of the Palestinian Arab negotiating team, which was originally published in the pro-PLO magazine *Majallat al-Dirasat al-Filastiniyya*, on August 2. Addressing the magazine's Arab audience, al-Shafi was unusually candid about his agenda--in contrast to the mask of "moderation" that Arab leaders typically don when dealing with Western audiences.

Asked whether the PLO should pursue its traditional goal of "liberating" all of "Palestine," al-Shafi said that while the "liberation" of all of Israel would be "absolute justice," it cannot be achieved in the foreseeable future at once, thus necessitating that his delegation settle for a state in Judea-Samaria and Gaza for the time being.

Al-Shafi made it clear that he would not accept any kind of Israeli "autonomy" plan that fell short of full

statehood. There could only be a brief period of "interim self-government," during which "the Palestinians will focus on the development of administrative structures in the hope of reaching the stage of national independence." Even so, he stressed, "We will reach the interim stage only if Israel recognizes our right to exercise sovereignty over land and the right of the interim government to actually exercise control over people, that is, the right to legislate." As for the possibility that the Palestinian Arabs might move toward a position of "accepting autonomy and conceding the principle of an independent state," al-Shafi vowed that "this will not happen."

Al-Shafi made it clear that he and his colleagues "do not accept the exclusion of Jerusalem from the negotiations. Even if the Israelis were to make concessions on all other issues but continued to insist on excluding Jerusalem, the predicament would remain unchanged. We will never give in on the question of Jerusalem, and we insist on the cessation of settlements in Jerusalem."

Finally, al-Shafi revealed the Arab strategy regarding Jewish residents of Judea, Samaria and Gaza. Rather than insist that Israel forcibly remove them--which could provoke a bloody confrontation that might torpedo the entire withdrawal agreement--those Jews will be offered a choice between "becoming citizens of a Palestinian state" or "returning to the area inside the Green Line." Al-Shafi predicted that "the settlers will not want to live under the Palestinian government," and will therefore voluntarily leave if the Israeli government surrenders the

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One Minute to Midnight

Dr. Irving Moskowitz

HEBREW UNIVERSITY BANS THE HOLOCAUST

Late last year, Israel's radical-left Minister of Education, Shulamit Aloni, caused an uproar when she declared that she didn't want Israeli students to visit the sites of the Nazi death camps because she was afraid that they would return with "rightwing, chauvinistic views." According to Aloni, the Holocaust should not be taught as something that the Nazis (and the silent Free World) did to the Jews, but something "that people did to other-people." That an official of the Israeli government should have such a twisted, grotesque perception of the Holocaust is bad enough, but now an official of Hebrew University is trying to put Aloni's words into practice.

Emanuel Etkes, provost of the School for Overseas Students at Hebrew U., has banned foreign students from joining the "March of the Living" journey to Auschwitz

during the midterm vacation. Etkes claims he is worried that the students might miss a few classes. But there is good reason to fear that politics, not class scheduling, is the real problem. Recent Israeli media reports quote friends of Etkes as praising him for being a "principled dove" who refuses to cross Israel's pre-1967 border (talk about praise that damns!). And students are quoted as complaining that Etkes even refused to attend a Jerusalem Day assembly on campus, apparently because he doesn't like the idea of Israel ruling the entire city.

A visit to Auschwitz is a powerful, stirring experience that gives young Jews--Israelis and Diaspora visitors alike--a once-in-a-lifetime chance to get in touch with their people's history. It would be a tragedy if a university official is promoting his personal political agenda at the expense of the students' Jewish needs.

The Hebrew University administration is said to be standing behind Etkes's decision--at least for now. That could change if American Jewish parents start letting Hebrew U. know what they think about Etkes's antics.◊

Dr. Irving Moskowitz is a member of the Board of Governors of Americans For a Safe Israel.

WHAT'S AT STAKE IN TAJIKISTAN

Yohanan Ramati

The struggle for power in Tajikistan between the Communist ex-president Nabyev and an unholy alliance of Islamic fundamentalists with self-proclaimed "democrats" shows no signs of ending, whoever may sit temporarily in the presidential offices in Dushanbe. It is being watched with deep concern in Russia, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan and Kirghizistan, but perhaps even more intently by India, Turkey and Iran. Afghanistan is an active participant.

Tajikistan is the only country in the Commonwealth of Independent States where the majority of the population is ethnically and linguistically akin to the Iranians. However, only about 62% of its inhabitants are Tajiks, while over 25% are Turkic Uzbeks and perhaps 8% are Russians. There is also a Shi'a Pamiri minority in the Southeast. In neighboring Uzbekistan, the Tajik minority is appreciably smaller than the Uzbek minority in Tajikistan (but potentially explosive), while the Uzbek majority exceeds 70%. The Tajiks and the Uzbeks lived peacefully together in the USSR, but the pressures generated by its collapse and foreign meddling ended this idyll. The situation in Tajikistan has been deliberately destabilized from Afghanistan.

Both Afghanistan and Pakistan want an Islamic Tajikistan, which would be a natural ally against India. Yet things are not that simple. There is no "Afghan" ethnic group. Half of Afghanistan's inhabitants are Pashtuns, but 25% are Tajiks and some 9% are Uzbeks. The Tajik area of Afghanistan includes the capitol, Kabul. The president of Afghanistan, Rabbani, is a Tajik. So is the most powerful figure in the government of Afghanistan, Ahmed Shah Mas'oud. But they are leading what is essentially a Tajik-Uzbek coalition, whose main internal opponent is the Pashtun leader Gulbuddin Hekhmatar. General Rashid Dostum--an Uzbek--has been a key figure supporting Mas'oud.

Hekhmatar, who has a vested interest in breaking up the Tajik-Uzbek alliance in Afghanistan, has reportedly been training (separately, of course) Tajiks and Uzbeks from Tajikistan to fight each other. For many years, Hekhmatar was supported by Pakistan and Saudi Arabia. These have now switched their support to Mas'oud and his coalition. However, the key aspect of the situation is that the most likely eventual result of the ousting of President Nabyev in Dushanbe would be fundamentalist Tajik rule in both Afghanistan and Tajikistan. This scenario would be welcomed by President Rafsanjani of Iran, but must give decision-makers in India, Turkey, Russia, Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan sleepless nights.

India has made serious efforts to improve its ties with the Turkic CIS republics--especially Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan and Kirghizistan which were recently visited by India's Minister of State for External Affairs, Bhatia. Not only did the visit result in agreements on cultural exchanges and some economic subjects, but all four states expressed their common concern over the possible rise of Islamic fundamentalism in Central Asia. According to one report, there was even support for some aspects of the Indian position on Kashmir--notably that this problem should be dealt with bilaterally and not internationalized.

Secular Turkey has a common interest with India in maintaining the secular nature of the Turkic Muslim republics, but the requisite strengthening of their mutual ties is proceeding slowly. China would not welcome a Muslim fundamentalist state on its border which could foster unrest among its own Muslim minority, but for the

present remains passive. Russia's run-away inflation and its failure to deal effectively with other economic problems are undermining the stability of the Yeltsin government and hamstringing the conduct of a policy promoting Russian interests in Central Asia. The Bush administration in the United States, busy with its election campaign, took no serious interest and tended to trust the (often faulty) judgment of the Saudis. The result is a fluid situation posing serious dangers.◇

Yohanan Ramati is chairman of the Jerusalem Institute for Western Defence. This essay is reprinted from the December 1992 issue of the Institute's Bulletin.

LETTERS THEY REFUSED TO PUBLISH

December 22, 1992

Letters to the Editor

Forward

Dear Editor;

Jesse Zel Lurie (Letters, December 18) approvingly quotes a statement that he claims David Ben-Gurion once made: "Jews can live in Hebron in a friendly Arab state, just as they live in London."

Of course they could. They could also live in Tel Aviv in "a friendly Arab state." But the whole point of having a Jewish State is that Jews will be masters of their own destiny, not a minority group in an overwhelmingly non-Jewish environment, whether in Hebron or in London. When Jews lived in Hebron before 1948, they were either subjected to massacres, such as the one in 1929, or relegated to a humiliating third-class status, as symbolized by the infamous "not beyond the seventh step" regulation, decreed by the local Arabs to prevent Jews from ascending the stairs leading into the Cave of the Patriarchs, one of Judaism's main holy sites.

In case Jesse Lurie has forgotten, what lay at the heart of the concept of pre-1948 Zionism was the Jewish determination to put an end to such humiliation, by giving the Jews a state of their own, in their historic homeland--and Hebron is a central place in that homeland. The fact that Hebron has a large Arab population should not disqualify it from being part of the Jewish state any more than the large Arab population of the Galilee should mandate its surrender to Arab rule.

Sincerely,
Herbert Zweibon
Chairman
Americans For a Safe Israel

December 29, 1992

Letters to the Editor

New York Times

To the Editor:

To claim (Editorial, December 18) that Middle East peace is "imperiled" equally by "terrorist murders carried out in Israel by Islamic militants and by Israel's retaliatory expulsion of some 400 Palestinians" is to equate a victim's self-defense with a criminal's aggression. It would be like suggesting that the peace of Los Angeles was imperiled last summer by "gangs of rioting hoodlums and by shopkeepers who used their guns to protect themselves."

The 1,600 members of the Hamas terrorist group

who were arrested by Israel, prior to the expulsion, were not "held without explanation," as your editorial asserted. The Israeli authorities explained quite clearly that these were individuals who, according to intelligence information, were involved in organizing violence against Israelis and against fellow-Arabs with whom Hamas has religious or political differences. The expulsion of 400 of them was not merely "retaliatory," a phrase which suggests that they were innocent but were expelled because of Israel's thirst for revenge. Israeli intelligence was convinced, on the basis of information from reliable informants, that those 400 were the chief inciters of recent Hamas violence. Since they could not be put on trial without exposing the identities of the Israeli informants, Israel chose to deport them--to a region controlled by their ideological cohorts, the Hezbollah Islamic fundamentalist terror group, in a country where the majority of people share their religion, language, culture, and national sentiments.

If the Bush administration follows the advice of your editorial, to "condemn both the terrorism by Hamas and the indiscriminate deportations by Israel," it will be missing the crucial point: Israeli self-defense is morally different from Hamas aggression, and the Israeli expulsion of Hamas inciters is logical, just, and necessary.

Sincerely,
Herbert Zweibon
Chairman
Americans For a Safe Israel

January 25, 1993

Letters to the Editor

New York Times

To the Editor:

Anthony Lewis (Op-Ed, 25 January 1993) excuses the illegal activities of Zoe Baird on the grounds that "millions of Americans have used illegal aliens for child care," and that almost all Attorneys General in recent memory have been "lawless." Can this be the same Anthony Lewis who for decades has been insisting that Israel's sovereignty is contingent on her (Jewish) citizens' being a "light unto the nations"? Why should not American Jews (of whom Zoe Baird is one) also be held to this high standard? Is it not odd that American Jewish supporters of Peace Now like Lewis should justify international political discrimination against Israel as "holding Jews to a higher standard" while they reserve for themselves and their friends ("I know Zoe Baird," writes Lewis) the lowest common denominator or moral scrutiny?

Sincerely,
Edward Alexander
Professor of English
University of Washington

MIDDLE EAST UPDATE

...We insist on the liberation of every inch of the soil of Palestine," declared Hussein Majali, member of the Jordanian parliament, at a recent conference held in Amman to celebrate the 27th anniversary of the establishment of the **Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command**, a constituent organization of the PLO...

...An "Islamic Legion" is being trained for military action alongside the Moslem forces in **Bosnia**, according to a report in the French newspaper *Le Point*. Three camps in the **Sudan** are training sites for 1,500 members of Moslem terrorist groups who have volunteered for action in Bosnia. The trainees include members of the Islamic Jihad, from Egypt; the Islamic Salvation Front, in Algeria; Hezbollah, in Lebanon; Hamas, in Israel; and individuals from the Sudan and Morocco. The leaders of the Legion are Hassan al-Terabi, leader of the Sudanese Islamic Front, and Gulbuddin Hekhmattiar, head of the Al Hizb Al-Islam group, in Afghanistan. The commander of the training camps is said to be an Iranian, and there are at least ten officers from Afghanistan. Recruitment efforts are being carried out in a number of European cities that have large Moslem populations, including London, Brussels, Paris and Sofia...

...The phenomenon of blacks being enslaved by government-backed Arab militias in the **Sudan** received some rare American media attention on the "CBS This Morning" program on December 22. Film footage showed a trail of thousands of skeletons leading from a Sudanese village toward the Ethiopian border hundreds of miles away. The women and infants in the village were taken captive by Arab slave-traders in 1990, but the male children, who were harvesting in the fields at the time of the raid, eluded capture. They then set out for Ethiopia, but few could survive the perilous journey, as the trail of skeletons so grimly demonstrates...

...The **Palestine Liberation Organization** completely controls the Palestinian Arab negotiating team, Nabil Sha'ath, chairman of the PLO's Political Committee, told the *Journal of Palestine Studies* (Autumn 1992). "The PLO is leading these negotiations, both on the scene and from Tunis," Sha'ath revealed. "The leadership group, in the field, though not at the table, was appointed by the PLO, and a special committee in Tunis follows the talks and our deliberations here hour by hour. All important decisions are referred to Tunis, faxes go back and forth, delegation members and advisors are constantly shuttling between Washington and Tunis. Sha'ath also disclosed that at the Arab-Israeli conference in Madrid, in October 1991, there were "several occasions" on which "our entire delegation was flown to Tunis at night for consultations and brought back to Madrid the next morning at dawn"...

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Document **U.S. MILITARY AID TO ARAB DICTATORSHIPS, 1981-1990**

(Editor's note: the following is excerpted from Vol. XXI, No. 5 of The Defense Monitor, published by the Center for Defense Information, in Washington, D.C.)

| <u>Country</u> | <u>U.S. Military Aid</u> | <u>U.S. Weapons Sales</u> |
|----------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| Algeria | \$500-m. | \$98.46-m. |
| Bahrain | 0 | \$596.15-m. |
| Egypt | \$11.77-b. | \$6.61-b. |
| Iraq | 0 | \$3.95-m. |

| <u>Country</u> | <u>U.S. Military Aid</u> | <u>U.S. Weapons Sales</u> |
|----------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| Morocco | \$517.9-m. | \$633.94-m. |
| Oman | \$174.9-m. | \$117.8-m. |
| Qatar | 0 | \$14.93-m. |
| Saudi Arabia | 0 | \$29.94-b. |
| Somalia | \$292.9-m. | \$146.55-m. |
| Syria | 0 | \$145-m. |
| Tunisia | \$582.8-m. | \$550.5-m. |
| United Arab Emirates | 0 | \$562.5-m. |
| Yemen | \$41,000 | \$135.52-m. |

BEHIND THE NEWSMAKERS

...A news story in the *New York Times* on January 5 described the resumption of Moslem attacks on Coptic Christians in Egypt. Midway through the article, correspondent **Youssef M. Ibrahim** noted that the latest attacks "followed a yearlong campaign in which at least 70 Copts and dozens of Egyptian officers were killed in clashes with the [Moslem] militants." That was a surprise to *Times* readers, since the *Times* had reported virtually nothing about those attacks, despite their duration and intensity...

...Helping to spread the notion that the West should treat the Israeli deportation of Hamas leaders in the same way that it treats Iraqi misbehavior, correspondent **Cokie Roberts** declared on National Public Radio on January 18 that "Around the world there's talk that the Western powers are willing to attack but not to defend Moslems"...

...After many months of refusing to publish any pro-Israel essays on its Op-Ed page, the *Philadelphia Inquirer* at last, on January 30, printed an article by Dr. Michael Goldblatt, of the Zionist Organization of America, explaining the murderous nature of Hamas. But

the editors of the *Inquirer* couldn't just leave it at that. They insisted on "balancing" Goldblatt's essay with a harsh Israel-bashing article by one **Edna Hunt**, which accused Israel of engaging in Bosnia-style "ethnic cleansing," compared Israeli policy to the policies of Nazi Germany, and praised the deported Hamas gangsters as the "Palestinian intelligentsia." Hunt was identified as merely an "economist and management consultant living in Winter Park, Florida." What the *Inquirer* neglected to mention is that Hunt is not some non-partisan "economist," but a veteran Israel-hater who serves on the board of two pro-PLO organizations, the Jewish Committee on the Middle East and the America-Israel Council for Israeli-Palestinian Peace, both of which lobby against Israel and call for the establishment of a PLO state in Israel's backyard...

...The *Christian Science Monitor*, also in search of an Israel-basher for its Op-Ed page, came across Ms. **Barbara Nimri Aziz**, a "New York-based anthropologist and journalist," whose December 23 essay contended that the reason many Arabs have "turned to armed struggle under Hamas's leadership" is because they have "noted how little their negotiators at the peace talks have been able to accomplish." Aziz did not explain why it is that so many Arabs turned to "armed struggle" --whether under the leadership of the PLO, Hamas, or whomever-- long before the "peace talks" were even underway...

JUDEA, SAMARIA AND THE ENVIRONMENT

Jack Lauber

In the Midrash on *Genesis*, it is written that "the rain descends from above, but it is born below." Our ancient sage knew that Israel's ground water resources are vital to her survival.

Groundwater has been Israel's main source of water supply. Prior to 1967, Israel relied mainly on the Coastal Aquifer which parallels the Mediterranean coast. Israel's Mountain Aquifer lies further to the east in Judea and Samaria, and recharges the Coastal Aquifer. The rate which fresh water can be pumped from Israel's groundwater aquifers is critical and must be carefully planned and implemented, lest overpumping cause the infusion of saltwater from the sea into the Coastal Aquifer, which has occurred to some extent.

We have been largely concerned with Israel's physical security and the need for an effective military buffer in Judea and Samaria. In addition, however, the

fact is that Israel must retain control over all of Judea and Samaria in order to protect her valuable groundwater resources, especially from irresponsible Arabs who could use water as a weapon against Israel, by poisoning her precious aquifers, just as PLO and Hamas eco-terrorists have already tried to poison Israel's water supplies and have burned her forests.

Ironically, PLO propagandists have falsely accused Israel of despoiling the environment in Judea and Samaria, but those claims have been forcefully refuted by objective environmentalists such as Richard Hellman, the noted environmental attorney and consultant to the United Nations Environmental Program. The truth is that the Jewish presence in Judea and Samaria helps protect Israel's water resources from Palestinian Arab environmental terrorism.

Land for peace is a military absurdity; it is also a prescription for environmental disaster.◇

Jack Lauber, P.E., a member of the National Council of Americans For a Safe Israel, is an environmental engineer who has served as a consultant to Israel.

SPOTLIGHT ON THE EXTREMISTS

...Ms. **Nancy Murray**, education director of the Civil Liberties Union of Massachusetts, doubles as executive director of a militant pro-PLO group, the Middle East Justice Network. Last November, the Network sponsored a one-day conference entitled "From Occupation to Apartheid"; the theme was the alleged similarity between Israel and South Africa. Much to Murray's chagrin, some of those who attended the conference (which was held on the campus of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology) were local pro-Israel activists who, during the question-and-answer session, attempted to ask questions concerning Arab oil supplies to South Africa. Murray may champion free speech in her work for the Civil Liberties Union, but at the MIT conference it was another story entirely. Murray at first refused to take any questions with which she disagreed; then she silenced the dissidents by simply ending the conference session altogether...

...Most Israelis were appalled by the decision to award the Israel Prize to **Yeshayahu Leibowitz**, the cranky leftwing professor who has denounced Israel as "a Judeo-Nazi" state. One of Leibowitz's few defenders was Rabbi **David Hartman**, the self-styled Israeli philosopher, who insisted that whether or not Leibowitz spoke the truth was less important than the fact that he has addressed important issues. "Rightly or interestingly or profoundly is not the point," Hartman told the *New York Times*. "He addressed them"...

...Israeli clinical psychologist **Shaul Kimhi**, in search of a way to portray the Israeli public as dovish, has just completed a study of 1,000 soldiers who have served in Judea, Samaria and Gaza. His conclusion is that most of the soldiers believe that "the occupation is ruining Israel, ruining the army"--which translated into the headline "Soldiers In Territories Surprisingly Left-Wing, Israeli Survey Finds" in a Jewish newspaper in San Francisco, where Kimhi lectured in January. There's just one catch. It turns out that the 1,000 soldiers Kimhi interviewed all grew up on kibbutzim--the most politically leftwing segment of Israeli society. In other words, they opposed the "occupation" before they served in the territories and --not surprisingly-- Kimhi found that they still opposed it when they finished their service. But that, of course, would not serve Kimhi's agenda, so he is insisting that even though kibbutzniks comprise just 3% of the Israeli populace, "their attitudes often indicate

general trends, particularly among middle-class, educated Ashkenazim living in cities." In fact, however, the voting patterns of those Ashkenazim have consistently demonstrated that the vast majority do not favor the extreme leftwing parties that capture most votes on the kibbutzim...

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LIBERALISM AND THE JEWS

(Continued from Page 3)

solutions, they detest the use of force. Optimistic about human nature, they assume that people are united in a spirit of brotherhood. But when this set of assumptions is shown to be wrong--the Arabs are not "liberals"--the response of all too many Jewish liberals is not to abandon liberal assumptions, but to blame the Jews for the intractability of the conflict. Seeking above all to escape the negative role in which they are cast, they are oblivious to the consequences Wisse sums up so well: "Should Jews continue to require more and more of themselves rather than more and more of their enemies, they would simply be continuing the game of hounds and hares instead of demanding an end to the cruel sport."

Wisse describes the sorry history of Jewish efforts to undercut Jew-hatred by subsuming the defense against it under some "higher principle": more often than not the higher principle becomes yet another weapon in the arsenal of their enemies. "Human rights" offers the most recent example of an umbrella under which Jews have sought shelter, and Wisse recounts how a group of Montreal Jews funded a lecture series on human rights in the name of Natan Sharansky--by the third year there was a proposal for a lecture on Israel's abuse of the rights of Palestinians and if the donors were to withdraw their support, they would be accused of contempt for human rights and censorship in the bargain. Thus, notes Wisse, "can a general principle like 'human rights' serve the double purpose of furthering anti-Jewish propaganda while depriving Jews of one of their moral props."

In pointing out the fallacy of much conventional thinking, Wisse is uncomfortably on target. For example, she notes that the Jew tries to obtain from bystanders the pity he feels for himself, and thinks imparting information about the murder of Jews will prevent it happening again. Thus, every official visitor to Israel is taken to the Holocaust memorial of Yad Vashem. On the contrary, Wisse observes, the emphasis on Jewish victimhood is likely to persuade outsiders that Jews are an easy target and there must be something terribly wrong with them to have been selected as a target.

Wisse offers especially acute insights on what she calls biting the Jewish "moral strut." On this subject Wisse is particularly rich in nuggets that deserve to be memorized. The moral strutter, she writes, "does not believe in the religious basis of Jewish election, but in a secular echo of its special claims, he tries to prove his moral prowess instead of demanding his due. He is like the son of a murdered tightrope walker who insists on waiving the net to prove his nerve, forgetting that his father was killed not through lack of skill but by the rival who cut the rope. Nowadays, the Jewish moral strut is the

specialty of those who want to prove the moral refinement of Israel before putting an end to the Arab war against it.

The moral strutter suffers from profound confusion between the standards appropriate to the religious and to the political realm. Notes Wisse: "The moral strutters think they recognize a continuity between the Jew's election to carry the burden of the Law at Sinai and the choice of the modern Jew as a prime target of international discrimination. Their confusion of political villainy with God's claim on the Jews, and of anti-Israel coalitions with the Jewish striving for righteousness, actually abets evil and delays any possibility of international peace and justice." Wisse emphasizes that "the transference to the international arena of a people's desire for holiness is a tragic mistake with potentially tragic consequences."

The problem of the moral strut is not confined to Jews in the Diaspora but pervades modern Israeli literature. (The splendid section on strutters here and in Israel has touched a raw nerve in reviewers like Robert Alter, leading him to launch a grotesque attack on the book in *The New Republic*.)

The danger of all this is that Jews, including the Jews of Israel, lose the ability to stand up for themselves and their rights, endangering their prospects for survival. Jews, Wisse points out, are inevitably at a tremendous disadvantage *vis a vis* the Arabs. The Arab propaganda war is fueled not only by huge resources but by an enormous investment of effort and imagination focusing on destruction of the image of the Jews. Jewish institutions and symbols are stolen and subverted--as Wisse notes, the "United Palestine Appeal" is a double act of usurpation, replacing the existing state of Israel with an Arab state designed to erase it and stealing the vocabulary of Diaspora Jews to turn it against them. Yet, Jews have no incentive to enter the war of words, for what they seek is acceptance from those who attack them. The viciousness of the Arab propaganda onslaught is also too painful, striking at the heart of the liberal illusion of the Arab as reasonable. Many take refuge in blaming the Jews for Arab rejectionism, renewing their dedication to liberalism to camouflage their cowardly defection from their own people.

The only fault with this superb book is its last chapter, which departs sharply in style and substance from the rest of the book, telling an extended story of a trip to the Sinai. Presumably Wisse's intention is to provide a parable on loyalty, but if so, the story's richness of detail undercuts its message.◇

Rael Jean Isaac is a member of the editorial board of Outpost.

WATER AND SECURITY

(Continued from Page 3)

the saboteurs? How will Israel respond?

What if the autonomy regime passes an Arab "law of return" that enables 500,000 Palestinian Arabs to settle in Judea and Samaria, and large numbers of them engage in farming, thereby requiring additional water? Will the Arab ruling authorities permit Israel to take water, when local Arab farmers need it?

What if the leader of the first Palestinian Arab government agrees to permit Israel access to water in the territories--but is then assassinated by militant rivals who renounce the water compromise? Will Israel invade, risking international criticism and sanctions?

Before rushing to surrender territory in the name of "peace," Israel's political and military strategists need to consider what kind of "peace" Israel will enjoy if its water supply --its very lifeline-- is under the gun.◇

Herbert Zweibon is chairman of Americans For a Safe Israel.

ARAB SPEAKS HIS MIND

(Continued from page 4)

the territory and leaves the settlers to fend for themselves in an Arab-ruled region.

Dismantling the Jewish towns will be unnecessary, al-Shafi explained. "The departure of the settlers does not necessarily mean the destruction of the settlements...We ourselves can benefit from the settlements because they can become home for the 1948 refugees, whose lands and houses were taken over by Israel, and who want to return to the Palestinian land."

Al-Shafi rejected Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's attempt to distinguish between "political settlements" and "security settlements," or between Jerusalem and the rest of the disputed areas. "Are we ready to give up our rights in Jerusalem? Are we ready to let Israel settle in the Jordan Valley area? Are we ready to accept the continued existence of Gush Etzion and Kiryat Arba? These are things that we will not accept."◇

Aryeh Shomron, a former New Yorker, reports for Outpost from Jerusalem.

MIDDLE EAST UPDATE

(Continued from Page 7)

...Yasser Arafat, chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organization, met in February with Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein and other senior Iraqi officials in what media reports described as an attempt to improve relations between **Iraq** and the rest of the Arab world in the wake of the Gulf War. Before his journey to Iraq, Arafat met with Egyptian leader Hosni Mubarak and King Hassan of **Morocco**, apparently to discuss repairing ties between Saddam and his Arab rivals. In remarks to reporters in Baghdad, Arafat declined to reveal the details of his talks with the Iraqis, but took time to praise what he called "the greatness of the Iraqi people and their leader"...

... A cartoon in the Egyptian government weekly *Ruz el-Youssef*, on January 25, depicted a sinister, drooling Uncle Sam, holding a bound man labeled "Iraq" with one hand and a huge club in the other, offering friendly advice to a large Israeli soldier, who was wearing a German-style helmet adorned with a swastika, and holding an injured man labeled "Deportees" with one hand while waving a large club in the other hand...

..."Tewfiq Hussein," the pseudonym of a Syrian writer, recently sent Israeli newspapers a news story about some of the tactics used by the Syrian government

to control the flow of information in that country. Among other things, he revealed that Syrian newsstands are typically filled with foreign magazines and newspapers that have many of their pages ripped out. Government censors leaf through periodicals from abroad and tear out "any story less than wildly complimentary of **Syria**--in other words, almost everything." Ironically, however, "they invariably leave the table of contents intact," and therefore "experienced readers, anxious to know what the missing story was about, turn quickly to the front of the magazine to savor the tiny tidbit left behind"...

...A recent automobile crash in the **Hebron** hills might have been a terrorist incident. Albert Morali, 47, was killed on February 2 when the car he was driving swerved off the road and struck an rock embankment. But Mrs. Ronit Ofrage told the police that she and her husband were driving on the same road at the same time, and were confronted by a speeding auto coming from the opposite direction with its bright lights on. According to Mrs. Ofrage, the auto deliberately swerved towards her car, struck its side, and kept going. The Ofrages turned around and gave chase, and down the road came upon Morali's demolished car, which apparently was forced off the road by the same speeding auto. In recent years, Israeli police investigators have reported numerous incidents in which Arab terrorists used their cars to ram Israeli cars or to run down Israeli pedestrians...

BALDERDASH

"[Before 1982], the sporadic attacks by Palestinians across the [Israel-Lebanon] border were conducted by refugees who had been driven from their homes in the ethnic cleansing that Israel carried out in 1947 and 1948."

--New Jewish Agenda activist Rachelle Marshall, in the *Washington Report on Middle East Affairs*, February 1993

"[I]t is possible to see the entire Jewish-Arab conflict--from the time of the coming of the first Zionist pioneers-- as an ongoing process of the removal of Arabs from their lands..."

--Israeli leftwing activist Amos Gvirtz, leader of the Ramya Solidarity Committee, in the November-December 1992 issue of *New Outlook*

"What Israel has been exporting is the logic of the oppressor, the way of seeing the world that is tied to successful domination. What is exported is not just technology, armaments and experience, not just expertise, but a certain frame of mind, a feeling that the Third World can be controlled and dominated, that radical movements in the Third World can be stopped, that modern crusaders still have a future."

--Israeli professor Benjaim Beit-Hallahmi, quoted in *The Passionate Attachment: America's Involvement With Israel*, (W.W. Norton: 1992), by George W. Ball and Douglas B. Ball

"If Christ Returned They Would Expel Him Too!"

--Placard displayed at an anti-Israel rally staged by Arab-Americans in Washington, D.C., on Christmas Eve 1992.

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