
OUTPOST

MAY 1993

PUBLISHED BY AMERICANS FOR A SAFE ISRAEL

WHO NEEDS THE CONFERENCE OF PRESIDENTS?

Herbert Zweibon

Shortly before the recent vote on whether or not to admit Americans for Peace Now to the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, Rabbi Joseph Glaser, chairman of the Conference's Committee on Scope and Structure, publicly warned that the admission of Peace Now, with its narrow political agenda and ruthless tactics, would "hobble and undercut the purposes for which the Conference was established." Rabbi Glaser subsequently resigned from that committee in protest over irregularities in the conduct of the Peace Now admissions process, Peace Now was admitted and it seems that the Conference of Presidents has indeed "hobbled" itself to the point that one may now legitimately ask: who needs the Conference of Presidents, anyway?

The original purpose in creating the Conference was to give American Jewry a single, unified, and therefore more effective voice in defending Israel before the American public and government. But that noble aim has from the beginning been difficult to fulfill, because a provision in the Conference's by-laws (Article VI) permits any one Conference member to prevent the others from issuing a resolution in the name of the Conference. The idea is to achieve consensus; the danger is that an extremist group can exercise virtual veto power. So long as there was strong pro-Israel sentiment among leaders of the major Jewish organizations, the veto problem never arose. But that changed in recent years, as the leadership of the American Jewish Congress veered sharply to the left. Thus when the Conference considered the issue of Israel's deportation of 400 Hamas terror leaders earlier this year, the AJCongress was poised to veto any attempt to explicitly endorse the Israeli action. In order to prevent the AJC from doing so, the Conference members had to agree to issue a watered-down version which was a far cry from the full endorsement that Israel deserved.

The entry of Americans for Peace Now into the

Conference is even more fraught with danger because its positions are more extreme than those of the AJC. Peace Now calls for talks with the PLO, endorses Palestinian statehood, and refuses to support Israeli sovereignty over all of Jerusalem. Its president, Gail Pressberg, spent 14 years working for two pro-PLO organizations, and its co-chair, Letty Pogrebin, has justified Arab rock-throwing. Numerous Peace Now board members also served in leadership positions of radical groups like the Jewish Peace Lobby and the New Jewish Agenda. From now on, the Conference of Presidents will not be able to issue any resolution that does not suit Peace Now's extremist tastes.

Whether the Conference of Presidents ever really represented American Jewry is debatable, since the leaders of its member-organizations are not democratically elected. The fact that Peace Now was admitted in contravention of several of the Conference's own by-laws (which is what prompted Rabbi Glaser's resignation) is further testimony to the absence of democracy and fair play among the Conference's top brass.

By agreeing to have its policy resolutions held hostage to Peace Now's whims, the Conference of Presidents has sacrificed whatever popular mandate it once enjoyed. It can no longer pretend to speak for American Jewry, nor can it be relied upon to properly defend Israel in this hour of desperate crisis for the Jewish State.◊

Herbert Zweibon is chairman of Americans For a Safe Israel.

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IF SYRIA IS "MODERATE," WHO NEEDS GUARANTEES?

Israeli press reports recently revealed that last September, Foreign Minister Shimon Peres suggested to U.S. officials "the idea of the U.S. dispatching troops as a permanent Golan demilitarization force that would patrol and guarantee that Syrians do not sneak in howitzers that could shell kibbutzim in Galilee as occurred before 1967." The obvious question is, if Syria has become so "moderate" that Israel can contemplate surrendering part or all of the Golan Heights --as Israel's Labor government alleges-- why is there any concern about Syria sneaking weapons onto the Heights and shelling Israeli villages?

Peres's proposal exposes the entire fallacy of the Labor government's attitude towards negotiating with Arab dictators. If Hafez Assad is really moderate enough to be entrusted with the Golan Heights, then there should be no need for demilitarization, buffer zones, or foreign troops. The fact that Peres and his colleagues want such types of "protection" (and they are wholly unreliable methods of protection, anyway) demonstrates that they themselves are not convinced of Syria's "moderation." As long as there is even an iota of suspicion that Syria might violate the Golan's demilitarized state, sneak in weapons where it is not allowed, and assault Israeli towns, it would be suicide to give it any territory.◇

ARAB "SUFFERING" VERSUS JEWISH "FEARS"

A delegation from the U.S. Interreligious Committee for Peace in the Middle East recently visited the Middle East. Since its creation in 1987, the Committee has lobbied for "Palestinian self-determination," so nobody could have expected the delegates to say anything very different upon returning from their Mideast mission. They went with a pro-PLO agenda, and they returned convinced anew that their agenda is the correct one. The official "Statement of the Delegation" that was released in March therefore contained very little that was surprising, but there was one sentence in particular that sums up the Committee's grotesque bias and puts the lie to its claim to be a group of nonpartisan "religious and community leaders." The most important aspect of the Mideast trip, the statement declared, was that it "increased our awareness of the continued suffering of so many people on all sides, especially Palestinians living under occupation and Israelis living with fears." Notice how the two types of "suffering" are defined: the Arabs are suffering physically, forced to endure a cruel "occupation." The Israelis, however, are only suffering in their own minds--they are

obsessed with irrational "fears." The fact that hundreds of Israelis have been murdered in recent years, and tens of thousands injured or maimed --by acts of aggression perpetrated by those "suffering" Palestinian Arabs-- is irrelevant to the Interreligious Committee.

Nine of those who participated in the Mideast mission, and who signed the State of the Delegation, are Jews. Some, like Albert and Shirley Vorspan, are veteran extremists who are well known for their pro-Arab positions. But others are not as well known. Their names should become well known in the Jewish community, and they should be treated with the contempt they deserve: David Wortman, director of the Philadelphia Jewish Community Relations Council; Gary Bretton-Granatoor and Martin Hertz, of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations; Judith Hertz, president of the National Federation of [Reform] Temple Sisterhoods, Rabbi Israel Dresner of Temple Beth Tikvah, in Wayne, New Jersey, and Rabbi and Mrs. Joseph Ehrenkranz of Congregation Agudath Shalom, in Stamford Connecticut. Let their names be added to the Dishonor Roll of Jews whose indifference to Israeli suffering should make them unwelcome in American Jewish communal life.◇

THE LARGEST TERROR BASE IN THE WORLD

If Israel heeds the demand of the Labor Party's doves to unilaterally withdraw from the Gaza Strip, that region "would become the largest base for terrorism in the Middle East." So says the Labor government's own Housing Minister, Binyamin Ben-Eliezer, who seems to be one of the few Laborites who remembers that the last time Israel unilaterally pulled out of Gaza --after the 1948 war-- it promptly became the launching pad for hundreds of Arab terrorist attacks, which eventually forced Israel to launch its 1956 military strike to capture Gaza and the Sinai peninsula. That historical lesson needs to be recalled again and again in these troubled times.◇

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ARABS TEST CLINTON'S COMMITMENT TO ISRAEL

Senator Orrin Hatch

Israel's adversaries are obstructing the peace process in order to test the Clinton administration's commitment to Israel's security. The goal is to divide the United States and Israel and to maneuver us into using our influence to deliver unwarranted Israeli concessions. We must not fall into that trap.

The prime example of this tactic is the Palestinian boycott of further face-to-face talks until Israel agrees to repatriate the 396 Hamas terrorists exiled to Lebanon. Before the administration allows itself to be influenced by the frantic criticism of Israel in Washington and by U.S. allies at the United Nations, it should ask some basic questions.

First, who are the Palestinian deportees? They are not one-time offenders who deserve rehabilitation and a second chance but self-avowed ideologues committed to using terrorism to destroy the State of Israel.

The Hamas Covenant states that "the liberation of all Palestine, from the Mediterranean Sea to the Jordan River, is the highest possible strategic goal" and that "Israel will exist and continue to exist until Islam will obliterate it, just as it obliterated others before."

Article 13 of the covenant rejects all "alternatives, and so-called peace solutions." It states, "there is no solution to the Palestinian question except through *jihad*. Initiatives and proposals, and international conferences are all a waste of time and vain endeavors." In fact, Hamas frequently condemns and threatens Palestinian groups who support the peace process.

In leaflet number 65 of its underground publications, Hamas proclaimed "every Jew and Jewish settler is a target to be killed, whose blood and money are for the taking." Apart from the few who were misidentified by Israeli authorities, almost all of those who were expelled to Lebanon were extremely active in the political and military wings of Hamas, which has conducted 11 terrorist attacks in the last year alone. In one attack, a Hamas death squad in Jaffa ambushed and killed three Israeli aluminum workers, one of whom was virtually decapitated.

Second, how do Arab regimes handle their political opponents? Some of Israel's critics have compared its recent expulsions to Iraq's or Libya's handling of dissidents. Yet, most Mideast dictators use not expulsion but execution as their principal tactic.

In February 1982, when the Muslim Brotherhood led an uprising in the Syrian town of Hama, president Hafez Assad dispatched armed forces led by his brother and equipped with artillery, tanks and aircraft to crush the rebellion. An estimated 10,000 Syrians were killed, but

Syria escaped sustained international condemnation. Iraqi President Saddam Hussein had been similarly brutal toward dissident Kurds and Arab Shi'ites. Inter-factional violence is common within the Palestine Liberation Organization.

The "blame Israel first" crowd at the United Nations operates on a blatant double standard. Israel is unrelentingly criticized if it deports self-avowed terrorists to another country while certain Arab regimes only get their wrists slapped even when they dispatch their opponents to the other world.

The fact is that the Middle East is not the Middle West. It's a rough neighborhood, and it would be a travesty to penalize a democracy for taking strong actions to protect itself against those who would destroy democracy.

Third, how can the United States best advance the Arab-Israeli peace process? Historically, progress has taken place when Jerusalem and Washington had a shared understanding of Israel's security requirements and Israel had full confidence in the American-Israeli security relationship. Creating those conditions should be a key focal point of the new administration's approach.

Since July 1992, Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin has released 800 Palestinian detainees as a goodwill gesture, blocked construction of 7,000 housing units in settlements in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, accepted the principle of an Israeli withdrawal from the Golan Heights as part of a peace treaty with Syria, furthered discussions on a wide range of bilateral issues with Jordan, and has continued to develop proposals that would give Palestinians in the occupied territories larger administrative authority.

Israel has gone the extra mile, but the Syrians and the Palestinians have not reciprocated. Instead, Arab negotiators want to test the new administration's willingness to pressure Israel into taking back the Hamas exiles. During the recent talks with Secretary of State Warren Christopher, Mr. Assad dangled the prospect of restarting bilateral talks but has not explicitly broken the linkage between fresh talks and the deportees. If the administration takes the bait, it will only reinforce Arab determination to obstruct the talks in hopes of further gains.

It is imperative that we stand firmly with Israel to demonstrate that the United States will not "deliver" Israeli concessions...Above all, the United States must steadfastly resist calls to pile onto the anti-Israeli bandwagon at the United Nations. Americans have had enough of the U.N.'s moral equivalency between victims and aggressors in the war in Bosnia. We should not allow this practice to spread to the Arab-Israeli conflict.◊

Senator Orrin Hatch (R-Utah) has served on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and the Select Committee on Intelligence.

"MODERATION " IS IN THE EYE OF THE BEHOLDER

Alex Rose

On November 11, 1992, in a talk given to the Arab Youth Club in Amman, Jordan, Faisal Hussein declared:

"We must force the Israeli society to establish mutual relations with a society bigger than it. That is, our Arab society, following which it will be possible to gradually dissolve the Zionist entity."

Hussein is, of course, a resident of eastern Jerusalem, a leader of the Palestinian Arabs and principal consultant to the Palestinian Arab delegation to the ongoing Arab-Israeli negotiations.

For several years now, there has been a concerted effort on the part of the U.S. State Department and the Western media to present the Palestine Liberation Organization as a reformed body given to moderation. That Hussein, a key PLO representative, would make such a statement, must surely surprise those who are convinced of his 'moderation.'

Israel is urged to conclude peace agreements with the PLO and its Arab neighbors because, it is argued, failure to do so will result in Israel being confronted by the greater threat of extremist Islamic fundamentalism. Upon closer scrutiny, however, it becomes clear that this contention is misleading.

Both the PLO and Hamas, representing "moderation" and "extremism" respectively, have official Covenants that set forth their goals and beliefs. Seldom is the American public told about the contents of these documents, however, because to do so would be to replace the myths of the Middle East with cold, hard facts.

Article 15 of the PLO's Covenant, for example, calls for the Arab nations to join with the Palestinian Arab people to "eliminate the Zionist presence from Palestine." Article 19 rejects Jewish self-determination, declaring that "the partitioning of Palestine in 1947 and the establishment of Israel are fundamentally null and void." In fact, throughout the PLO Covenant there are constant references to "Palestine," implying that there is no room for a Jewish homeland in any part of present-day Israel, even excluding the administered territories of 1967.

Article 33 of the PLO Covenant asserts that the Covenant may not be amended "save by a vote of two-thirds of the total membership" of the Palestine National Council. Such a vote has never taken place, despite public declarations by PLO chairman Yasser Arafat signifying acceptance of the Jewish State. In fact, following Arafat's December 1988 Geneva speech in which he supposedly recognized Israel's right to exist, his top aides continued to reiterate that "the recovery of but a part of our

soil will not cause us to forsake our Palestinian land" (Farouk Kaddoumi) and that "the Palestinian state will be a stage in our prolonged struggle for the liberation of Palestine " (Abu Iyyad).

When comparing the PLO to Hamas, one must ascribe to the latter an attribute unusual for terrorists--honesty. Hamas makes no pretense of its objectives. It follows the goals of its covenant without the accompaniment of deceitful diplomacy.

The introduction to the Hamas Covenant leaves the reader no doubts as to the organization's purpose. "Israel will exist and will continue to exist until Islam eliminates it, just as it eliminated what preceded it...Our war against the Jews is a great and serious undertaking." Article 14 declares it a religious obligation for every Moslem to liberate "Palestine" since it is "Islamic land." Article 15 refers to the "struggle against the theft of Palestine by the Jews."

From Israel's standpoint, the PLO and Hamas covenants show that the two groups share a common goal. Superficial differences between the "moderate" PLO and the "extremist" Hamas evaporate in the intense hatred that both display toward the concept of permanent Jewish sovereignty in their midst. Indeed, the proceedings of the "International Conference to Support the Islamic Revolution of Palestine," held in Teheran in October 1991, bears witness to the relationship between these superficially diverse elements in the Arab world. All the delegates signed the 28 resolutions passed by the conference. "Moderate" Egypt was included among the signatories, as was "extremist" Iran and the "extremist"

chairman of the PLO's Palestine National Council, not to mention most leaders of the various Arab terror groups and the leaders of all Arab League members. Resolution 11 of the Teheran assembly condemned "the so-called Middle East peace conference"; Resolution 3 called for "the elimination of the Zionist existence," and Resolution 22 supported "the need for an all-out *jihad* against the Zionist regime." Moslem fundamentalists and secular nationalists, political conservatives and political revolutionaries, supporters of the PLO and supporters of Hamas all joined hands in a startlingly candid admission of the enduring anti-Israel agenda of the Arab world.◇

Alex Rose is a member of the executive committee of Americans For a Safe Israel.

WELCOMING THE TROJAN HORSE INTO THE CONFERENCE OF PRESIDENTS

Rael Jean Isaac

There is no better sign of the decay of American Jewish organizations than the contrast between their reaction to Breira, the group of leftwing Jews that formed in 1973 to advance the notion that Israel's return to the 1949 borders and creation of a PLO state was the "key to peace," and its ideological descendant, Americans for Peace Now.

The major American Jewish organizations banded together against Breira. Hadassah was the first organization to expose and denounce Breira in its newsletter. The Anti-Defamation League (among others) helped to disseminate the pamphlet by this writer exposing the background of Breira's leadership in anti-Israel organizations. And Breira disintegrated.

In 1993, the leadership of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations was in such unseemly haste to bring Peace Now into the fold that it contravened several of its own by-laws. In 1993, Hadassah and the Anti-Defamation League were two of the 27 organizations (out of 47) that voted in favor of Peace Now's admission. Only ten organizations voted against it, most of them Orthodox groups (Emunah Women, Poale Agudath Israel, the Rabbinical Council of America, the Orthodox Union and the National Council of Young Israel). There were eight abstentions--including AIPAC, responding to the anger of its members at its original decision to vote in favor. The majority voted not to allow the abstentions to count, lest the vote look less favorable to Peace Now.

Yet Peace Now is, if anything, more insidious than Breira. Its President is Gail Pressberg, who will now be a voting member of the Conference of Presidents. In 1977, when Breira staged its first (and last) national conference, Gail Pressberg, as head of the American Friends Service Committee's Middle East Peace Education program, was hosting an anti-Israel conference entitled "The New Imperative for Israeli-Palestinian Peace," nearby in the Washington, D.C. area. It was addressed by telephone hook-up by a PLO representative (despite the AFSC's best efforts, the U.S. government at that time refused to allow him into the country). The tone of some at the meeting was so anti-Semitic that even a contingent from Breira that came to the AFSC meeting was sufficiently disturbed to protest in writing.

Pressberg has a formidable fifteen year track record of anti-Israel activity. It was the AFSC, beginning in the late 1960s (when Israel's popularity, following the Six Day War, was at its height) that pioneered in the effort to turn the tide of public opinion against Israel. Its

influence was felt especially in the so-called "progressive community," that is, the spectrum of organizations that had been active in the anti-Vietnam war movement and were now casting around for other causes, but hesitant to make Israel a target because of the large number of Jews in "progressive" ranks. The AFSC's activities were important precisely because they first showed that a "progressive" organization could be anti-Israel without necessarily alienating Jews.

"Middle East Education" AFSC-style consisted of distributing anti-Israel literature and organizing anti-Israel conferences (in which the emphasis was on workshops training activists to lobby Congress and contact media), symposia, speeches, seminars and lecture series. Since the AFSC was intent on maintaining a facade as a neutral "peace-maker," it would typically invite a token "pro-Israel" speaker to address a conference or participate in a lecture series. For example, a typical lecture series in Boston in the 1970s included the notorious Noam Chomsky, two speakers from MERIP, the Middle East Research and Information Project, a group openly dedicated to dismantling the Jewish State (it even described the terrorist murder of Israeli athletes at the Olympic games in Munich as providing "an important boost in morale among Palestinians in the camps"), a Palestinian from Ramallah--and, figleaf to evenhandedness, a local rabbi.

From supervising "peace education" at the AFSC, Pressberg moved on to become director of the Foundation for Middle East Peace, a pro-Arab think tank established in 1980 under the leadership of Merle Thorpe. As the Anti-Defamation League, in its handbook *Pro-Arab Propaganda in America* delicately phrases it, the Foundation has "a decided slant toward the anti-Israel pro-Palestinian position." It currently publishes a bi-monthly journal entitled *Report on Israeli Settlements in the Occupied Territories*. Rabbi Aryeh Gotlieb, in an article that appeared in a Colorado weekly (*Intermountain Jewish News*, February 12, 1993) reports that in June 1982, Pressberg served as chair of an ad hoc "Jews Against the Israeli Massacre in Lebanon." In February 1988, she published an article in the *Journal of Palestine Studies* presenting justifications for the *intifada* and later that year met with Yasser Arafat in Tunis, issuing a joint press release with him.

Pressberg's labors did not go unappreciated by the pro-Arab lobby in the United States. She was the first

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WELCOMING THE TROJAN HORSE

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recipient of the Janet Lee Stevens Award, established in 1985 and given "in recognition of individual contributions of exceptional merit in the field of Arab-American affairs that have furthered the cause of Arab-American understanding." Stevens was killed by "friendly fire"--she died in the 1983 Arab terrorist bombing of the American embassy in Beirut, while serving as translator for an Arab delegation. Stevens wrote *The Israeli Use of U.S. Weapons in Lebanon*, published by the Association of Arab American University Graduates. Edward Said, the second recipient of the Janet Lee Stevens award, in his acceptance speech, said that "Janet was totally enraged by Israeli abuse of American weapons, never missing an opportunity to condemn it and to show clearly where she stood on the subject."

The third recipient of the award (and thus far the last) was Abdeen Jabara, a pioneer in organizing the Arab community in the United States as an effective lobbying force against Israel, who received the award for his direction of the Arab-American Anti-Discrimination Committee. (Under his leadership, that group spearheaded a campaign against Soviet Jewish emigration to Israel.)

Said and Jabara are the high priests of the anti-Israel lobby: the Janet Lee Stevens award is clearly intended as a high honor for those who have rendered outstanding service to the Arab cause, i.e. the cause of Israel's destruction. Thus, for Americans for Peace Now to have appointed Pressberg as its head precisely when it applied for admission to the Presidents' Conference was an expression of (as it turned out well-deserved) contempt for the Jewish leadership.

Most of those active in Americans for Peace Now have backgrounds in a variety of groups that have made a specialty of blackening Israel: for example, CONAME,

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LETTERS THEY REFUSED TO PUBLISH

Letters to the Editor
The Brandeis Review
To the Editor:

November 25, 1992

Philippa Strum's apology for the *intifada*, in your Fall 1992 issue ("The Women Are Marching") demonstrates her affluent, white, American, myopic misinterpretation of the *intifada*. The *intifada* can only be viewed as a terrorist murderous campaign of violence against all Jews and nonconforming Arabs. To excuse this Arab uprising and its violence as a feminist release for Palestinian Arab women is ludicrous. Philippa Strum's article demonstrates her historical ignorance as well as her ignorance of the true situation for women in traditional Arab societies...

Sincerely,
Dr. Fred E. Ehrlich
Lynwood, WA

Letters to the Editor
1993
Forward
To the Editor:

February 6,

the American Library Association rescind its discriminatory anti-Israel resolutions of 1992 is misleading and mischievous. It refers repeatedly to "Jewish activists" working in Denver (site of this year's ALA convention) to combat the librarians' phalanx of the worldwide campaign to destroy the moral image of Israel. The story also insinuates that said "activists" have been spurred into their activity by the Denver office of the Anti-Defamation League. In fact, these "Jewish activists" and "Jewish groups," as your reporter well knows, amount to a single courageous, quixotic individual from Seattle named Jacob Greenberg.

After studying the history of this sorry affair, Greenberg assembled the relevant documentation, made his own placards, abandoned his business, and flew to Denver, where he stayed for a week. He did all this at his own expense. Although not a librarian, he was granted credentials by the ALA director, Peggy Sullivan (whom he had been in touch with for a month prior to the meeting), which permitted him to address the convention and carry the struggle to rescind the resolutions. He received no help from the Denver Jewish community, no help from the Association of Jewish Librarians, and no help from the Denver ADL (which, to judge by its performance in this matter, ought to be placed in receivership).

The problem with the *Forward's* story is not the possible offense to the ego of Mr. Greenberg, who is as content with anonymity as a *lamed-vovnik* (which he may well be). It is the false and pernicious suggestion that

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Your January 15 story about the attempt to have
Outpost

MIDDLE EAST UPDATE

...Appearing on "Meet the Press" on February 28, U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher toed the Arab line of his predecessors at Foggy Bottom. Christopher praised the "desire for peace" that he allegedly found in his discussions with **Syria's** dictator Hafez Assad, but said nothing about Assad's enormous military buildup, human rights violations, and illegal occupation of Lebanon. Asked about whether the Arab states were willing to ease up on the boycott, Christopher replied, "We shall see." He pointed out that he had raised the boycott issue in two of the Arab countries that he visited--but did not explain why he didn't mention it in the other four. Asked if the U.S. was pressuring Israel to "ease up on the Palestinians in the occupied territories," Christopher replied that "when the negotiations resume, we will see that," implying that the U.S. had indeed forced Israel to make more concessions that will be announced when the talks resume...

...This is what Mohammed Zeidan, spokesman for the Forum of Israeli Arab Town Council Leaders, described as his "condemnation" of the Arab stabbing murders of two Jews in **Tel Aviv** in March: "These attacks are the result of the continuing occupation and the escalation of oppression by the government in the territories, especially the **Gaza Strip**, as well as the anger over the collective deportations"...

...Continuing its policy of permitting fugitive Arab terrorists to avoid imprisonment, the Israeli government on March 2 allowed fugitive Majed Karzan to go to **Jordan** for five years instead of being arrested and jailed in Israel...

... The International Labor Organization on March 9 released a new report about slavery around the world today. Two Arab countries, **Mauritania** and **Sudan**, were among the prime offenders. A third Moslem country, Pakistan, was criticized for its widespread practice of a form a de facto slavery called debt bondage. "Debt bondage is less shocking than outright slavery perhaps, but just as effective," the ILO report explains. With government approval, an employer offers a prospective laborer an attractive loan to be repaid through future earnings. The boss then pays the worker a measly wage, overcharges him for work tools and housing, and slaps huge fines on him for work that is deemed unsatisfactory. The laborer's debt grows ever larger, and ends up being transferred to children and then grandchildren. The report cites cases involving "people enslaved to pay off debts eight generations old"...

...In 1991, a 17 year-old Arab girl named Nariman Manasra stabbed an Israeli soldier in downtown **Hebron**. She was shot while fleeing, but recovered from her wounds and a liberal-minded Israeli judge permitted her to go free on bail while awaiting trial. Because of the backlogged Israeli courts, Mansra has yet to come to trial, but now she will face a second trial, because on March 8, Miss Manasra tried to stab an Israeli policeman on Sultan Suleiman Street, just outside the walls of Jerusalem's Old City...

...After a series of terrorist attacks by Gaza Arabs in early March, the Rabin government ordered the **Gaza Strip** closed for several days to prevent Gaza residents from entering Israeli cities as day laborers. The *Jerusalem Post* reported on March 9 that just before the closure was to end, the Israeli authorities learned from intelligence sources that "terrorists were planning a murder as soon as the closure imposed on the Gaza District was lifted." Nevertheless, the government--sensitive to international criticism about the closure-- went ahead and reopened Gaza on March 7. The next day, Uri Megidish, a young Israeli farmer in nearby Moshav Gan Or, was brutally murdered by Gaza Arabs...

...The Western press has been filled with stories about how the deported Hamas terrorists are "suffering" in south **Lebanon**, but a March 10 report in the Beirut newspaper *Nida al-Watan* suggests otherwise. According to the story, the deportees "are in much better shape than many Lebanese, and probaby better off than some Palestinians in the territories...They have fresh meat and all kinds of fruits and vegetables, gas stoves, televisions and telephones, while the majority of Lebanese have been dreaming of hearing a telephone ring in their homes for the past 20 years." Some of the Hamas have even been "vacationing far from their camp," the newspaper revealed...

...No representative of the Rabin government attended the March 16 funeral for Yehoshua Friedberg, the Canadian-born Israeli soldier who was kidnapped and murdered by Arab terrorists. Likud Knesest Member Michael Eitan, who was at the funeral, pointed out that "the government of Canada took the trouble to send a representative who eulogized the soldier, while the government of Israel, in whose service he fell, did not bother to send a single minister to the funeral." Minister of Tourism Uzi Baram responded that "the absence of government representatives at funerals was because the presence of ministers often aroused rowdy demonstrations." Afraid to face the public's criticism, Rabin's ministers simply stay home...

BEHIND THE NEWSMAKERS

...**Dean Reynolds**, the Jerusalem correspondent for the ABC evening news, declared in a March 15 broadcast that Israeli Jews who are opposed to Israel making too many concessions to the Arabs are "allies of the Moslem fundamentalists who have been attacking Israelis"...

...A **Cable News Network** story on March 23 about the Arab terrorist attack on students in a Jerusalem school began, "More violence in the Israeli-occupied territories today." The report did not mention that the school was in Jerusalem --thereby avoiding the sticky problem of having to describe Israel's capitol as "occupied territory"--but merely noted that "six people were wounded in stabbings at an Israeli high school." Then the announcer asserted: "And Israeli soldiers killed four Palestinians during demonstrations in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza." Thus, according to CNN, the Arabs were killed for "demonstrating" --even though they were, in fact, killed while attacking Israeli soldiers, who fired in self-defense...

...The **Associated Press** version of the stabbing of the Jerusalem students began, "Persisting violence in the Palestinian uprising claimed the lives of four Arabs in the occupied Gaza Strip yesterday, including two pre-teen boys..." The stabbing of the Israeli children got second billing...

...CNN's Jerusalem correspondent, **Bill Delaney**, referred in a March 17 broadcast to what he called "Israel's capture, in 1967, of the Palestinian West Bank and Gaza Strip." Delaney is evidently unaware that in 1967, those territories were not "Palestinians," but were occupied by Jordan and Egypt, respectively, and that the Arabs living there did not regard themselves as "Palestinians"...

...Two short news items in the **New York Times** on March 18 illustrate that newspaper's bias against Israel. One headline, "87 Gazans Reported Wounded by Israelis," used the active verb "wounded" and specifically blamed "Israelis" for it. The other, "11 Die as Egypt Police Fight Islamic Radicals" used the passive phrase "die," without directly blaming anybody for the deaths, and (accurately) described the victims as "radicals," thereby justifiably casting aspersions on their behavior. The report about Egypt called the victims "militants" and "radicals," described how they have been "seeking to overthrow the Government," and pointed out that they have been involved in "many of the attacks on the police,

Coptic Christians and foreign tourists over the last 15 months." The story about Israel, however, described the dead and injured merely as "Palestinians." There was no reference whatsoever to the fact that these "Palestinians" were hurling firebombs at Israeli soldiers, merely vague mention of the fact that there were "running battles" and unspecified "clashes" (without any indication that the Arabs were taking part in those battles and clashes) and that the Israeli army "used various means to disperse crowds," as if the problem was that there were crowds, not that the crowds were doing anything violent...

...A story in the *New York Times* about the March 21 stabbing of six Israeli high school students was accompanied by two photographs: one of the Arab stabber, after he had been roughed up while being apprehended; the other of angry Israeli high schools students who were supposedly shouting anti-Arab slogans. The *Times* had no room for any photographs of the six Israeli stabbing victims. The article itself, authored by the *Times*' Jerusalem bureau chief, **Clyde Haberman**, emphasized that the terrorist [who was described merely as "an Arab man"] was "from an East Jerusalem slum," as if his alleged poverty somehow justified his bloody deed. Haberman also described the would-be killer as having been "badly beaten" (while the stabbing victims were merely "wounded," not "badly wounded")--even though he in fact suffered only minor wounds...

...Meanwhile, Haberman's deputy, Israeli leftwinger **Joel Greenberg**, authored an article in the *Times* about an Arab child who was accidentally hit by gunfire when Israeli soldiers shot at her father's speeding car as it tried to avoid a roadblock. In contrast to Greenberg's lengthy and detailed coverage of that incident --in which the Israelis were justified in using force, harmed the child by accident, and apologized-- neither Greenberg nor Haberman wrote anything about little Chava Eliahu, the 1 year-old Israeli girl who had her skull fractured on February 15 by Arab rock-throwers who deliberately attacked her parents' car, with intent to kill or maim. The *Times*' Israel bureau likewise showed no interest in the death of 11 year-old Chava Wachsberg, who was murdered on February 24 when Arab rock-throwers attacked her mother's car, forcing it to swerve off the Jerusalem-Hebron road and crash down a hillside...

SPOTLIGHT ON THE EXTREMISTS

...Paying a visit to his native Los Angeles in February, veteran Jewish radical **Jonathan Jacoby** (recently named head of the U.S. Labor Zionists) expected to "enjoy reading a hometown newspaper." Instead, he was "surprised and dismayed" to discover that the *B'nai B'rith Messenger*, a local weekly, had published an essay mentioning Jacoby's previous involvement in a number of pro-PLO groups, including the now-defunct Shalom Network and its successor, the New Jewish Agenda. In a letter to the *Messenger*, Jacoby charged that it was "guilt by association" for the article to mention the groups with which he chose to associate. He insisted that the fact that he spent some summers at Camp Ramah is proof that he was really "pro-Israel"...

...**Martin van Crefeld**, a military historian who teaches at the Hebrew University, declared March 3 that "in the era of civilian resistance movements fighting conquering armies that started with World War II, the Arab population here has a right to fight the Israeli occupation." Van Crefeld made his remarks at a Yad Vashem conference marking the 50th anniversary of the Warsaw Ghetto revolt. When members of the audience criticized his statement, Van Crefeld denounced the critics as "a bunch of idiots" and stormed out of the room...

...**Mohammed Mehdi**, president of the American-Arab Council, told interviewer Douglas Bloomfield in March that **Sheikh Omar Abdul Rahman** (spiritual leader of the World Trade Center bombers) was no less a terrorist than Thomas Jefferson, since both Rahman and Jefferson "used exciting language." Mehdi claims that Rahman condemned the World Trade Center attack. His proof? Mehdi claims to have left a message on Rahman's answering machine, informing him that he intended to condemn the bombing and asking him to call back if his position differed from Mehdi's. "I'm sure, by his silence or not calling me back means that he agrees with my position in condemning this," Mehdi insisted...

...Writing in the Dade County (Florida) Jewish Journal in March, leftwing polemicist **Jesse Zel Lurie** defended **Daniel Kurtzer**, the most prominent Jew among the State Department's Israel-bashers. According to Lurie, "Ahavat Yisrael [love of Israel] fills [Kurtzer's] heart and he has therefore worked night and day to bring peace to Israel." What Kurtzer really worked night and

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day for --according to a report in the *New York Times* in January 1989-- was to convince his State Department bosses that the PLO was moderate and deserved U.S. recognition. And it was Kurtzer who drafted the text of the American recognition of the the PLO in December, 1988. Three of James Baker's Jewish Arabists --Kurtzer, Dennis Ross, and Aaron Miller-- were rehired by the Clinton administration, despite strong criticism of the trio from many in the American Jewish community...

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MAKING EXCUSES FOR TERRORISM

Excerpts from Arab media coverage of the World Trade Center bombing

Akibat al-Khaleef (Bahrain):

"The hands of Zionism itself played a role in planning the incident...to divert attention from Israel's criminal violations in the occupied territories and throw the ball into the Arabs' court."

Amin Salameh, father of Mohammed Salameh, who was featured prominently in the Jordanian media:

"The purported links between my son and the bombing are fabrications designed by the U.S. authorities to give the impression that they are doing their job and to please the Jewish lobby in the United States."

Al Ahram (Egypt):

"If Mohammed Salameh were guilty, would he have used his own name to rent the van and why would he report it stolen the next day and try to get back his \$400 deposit, even going to the extent of securing a police report on the theft to back his refund request? Besides, the attack looked like a professional job, and Salameh hardly sounds like a professional."

Al-Ra'i (Jordan):

"The crime that was committed was...in a setting teeming with crime. Who can deny that America has one of the highest crime rates in the world?"

Iranian Television:

"U.S. backing of Israel and its support of repressive regimes is the underlying cause of the bombing."

Iranian Radio:

"The fingerprints of the Mossad and Israel are quite visible in the New York bombing."

Al-Ittihad (United Arab Emirates):

"Israel was behind the bombing. Arabs and Moslems must act quickly to expose the Zionist lies and abort the conspiracy of Israeli intelligence."

One Minute to Midnight
Dr. Irving Moskowitz

CHRISTOPHER'S DECEITFUL MIDDLE EAST DIPLOMACY

Reports in the American press in March revealed that the Clinton administration was quietly "urging" [read: pressuring] Israel to take steps that would "encourage" the Palestinian Arabs to return to the negotiating table, such as "speeding up" the return of the deported Hamas terrorists. Yet on April 7, the *New York Times* reported that the administration had "rejected" an Egyptian proposal to pressure Israel to make more concessions on the Hamas issue. How can we explain these apparently contradictory reports? Are President Clinton and Secretary of State Christopher pressuring Israel, or aren't they?

The answer is that in the few short months he has been in office, Warren Christopher has already mastered

the traditional State Department art of deceitful Middle East diplomacy. In private, he pressures Israel for more concessions [hence the March reports about "urging" steps to "promote peace talks"]; in public, he denies pressuring Israel, in order to avoid arousing American Jewish protests.

What makes this situation all the more troubling, however, is that in this case, it may be that the administration's April 7 rebuff of Egypt's call for pressure may be accurate. It could be that after Christopher pressured the Rabin government in March, Rabin agreed to various concessions and therefore there is no need for further U.S. pressure.

In short, the Clinton-Christopher approach is frighteningly pro-Arab, but it is made a thousand times worse by the fact that Israel has a prime minister who in the past was always terribly susceptible to U.S. pressure and is showing no sign of doing anything differently now.◊

Dr. Irving Moskowitz is a member of the board of governors of Americans For a Safe Israel.

WELCOMING THE TROJAN HORSE

(Continued from Page 6)

the Committee on New Alternatives in the Middle East (originally a front group for the Socialist Workers' Party); the Jewish Peace Lobby (led by Jerome Segal, whose advice to the PLO in his book *Creating the Palestinian State*, much of which the PLO followed, led to his being dubbed in the media as "the Jewish father of the Palestinian State"); and New Jewish Agenda, whose far reaching anti-Israel activities I have described at length in my pamphlet on that group (published by AFSI and my essay, "New Jewish Agenda: The Jewish Wing of the Anti-Israel Lobby," published in *With Friends Like These...: The Jewish Critics of Israel* (SPI Books, 1993). Pressberg's predecessor as head of Americans for Peace Now, Jonathan Jacoby, had previously headed the New Israel Fund, whose single largest beneficiary has been ACRI, the Association for Civil Rights in Israel. ACRI's single-minded devotion to Arab civil rights led Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin to describe it recently as "the Association for the Civil Rights of Hamas Terrorists."

Yet with all this, there was no one with a record comparable to that of Pressberg.

And yet Americans for Peace Now calculated correctly that the Presidents' Conference would not even balk at Pressberg. Ignorance was not the explanation. The members of the Conference of Presidents had no choice but to be informed on Pressberg and on Americans for Peace Now's recent activities (which had included lobbying *against* the efforts of the Conference to obtain loan guarantees for Israel). This was because Morton Klein, a leader of the American Zionist Movement, and Dr. Michael Goldblatt, vice president of the Zionist Organization of America (Mid-Atlantic Region), had embarked on a valiant campaign to inform the entire Jewish community - through faxes, letters, phone calls and articles in Jewish newspapers throughout the country.

There is little doubt that the primary reason those at the helm of the Presidents' Conference (Lester Pollack, its president, and Malcolm Hoenlein, its executive director) were determined to include Americans for Peace Now was because of the close relationship to President Clinton that a number of those active in the group enjoy. They could hope for greater "access" to the White House through the Peace Now leadership. There was also the consideration that Peace Now members in Israel were included in the government: how could a group with the same ideology be barred from a group representing American Jewry?

But there were other reasons reflecting a distorted liberalism that refuses to acknowledge the existence of enemies on the left. As a result, exposure of Pressberg and others in Peace Now, even the chronicling of Peace Now's formal positions and activities, seems to

have had the *opposite* effect on many leaders that would vote in favor of Americans for Peace Now's admission. According to someone close to the deliberations, the information flooding in was rejected as "McCarthyism." (For Jews of a certain liberal mind-set, associating an individual with his actions is "McCarthyism," suggesting that the abandonment of religious tradition does not enhance rationality or dispense with the need for ritualistic incantations.) Those already in favor of the group's admission could now do so with an even greater sense of virtue by telling themselves that a vote for Peace Now was imperative to uphold "free speech."

In addition, many of the "presidents" (in contrast to the rank and file of their organizations) were in sympathy with Peace Now, believing that Israeli territorial concessions held the key to peace. Not believing in the possibility of intractable Arab hostility, they found it equally impossible to believe that Jews could be "enemies within." If Peace Now leaders were a little zealous in their pursuit of peace, what better way to convert them to moderation than to make them part of the mainstream, rather than forcing them to remain "outsiders"?

The impact of the admission of Peace Now, at best, will be to paralyze the Conference of Presidents as an organization speaking on behalf of the Jewish community. More likely, it will assume greater political importance as the Clinton administration sees the presence of Peace Now as a lever, and uses the Conference of Presidents as a tool to pressure Israel.

Perhaps the time has come for those organizations that are dedicated to Israel's survival to resign, leaving the Presidents' Conference to the moral strutters (Ruth Wisse's apt phrase) who are prepared to betray the Jewish people. A new umbrella organization composed of all those organizations dedicated to the survival of the Jewish people is sorely needed.◇

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

LETTERS THEY REFUSED

(Continued from Page 6)

individual Jews can sit back and rely on their religious, political, and fraternal organizations to carry on the struggle into which the Arab war against Israel has thrust us all.

Sincerely,

Edward Alexander
Professor of English
University of Washington
Seattle

BALDERDASH

"We cannot envisage a successful negotiation process if Israel continues with the killings, the demolition of houses and arrests as well as expulsions, which to the Palestinians represents the greatest danger, so much so we have named it the Palestinian Holocaust."

--Nabil Sha'ath, senior aide to PLO leader Yasser Arafat, quoted in the Jerusalem Arab newspaper *Al Fajr*, March 8, 1993

"The Zionist dealing with the Palestinians from Day One has been to uproot and to displace us. This is the crux of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict."

--Mohammed Hallaj, director of the Center for Policy Analysis on Palestine and member of the Palestinian Arab negotiating team, in the Jerusalem Arab newspaper *Al Fajr*, March 15, 1993

"Palestinian people have been denied their land, their nationality, their culture and their history by the State of Israel."

--History professor Salahuddin Malik, of the State University of New York at Brockport, in the *Rochester Democrat and Chronicle*, January 20, 1993

"The occupation forces have erected gates to block entrances to the Old City of Nablus, as part of a deliberate plan to encourage the spread of rats at those points."

--Editorial in the Israeli Arab newspaper *An Nahar*, quoted in the *Albany Jewish World*, March 18, 1993

"It has become a standard political custom since Dwight Eisenhower to sell American foreign policy in the Middle East to the Israeli lobby in exchange for campaign contributions."

--Columnist Charley Reese in the *Orlando Sentinel*, February 7, 1993

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