

# PLATITUDES FOR PEACE

## THE UNIVERSITY RIGHT

by Joseph M.J. Sanlei

I have just finished re-reading my own article of last week (Peace in the Land of Peace), because of some charges that were made against me concerning it following its publication - some very untrue, absurd, dishonest charges. I have no doubt that you, the reader, may get to read some rhetoric-laden version of these allegations, either this week or next in this very publication - but no matter, I will answer once and for all this stupidity here and now.

It has been alleged that I am "anti-Semitic" because I spoke out for Palestinian rights! The dictionary defines "Semitic" as "one of a people of caucasian stock, now represented by the Jews and Arabs..." Thus, since the Palestinian Arabs are as Semitic as are the Children of Israel, this charge is pure bull! It has been said that I should examine the injustice found in my own backyard - that is the unjust treatment of Native Americans - fair enough! As I did not propose that Israel relinquish all of its land to Palestinians, I do not argue that, to

serve the ends of justice, that North and South Americans should relinquish all of theirs to the American Indian. I will however argue fervently for a fair and just settlement in all claims and contentions of Native Americans; but then so too must I argue for a fair and just settlement for the Palestinians. You see, justice neither knows nor gives a damn about the ethnic group or location of a people being mistreated. The whole world is my backyard!

If I be "anti-Semitic" then so is His Holiness John Paul II, who also made a plea for justice, and who risked his life during the Second World War to save Jews from Nazi Sons of Bitches who would otherwise have seen them dead. John Paul called for (as I said last week) a just settlement of the Palestinian question. Is he then "anti-Semitic"? If I be "anti-Semitic" because of a desire to see the bloodshed end in the Middle East, then so are many other whose every wish, hope, prayer, and thought is also of peace. The answer to the question of me and their being "anti-Semitic" is an unbending, resounding, eternal NO! If for the want of peace in the Middle East, if for the want of an end of Jews and Arabs

(Semites all) killing each other, I am called "anti-Semitic" then the absurdity of this charge is made plain. For what is more anti-Semitic, more importantly anti-human, than a disregard for the continuation of a conflict which results in the murder of so very many "Semites"?!

It has also been alleged that my articles are far too rhetorical themselves. This I must admit is at times the truth. However, in all of my articles I have sought, in some small way, to speak out about one or another injustice that I have found in the very sick and unjust world around me. If some bleeding heart liberals' sensibilities or dogmatic assumptions are challenged, or in some way offended, by the statements I have made - I do not apologize!! My platitudes are at times high-handed, but at least my statements come from my mind as well as my heart, and are not just creations of emotional illusions or delusions as are the expressions of some others.

The time for "chosen" people is ended! We all, black, white, red, yellow, brown, Catholic, Protestant, Jew, Moslem, Buddhist, Atheist, Humanist and all of the other variations of categorized human beings must, in recognition of our overriding unity in our

human nature (which is found in no greater or lesser proportion in one group or the next), embrace each other's causes, heal each other's pains, comfort each other's sorrows and then share in our communal joys. In the deaths of Israeli school children by terrorist bombs, and in the deaths of Arab school children in Israeli bombing raids, some of each of us dies. No more holocausts will occur if and when we stop thinking of that of the 1930's and 40's as having been against the Jews exclusively (which it was not) and instead think of every one that occurs as being against humanity entirely! Nothing more needs to be known, save human beings are suffering! If I am to be charged with speaking in platitudes, rhetoric, and jargon, then so be it. My motto shall henceforth become: Platitudes for Peace, Rhetoric for Righteousness, and Jargon for Justice! And I shall attempt to use them all to the best of my humble ability!!

After Note: Sunday, as this was being written, Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan, the greatest hero in modern Israeli history, military leader in 1967 and 1973, resigned his position in support of Palestinian Rights! "The truth goes marching on!!"

