

PEACE IN THE LAND OF PEACE

ON THE UNIVERSITY RIGHT

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by Joseph M.J. Sanlei

"That we may have peace in the land of the Prince of Peace". So ended the statement by the representative to the United Nations in New York, Rep. Terzi, of the Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO), on the occasion of the final day of the presidency of Amb. Andrew Young, in the U.N. Security Council. Amb. Young, of the United States of America, had already tendered resignation of his position to the President of the United States and it has been accepted. Amb. Young resigned under pressure from the White House and U.S. State Department following disclosure of his having committed a diplomatic blunder in meeting privately with Rep. Terzi of the PLO at the Mission of Kuwait a few weeks before. It is the official policy of

the U.S.A. not to deal with PLO representatives and anyone in the employ of the American government who disregards this directive will, rightfully, be summarily dismissed from his or her position. Thus the dismissal (resignation) of Andy Young is not a matter of contention. As a Republican, I would have gleefully bid farewell to Andy the day after his appointment to the U.N. (and look forward to, with even greater anticipation, saying goodbye to his former boss). Amb. Young repeatedly had been, throughout his brief, but insignificant career, an embarrassment to the United States. However, in one respect, he had been just one facet in the overall embarrassing presidency of the Georgian peanut farmer, under whom he had served. It must, therefore, be the policy of silence in relation to the PLO itself that must here be questioned, for that policy will likely remain

when Jimmy is back in business making "Skippy".

One of the reasons usually given for the refusal of the U.S.A. to deal with the PLO is a terrorist group which indiscriminately kills school children. Forgotten is the Irgun of the 1940's, a Jewish terrorist group, among whose ranks was one Monachim Begin. Now Prime Minister Begin had, at that time, a highly placed name on British Most-Wanted lists, most notably for his involvement in the bombing of Jerusalem's King David Hotel. Today it is Mr. Begin's voice that, louder than all others, shrieks out warnings against having any dealings with terrorist thugs. The honorable Prime Minister of Israel himself then, if his maxim were to be adhered to, would become persona-non-grata. However, and perhaps rightly so, P.M. Begin is received in most Western capitals, including Washington and Ottawa, with the highest honor due his office.

Another commonly alleged reason for ignoring the PLO is that the PLO has sold its soul to the Soviet Communists (now there is a band of thugs and terrorists!) It is quite true that the Reds want the Middle East and desire it about as much as Eve did the apple. The Free World (United States, Canada and Company) would be in sorry shape should the Marxist-Leninist bandits get their grubby "little" hands on the oil fields of the Middle East. This, then, may have just enough validity as an argument to persuade some Americans that we should have nothing to do with the PLO. However this argument is far too simplistic, for in reality the PLO is still far from being a puppet for Soviet expansionism. Puppets of Moscow remain, for the most part, on the lunatic fringes of the Organization, but (and this is a most important "but") will increasingly gain credibility and strength as the PLO is further ignored by the United States.

The final argument is a most complex one. It is argued that the survival and security of the State of Israel would be in grave jeopardy should the PLO be "allowed" its main reason for existence, i.e. the establishment of a homeland for the homeless Palestinian

people, who for the most part, harbor no great love for Israel. Israel, unquestionably, does have a right to a secure survival. (Israel has been a long and loyal friend of the United States, and I for one would oppose having them become the "Taiwan" of the Middle East.) However Israel does not have the right to deny the same unalienable rights of a homeland to a people whom geography has made co-inhabitants (for thousands of years) of the same land wherein the Jewish state resides. Neither Yahweh (Jehovah) the God of Israel nor Allah the same God of Islam, can be justly appealed to in order that land may be stolen from others. The Holy Land is no less holy to the brothers and sisters of Mohammed than it is for the children of Moses.

Israel has no right, as there is right, to wage "holy war" against its neighbours. Israel does not have the right to treat the air space of the sovereign nation of Lebanon as its own, and still less right to bomb Lebanese cities, causing the loss of countless civilian lives. I see no difference between Israeli bombing raids and Palestinian terrorist attacks; in both cases 4-year-olds die, and in both cases the blood of the innocent is spilled onto the "Holy Land". Israel does not have the right to sell, lease, loan, home-stead or otherwise settle the lands occupied in 1967 which rightfully belong to others. The claim of "Judea and Samaria" is no longer valid in the 20th century as now the land is but the occupied West Bank.

Voices for justice for Palestine are rising from a chorus of world leaders. Some of them are opportunists, but most of them are sincere. Pope John Paul II added his powerful voice to the others, when, in the U.N. General Assembly, he too called for a just and equitable settlement of the Palestinian question. Some of the solutions to the problem can be found among the writings of his predecessor, Paul VI, who called for, among other things, an international-

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