

Focus On Israel

By Kenny Gross

Ever since writing this column, I have tried to stress the negative role played by Jewish "liberals" in regard to the American attitude to Israel. I have thought of them as "Luftmenschen" who have never risked their

necks for their advice — chairborne generals. I have constantly been annoyed by the likes of Anthony Lewis, whose articles appear so regularly in the New York Times. And now comes corroborative

evidence from a most unexpected source, a Polish Christian. This letter is worth many times anything written by a Jewish witness. I will say no more. Thank you "Jerusalem Post."

'A Worse Enemy Than the PLO'

The following letter, written by PROF. ZDZISLAW RURARZ, former Polish Ambassador to Japan, who defected in December 1981 and is living in the U.S., was sent to the New York Times with a request for its publication. The request was refused. The letter was forwarded to The Jerusalem Post by Dr. Michael Chechinski, to whom it is addressed. Dr. Chechinski, for four years a member of the Centre for Soviet and East European Studies at Harvard University, is now a consultant with the Rand Corporation and the author of Poland: Communism, Nationalism, Anti-Semitism.

Dear Michael:

Once more I thank you for your personally inscribed book and your letter. I'm old now, but when I was reading your reminiscences, I had difficulty controlling myself. Those terrible times, when the Jews met the cruellest fate, which has no equivalent in history, appeared in front of my eyes.

My wife and I were just discussing Jewish and Israeli matters, prompted by a short evening commentary by John Chancellor of NBC television in Beirut, and last night's article by Milton Viorst in the Washington Post "Outlook" ("It isn't the Israel it used to be").

Neither I nor my wife are Jewish, but we both remember Jews in Poland from before, during, and after the war. Even though both of us are mainly preoccupied with Polish problems, we are both sincerely concerned with the rapidly changing attitude of American public opinion towards Israel.

We are especially puzzled by the attitude of Jewish "liberals" towards Israel, which is not only childish but simply irresponsible. It is not that some expression of solidarity with Israel is expected from them; they seem not to want to know the hard realities and prefer to live in a world of delusion.

They would like Israel to exist as a highly civilized cultural-scientific community, liberal-secular-religious, where all disputes with the outside world are conducted by some kind of "super-diplomacy" (preferably, of course, with their help), and where they can spend their vacation from time to time, and

send various donations from the U.S.

They do not understand that if a country is created and exists under difficult and dangerous circumstances, often the only way to survive is by military means. Especially when the enemy is armed and manipulated by Moscow, and conducts itself through disgusting lies and deceit below any human standards. They do not realize that the enemy understands only the language of brutal force and that Israel simply wouldn't exist if it acted according to the prescriptions of soft-hearted "liberal" Americans.

LISTEN, my friend, they are a worse enemy of Israel than the PLO itself. Instead of concentrating now on the fate of the country whose existence is weighed on the streets of Beirut, they spit at it! They didn't care when you were starving in the ghetto, when in the days of Holocaust the Nazis killed your brother on a frozen field. They didn't even want to listen to the reports coming out of Poland about what was happening to the Jews.

But this is now history, dark, cruel, and singularly bloody. I would rather focus on the present and the future. Dear Michael, I'm concerned about your people. I belong to those Poles who not only do not harbour any negative feelings towards the Jews, but admire them.

The Jews lived in the Diaspora for almost 2,000 years, and the fact that they decided to rebuild the country from which Hadrian drove them is not only admirable, but all the nations should contribute to the realization of this goal. These were the Jews who gave mankind its most valuable moral code, the Ten Commandments; the New Testament also sprang from Judaism, and regardless of long-standing conflicts, nobody can separate Judaism from Christianity, which together created one of the greatest human civilizations. Nobody gave so many noble minds as the Jews did.

Now the fate of Israel worries me. It is too small to be able to survive alone in a hostile Arab sea, without help from the outside. This help comes only from the U.S. The previous record of friends of the Jews is not encouraging. There were the Germans and Austrians once,

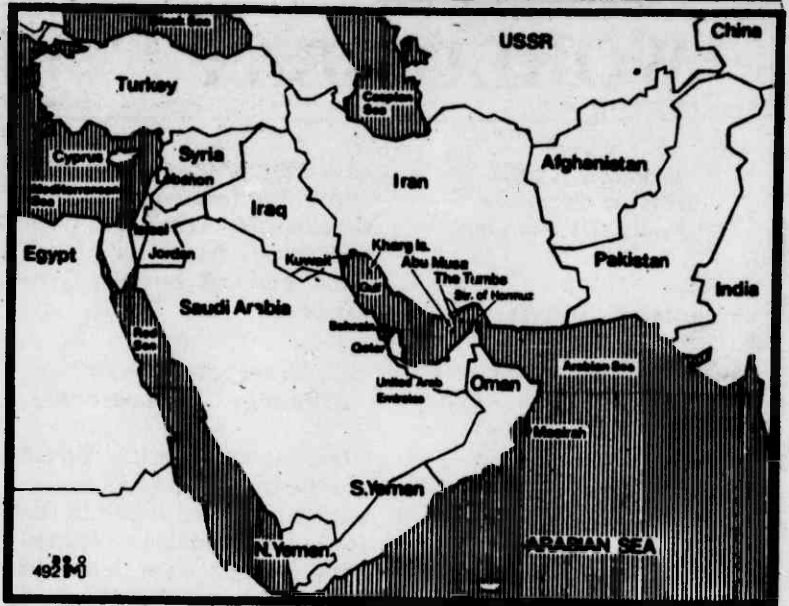
and everything ended in a Holocaust. Then there was a hope in Communism, which today openly embraces anti-Semitism (so amply proven in your book.)

I fear that an anti-Israel trend is growing in the U.S., which can turn easily into an anti-Semitic one. Maybe you think that I'm exaggerating, but I'm watching these developments as a bystander and am not, of course, as emotionally involved as you. However, I do so very carefully, and I see a lot of similarity between the Polish and the Jewish cases.

WHAT WORRIES me most is that Jewish liberals are unwittingly burying Israel. I'll tell you openly, my friend, they are ordinary cowards! Yes, cowards! They don't know how to fight themselves and will not let their Israeli brothers do so. They do not understand that small countries having hostile neighbours must live fighting or die.

They do not understand that they are simply hostile people who will not let one exist. We Poles and you Jews, however, have enemies stronger than us. We continue to exist because we suffer, because perhaps we are stronger in spirit and body than others. We possess the feeling of pride, and we do not deal with the stronger one at any price. Weak people advise rotten compromises and "higher diplomacies" and other tricks that insult human pride.

The Jews, regardless of what they did in the ghettos, were doomed. The Poles, regardless of the terms proposed by the



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Soviets, will be treated hostilely by its neighbours and the corrupt politicians. And what is sad is that the people with principles are no longer respected, and political rogues, dressed in the feathers of pacifism and misunderstood humanism, rule. They only see the bombing of West Beirut, but what they don't see is the Soviet arms and equipment, the PLO travelling to Moscow for inspiration, and its violation of signed agreements. These things they already learned from the Kremlin.

I can understand how non-Jewish Americans, petroleum companies and banks that base their prosperity on petrodollars, express a loss of sympathy for Israel, but damn it, who is forcing the professors and journalists to say silly things like "Israel is no longer yesterday's Israel, it is an imperialistic one?"

Do they know what they are yapping about? Do they realize that pretty soon the Jews will be charged with "setting the world afire?" Is it a crime to fight against an organized power which wants to destroy you and is killing your people?

In the USSR, Jews were the first ones to demand human rights. Only they have the courage. Who gave these liberals living far from any

danger the rights to swagger over them? What does a Jewish liberal know compared to you and your people who crossed through hell?

What can he teach you? Life, knowledge? Israel has problems with the liberals, Poland with Soviet agents, who dishonour our nation.

As has happened many times in the past, the tragic history of our nations are running parallel with the same fate... The single thing is to stay proud, as nations and human beings. And we will prevail.

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THE CHARLOTTE JEWISH NEWS

Published monthly by:

Jewish Community Center
Harold Cohen, Director

Charlotte Jewish Federation

Foundation of Charlotte Jewish Community
Marvin Bienstock, Director

Charlotte Hebrew Academy
Eleanor Weinglass, Director

Editors..... Ann Langman & Rita Mond
Staff..... Monroe Katz & Lissa Millman

Copy deadline the 5th of each month
P.O. Box 220188, Charlotte, N.C. 28222

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