

UNITED NATIONS

Last month, Dr. Hugo Scotland, the distinguished black and widely read UN correspondent from London, urged that I attend a press briefing at the United Nations Correspondents Association Club (UNCA). He said I would be in for a surprise and I was!

Although press conferences held in the UNCA Club are posted on the bulletin board, they do portend selectivity in that the sponsoring journalist urges his special colleagues to attend whom he feels will be sympathetic to the cause at hand. I am gradually beginning to see and note how institutions like the United Nations and causes for the good of mankind can be slowly torn asunder.

Black, African and Third World writers therefore must be constantly on their guard to help preserve those principles which are good for their constituencies and the world. Mainstream newspeople are often so subjective to racism and special interests that they require constant vigilance and analysis of what they advocate.

So at the UNCA Club a group having the fancy title of "Committee For UN Integrity" held court. Their name alone intrigued me — for if there was ever an organization which has idealism and a strong moral base it's the United Nations. The little nations have brought down their wrath from time to time on the powerful — the Soviet Union, the United Kingdom, the Peoples Republic of China and the United States — they have cited the UN Charter in the process.

Morris Abram, a former representative of the U.S. to the UN Human Rights Commission and Professor Raymond Tanter of the University of Michigan spoke for the committee. Their lofty purpose, so they claim: "... A systematic policy of withholding American contributions when the United States serves partisan rather than humanitarian causes would help the United States regain its prestige and reverse the 'erosion' of the UN as a force for world peace, and... to end... the exploitation of the UN for political purposes hostile to American interests."

These gentlemen must have taken this position right out of the Russian program of mischievousness in frustrating the implementation of UN resolutions by withholding their donations. So it is alarming when Americans imitate this vile strategy to control or plunder.

Amazingly, Professor Tanter is black and why he should be a part of such a ploy is difficult to decipher. For blacks in this land and throughout the era of colonialism have been victims of such practices for generations.

Mr. Tanter proposed cutting U.S. allocations to the UN and its specialized agencies when they "permit themselves to be used for purposes beyond their mandate in order to advance political objectives contrary to American interests, such as funding the terrorist PLO and falsely identifying Zionism with racism," he stated.

"Our country can no longer permit the United Nations — including its specialized agencies — to bankroll organizations dedicated to sabotaging the very basis of the UN Charter. . . .", Mr. Tanter continued.

His thrust was obviously support for Israel against the UN.

First of all Professor Tanter must be aware that most blacks and certainly this writer support fully the State of Israel, the guarantee of its borders and its rightful role in global deliberations and support of peace. On the other hand, Israel must accept the concern of four-fifths of the UN membership to respect the "inalienable Rights of The Palestinian People," Jerusalem, Lebanon and cease settlements on Arab territory. Further, Israeli retaliatory raids against so-called PLO sanctuaries in Lebanon have killed and terrorized innocent citizens far in excess of the PLO extremists.

It would be foolish to claim the PLO as just do-gooders. They do have elements bent on extremism. But as a whole they are a government in exile, consider themselves at war with Israel over the issue of a homeland. They are recognized by the UN as the official representative of all Palestinians. It might interest both Mr. Kanter and Attorney Abram that the special UN Committee on the Inalienable Rights of The Palestinian People is ably headed by a distinguished black African scholar and diplomat, Ambassador Falliou Kane of Senegal. Mr. Kane has persistently been objective and pushes the Committee toward helping secure statehood for the Palestinians. He feels tensions in the Middle East will ease when this is accomplished.

Both leaders of this "Committee For UN Integrity" praised an amendment to the "1981 Appropriations Bill for the State, Justice and Commerce Departments, proposed by Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan (D-NY), which prohibits U.S. contributions to UNESCO projects that support the PLO. The amendment provides that the U.S. contributions shall be reduced by 25% of the cost of projects that distribute aid to the PLO or are administered by or in consultation with it," they point out.

"This sum is approximately equal to the U.S. share of support for the world organization. In comparison, . . . the total contribution of the nine oil-producing Arab states is less than 1 1/2%," those spokesmen claim.

But Messrs. Abram and Kanter should know that Senator Moynihan is no hero with blacks anywhere — because of his advocacy of "benign neglect" of black Americans. It was this Senator, while Chief U.S. Representative to the United Nations who alienated most Third World and African nations because he felt they were too small, and too unproductive to be of any use to America. African diplomats remember him well for this spurious theory of "benign neglect" of them also.

Mr. Abram, in addition to aping the Russians on selective UN contributions, goes into more depth in agreement with the Senator's thesis about small nations.

He observed that of the approximately 150 member-states in the UN, ninety were so-called "non-aligned" countries, totalling no more than ten per cent of the world's population but comprising a clear majority in the UN General Assembly. He commented: "If the United States seriously means to halt the decline of the UN as a force for peace, we must oppose this tyranny of the majority."

"We must demand that the UN stop spending more than half of its time on the Palestinian issue, using it as a club to attack Israel with while ignoring the Iran-Iraq war and giving short shrift to the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan."

"We must oppose the inclusion of items on the UN agenda that are 'ultra vires' — that is, issues which are beyond the scope and power of the UN or its particular division to deal with."

"... A convention on controlling international air traffic does not need to have representation by the Maldiv Islands, which has no national air carrier," Mr. Abram said.

In my critical judgement, when Attorney Abram speaks about the population of the small nations, he doesn't say that two-thirds of the peoples on this globe live in the Third World. Among these are China, India, Indonesia, Nigeria, etc. These countries are interested in peace, technology and a new economic order. They also want the Palestinian issue resolved. By their vote from time to time they deplore the lack of cooperation of Israel with them at the UN. Israel is also a small nation with power beyond its size.

"The Committee on UN Integrity" claims 100 scholars worldwide who have signed their statement — including thirty Nobel laureates. When one closely examines this list, it is majority Jewish. It seems to be self-serving — giving notice to the world that when a body such as the UN asks Israel to cooperate with it in settling the Middle East problem, Israeli leaders seldom initiate

A Vile Ploy To Limit U.S. Contributions To The UN

By Curtis T. Perkins

any fresh ideas and refuse all UN resolutions for the region. Now the Committee on UN Integrity told President-Elect Ronald Reagan to limit or cut off United States appropriations to the UN.

This Committee concludes: "In its preoccupation with Palestinian rights, the United Nations neglects the plight of millions of men, women and children in other parts of the world who are in immediate danger of death from famine, disease and war."

For a year now, as a UN correspondent, writing for black American newspapers, working on a book and as an economist, I view this last statement as also blatantly self-serving. The specialized agencies of the UN are working desperately on famine and disease. This Committee, headed by Professor Kanter and Attorney Abram, by their methods would even interrupt the minimal achievements of these agencies by interrupting U.S. funds so badly needed by the UN. Speaking about war, the UN spends millions yearly with its peace keeping forces in the Middle East where their soldiers have been killed both by the Israelis and forces of the PLO. Israel is known to challenge these UN forces on many occasions.

RECOGNIZING THE TRUTH

There is racism in Israel, as there is in most of the world. It is true that social and political scientists and economists have studied and observed this situation in Israel. They find it startling that the European Zionists now settled in Israel, known as the Ashkenazim, treat the Jews from Northern Africa and from Arab lands, known as the Sephardim, with almost total disdain and as inferiors on every level. Not even the discriminatory practices of white Americans against us blacks could be worse.

A band of American blacks, calling themselves Israelites, who immigrated to Liberia and then to Israel, have been isolated in the town of Desdemona. They refuse to return to the United States. None have yet received Israeli citizenship. These black Israelites are denied jobs, schools and adequate housing. Despite petitions by prominent black leaders from the U.S. to the highest Israeli authorities, their plight remains bleak.

There is a hue and cry from Jewish Americans who have very special organizations — "Free Soviet Jewry." Yet, in talking to some of these people who have since come to America from Israel, they charge bad treatment by the government and citizens of Israel.

There are only two or three Sephardic Jews from Northern Africa in the Jewish Knesset. They do the menial work. The Palestinians (PLO) know of this, so they bring these truths to the UN.

So, in equating "Zionism to Racism" in a narrow sense in the agencies of the UN, perhaps Israel would not be so accused if it cleaned up its racism.

SHARING U.S. DOLLARS MUST BE EQUITABLE

It is a fact, over 250,000 Israelis have settled in New York recently. They come and go as they please. They do not suffer the harassment by U.S. Immigration authorities as do the Haitians, Jamaicans and others from the Caribbean seeking economic sanctuary in our country. Many American blacks claim these outside Jews, including those from Russia and Israel, take their jobs. Recently black labor leaders at the New York Transit Authority claimed over 400 such persons were given jobs in preference to their being upgraded.

It is true many Israelis come to the U.S. to escape military service and the high cost of living.

Israel today gets 43% of the American foreign aid budget. Billions go there yearly in military aid, philanthropy and from the sale of Israeli bonds. Yet the inflation rate there is over 200%.

Famine, pestilence, the need for telecommunication for black Africa is not attended to in such generosity by America.

A CONCLUSION

The U.S. needs friends not only in the Middle East but throughout the world. Even some of the littlest of nations have a raw material essential to our industrial machine.

The United Nations is our last hope. To have any committee trying to restrict U.S. funding to the UN does not help America.

When our black leaders like the Rev. Jesse Jackson, former UN Ambassador Andrew Young and others are accused of being and called anti-Jewish and anti-Israeli by Professor Howard Adelson of the Jewish Press, it is time some of us blacks put things in perspective. These black leaders are only trying to help the Jewish cause by trying to establish and maintain the good will of other peoples as well as Israelis.

It is my most conscientious conclusion that many American Jews have a tantalizing guilt complex. They never intend to live in Israel or to make the sacrifices therewith.

They would rather sit in America and meddle with Israel and with American foreign policy. This is a great disservice. It may save their consciences but it hurts our relations with other nations. I believe Mr. Abram fits this mold as spokesman of this Committee for UN Integrity.

Many Jews in America have a standard retort that Israel is our greatest ally in the Middle East and elsewhere. This is true. Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Jordan, now Algeria,

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