

United Nations Downgrading the United Nations — The American Game Of Roulette In Foreign Policy

PART I

By Curtis T. Perkins



Former U.S. Ambassadors to the United Nations, Andrew Young (r) and Donald McHenry at a press conference during the tenure of Young were friends of African and Third World diplomats. UN Photo

Let's preface this whole mess that is perpetrated concurrently here at the United Nations with these inordinate convictions I hold:

—That my country, the United States, is one of the greatest in the world — that it has the capacity to do the right thing. At the moment by misguided forces and personalities it is doing irreparable harm to all that the United Nations stands for. Our Mission at the UN is an ugly little bunch giving us a black eye all over.

—That there should be a State of Israel with set borders, due recognition by other states in the region and certain guarantees of survival by my country, the USA. At this juncture Israel led by a terrorist oriented, propagandist cabal of leaders are hell bent on military confrontationism and total disrespect for international law and the tenets of the United Nations.

—That the Arab States in the Middle East with their great resources of oil, culture and potential are not the enemies of my country, the USA. An even-handed policy should be accorded them by us and more compassion and understanding needs to be generated in the American media instead of vilification and stereotyping. We need to recognize the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) and work to help establish a homeland for their people.

—That Russia must sincerely and unselfishly work through the UN mechanism and with the United States to cut down the tensions in the Middle East. Further the Soviet Union must along with the United States cut down on this supply of arms to those it hostages as surrogates.

—That American Jews, and especially those who are plaintive Zionists, have the right to support Israel as do we black Americans have the mandate and necessity to be concerned about the brothers and sisters in black Africa and our brothers in Arab lands. However, when certain Zionists in the United States who have guilt complexes for not living in Israel with its three-digit inflation, high costs for goods and services and compulsory military service — they cannot compensate for their inadequacies hereto by crying wolf in behalf of Israel in extremis we now witness about the UN. I am talking about leaders of organizations, religious groups, politicians, reporters, editors and columnists. Added to this are members of Congress who, for Zionist financial support, busy themselves with resolutions supplied to them boldly by the many pronged Israeli Lobby. This paranoia and these emotions make for an unnecessary and almost silly vote against the UN and world peace. The United States and Israel comprise the negative duo in this regard; however, I am solidly against any move to eject Israel from the UN.

—That honest and deliberate dialogue provided by this great democratic world parliament, the United Nations, is the only hope for survival among nations. In conflicts between members of this universe, it is the UN with its many frailties that is policing the trouble spots, providing the conscience for feeding the hungry, linking the lands with telecommunications, aiding refugees, the sharing of science and technology, upgrading the status of women, dealing with the resources of the seas, trying to cut down on armaments and nuclear proliferation, fighting illiteracy, fostering programs for the aged and indigent, seeking fair conditions for labor, providing guidance for youth, funding through its independent agencies the avoidance of nations going bankrupt, resolving border conflicts and disputes, correctly telling the true stories of underdeveloped countries to the West, tackling racism and human rights, conservation of natural resources, finding alternate sources of energy, revising legal codes within nations and resolution of international legal arguments, cultural and educational exchange and the quest for a new economic order with implicit cooperation of the Third World and the industrialized countries. There are scores of other interests and programs involving the UN which bear treatment at another time.

It is therefore, most important that during this era of inflation, that these involvements and objectives of the UN be supported by its members within the formulas based on their gross national product. Selected funding must be avoided. There should be affordable increases and by all means, surveillance on waste and prudent spending by the UN and its affiliates — at all times.

SYRIA'S VICTORY ON GOLAN PROVOKES UN FOES

When Israel annexed the Golan Heights as an integral area within its borders December 14, 1981, Syria's urbane, scholarly and forceful Ambassador, Dia-Allah El-Fattel petitioned the UN Security Council to take up the matter. Backed by the United States in the Council, Israel's actions were declared "null and void" by all fifteen members of the Council. The United States also suspended the recently concluded Strategic Pact with Israel. The accord was meant to deter Russian activity in the Middle East and had been signed by U.S. Defense Secretary Caspar W. Weinberger and Israel's Defense Minister Ariel Sharon. Many Arab diplomats at the UN applauded the U.S. for its Council vote and the suspension of the agreement with Israel but predicted it wouldn't last long. They were right.

Syria's Mr. El-Fattel, embittered by Israel's illegal move along with many of his fellow Arabs and other nations who sympathized with him sought sanctions through a tough resolution which was submitted to the Security Council in early January. Syria's erudite and respected Foreign Minister Abdel Halim Khaddam journeyed to New York to lead the attack, along with his Chief UN delegate for several days.

The outcome was predictable. Nine members approved the resolution. Six abstained and the United States used its veto on January 20, 1982. Ambassador El-Fattel, noting the majority in Syria's

favor, claimed the outcome a political and moral victory. Scores of other countries agreed with him suggesting at some point Israel must be punished in a meaningful way if the credibility of the UN was to be maintained.

I carefully and regularly sat in the UN Press Gallery — when my schedule permitted me from other obligations — mostly early evenings during the Council debates.

At these Security Council meetings I was appalled at the behavior of our U.S. delegation. As I surmised earlier for the first time in history, we were fielding a second rate team: Mrs. Jeanne J. Kirkpatrick, our Chief Delegate, seldom remained for the speeches which almost to a delegate, took Israel to task for many nose-thumbings at the UN Israel is perceived doing as she pleases with U.S. backing. When Ambassador Kirkpatrick did speak



Ambassador Jeanne Kirkpatrick

she gave shallow reasons for not supporting anything against Israel. To her, sanctions were inconceivable and so were military and economic restrictions. She even predicted outside of the chambers that Syria would never receive nine votes. She even thought she had Zaire in her corner. Jordan's Ambassador, Dr. Hazem Nuseibeh, came up with a softened resolution which she also refused to support but which gained the vote of Zaire.

I was aghast as I carefully scrutinized the U.S. representatives when Seifeddin Ahmed Salaiman, Deputy Representative and Minister of Oman, spoke during the Council discussions. Mr. Sulaiman, a tall dark handsome young man with a pleasant demeanor, delivered his well-prepared speech in hard hitting and good English. It was worth listening to since Oman is a good friend of



Ambassador Yehuda Blum

(Continued on Page 12)

You've got what it takes.

Salem Spirit

Share the spirit.
Share the refreshment.
Light, fresh Salem Lights.

Warning: The Surgeon General Has Determined That Cigarette Smoking Is Dangerous to Your Health.

LIGHTS: 9 mg. "tar", 0.7 mg. nicotine, LIGHTS 100's: 10 mg. "tar", 0.8 mg. nicotine, av. per cigarette by FTC method.