



By Curtis T. Perkins

United Nations Black Americans Must Take Advantage of The Diplomatic Reception

Part II

• **Hugh L. Shearer, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade, Jamaica.**

MIDDLE EAST: "Recent events in the Middle East, culminating in the abominable massacre in the Palestinian refugee camps in Beirut, have shattered some long-held illusions. But the military prowess of the Israelis has not destroyed the basic fact. That basic fact is that no lasting peace and stability is possible unless the fundamental right of the Palestinian people to statehood is satisfied. Jamaica holds firmly to that view. Equally, we believe that all States in the area are entitled to exist within their internationally recognized boundaries."

We note that important initiatives have been taken by the Arab Heads of State or Government at Fez, and by United States President Reagan, to try to give a new impetus for a settlement of the Middle East problems. It is clear that there are many obstacles ahead, but it is noteworthy that there is now at least a common factor, and that common factor is a recognition that the Palestinian people have rights which have to be satisfied."

SOUTH AFRICA: "Another subject of urgent concern is that of Namibia. The movement toward independence for Namibia continues to be slow, notwithstanding the hints from the contact group that progress has been made. South Africa continues to block effective action. Security Council Resolution 435 (1978) must be fully implemented. Jamaica does not share the view that the independence of Namibia should be linked to the withdrawal of Cuban troops from Angola. The two are separate issues and must be dealt with separately. We condemn South Africa's continued military aggression and campaigns of destabilization against Angola and the other front-line States. In South Africa itself, the policy of apartheid continues to be more deeply entrenched every day. All the internal institutional changes point in the direction of a further entrenchment of this abhorrent system."

LAW OF THE SEA: "In the midst of all these problems, we cannot ignore that singularly important achievement of the United Nations, the adoption of the third United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea in April 1982. Jamaica is among the developing and developed countries that welcome this event. The Convention has codified and progressively developed international law in several important areas, but I cite the following as its most significant achievements. First, the proclamation that the area beyond national jurisdiction is the common heritage of mankind is a significant landmark in the history of international relations. We believe that the regime which is established for the exploration and exploitation of the natural resources of the deep sea bed is just and equitable, and will operate to the mutual advantage of developed and developing countries. Secondly, the Convention has solved the age-old question of the breadth of the territorial sea by the establishment of an economic zone of 200 miles, including a territorial sea of 12 miles."

INTERIM FUNDING: "Jamaica commends for the consideration of this Assembly the essential features of our Prime Minister's presentation on this subject at the recently concluded joint Bank and Fund meeting in Toronto. There Jamaica emphasized the urgency of introducing emergency measures which would be immediately implemented to assist those member countries which are on the brink of collapse and reinvigorate international trade and investment."

"Jamaica considers that the Fund's eighth review of quotas provides a good opportunity to create credit as a means of trade expansion. Accordingly we support the early conclusion of the review of quotas in 1983 as called for by both the Group of 24 and the Interim Committee. We fully support also the need for selective allocations and a substantial increase of quotas — an increase which, in our view, should not be less than 50%."

• **Charles Dube Molapo, Minister for Foreign Affairs, Lesotho, Southern Africa.**

FORCE: "Lesotho, as a member of the Non-Aligned Movement, places a high premium on international respect for the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of States. We are therefore alarmed at the increasing readiness of States to use force to safeguard their proclaimed interests or to assert territorial claims, without any regard for the interests of other States, especially the weak and defenseless ones."

"I cannot comment on the current international political situation without touching on recent events in

Lebanon, especially the human tragedies that have unfolded in that war-torn land. We witnessed earlier the brutal siege of West Beirut by Israeli forces. No sooner had the siege been lifted, than a succession of tragedies began to befall the people of Lebanon and the Palestinian refugees."

KOREA: "Another focal point of tension is the Korean Peninsula. We renew our call for resumption of dialogue, without pre-conditions or external interference, between the two parts of Korea so as to bring about a peaceful reunification of that artificially divided land."

AFRICAN RIGHTS: "In this respect, we applaud once more the African Charter of Human and Peoples' Rights adopted by the 18th Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity (OAU). Significantly, the Charter draws attention to the distinctive nature of African values and morals, and also provides for the respective duties and responsibilities of individuals and groups to their communities. Lesotho is at present engaged in moves to incorporate the provisions of the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights into our municipal law."

APARTHEID: "Even when the writing is on the wall and clear for South Africa to read, the authorities in Pretoria continue to tinker with the problem. The recently proposed constitutional dispensation for coloreds and Indians is a political farce and a hollow gimmick. It is meant to appease public opinion abroad while it sows the seeds of conflict and tribal polarization at home. It is intended to put up a facade of political change, to hoodwink world public opinion and to lessen pressure from abroad, thus creating a breathing space for the apartheid policies, which have apparently run their course and outlived their usefulness to the South African regime. This constitutional arrangement completely ignores and circumvents the rights and legitimate aspirations of the black South Africans that constitute the overwhelming majority of the people of South Africa. It seeks to isolate the coloreds and the Indians from the mainstream of the political struggle inside South Africa by turning them into allies of apartheid without giving them any tangible benefits from such an unwholesome association."

PRASE FOR THE OAU: "Finally, I should like to thank all those Member States of this Organization that have stood by us during our moments of great difficulty and all those that have hastened to assure us of their solidarity in times of great trial. The Organization of African Unity (OAU), in particular, through the Secretary General, Mr. Kodjo, has been a true custodian of the principles and purposes which guided the founding fathers of the OAU. He has tirelessly kept the situation in Lesotho under constant surveillance, an act which has assured us that our plight in southern Africa is a matter of grave concern to the community of free nations. This awareness has given us courage to look forward with determination to a future in which southern Africa will be rid of all racial discrimination and segregation. Lesotho offers its firm pledge to contribute toward the evolution of a southern Africa of peace, prosperity, tranquility and respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of all States in the region."

"We call upon South Africa sincerely to offer a similar undertaking."

• **Boutros Ghali, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, Egypt.**

CALL FOR BROTHERHOOD: "Egypt has been intrinsically an Arab country for the past 14 centuries. The genuinely Arab character of Egypt can be neither made nor unmade by a decision. Egypt is far beyond being affected by one country and regime, or a number of countries and regimes, which may call into question its genuine Arab character. The Arabism of Egypt, metaphorically speaking, is like a tree, with its roots striking deep for 14 centuries, which has been watered by the blood of the martyrs who have fallen in battle in defense of Palestinian rights. It has been strengthened at various times by the unyielding position of Egypt as it has stood firmly for Arab rights from Morocco to the Gulf States, from the turn of this century until today."

"We may have disagreed with some of our brothers, and we may still be in disagreement, over a number of issues, but we call upon Arab countries to stand united in the face of the crucial challenges confronting the entire Arab nation today. Egypt will continue to exert every effort to that end. We are confident that Arab solidarity will surmount those differences and disputes."

I have talked at some length about the situation in the Middle East and the Palestine problem, the

core of that conflict, and in conclusion I should like to tackle two important points. The first relates to the deteriorating conditions in Lebanon. The situation is still fraught with danger; it still threatens to explode, engulfing Lebanon and spreading beyond. We in Egypt reject the claim that the continuing Israeli occupation is a necessity or that it protects anybody. The existence in Lebanon of foreign military occupation resulting from invasion would be the principal cause of any further deterioration. We maintain our unshakable belief that the solution lies in the withdrawal of the Israeli invasion forces from all Lebanese territory to its internationally recognized borders."

All foreign forces must withdraw from Lebanon, but the withdrawal of Israeli occupation forces should neither be conditioned on nor related to any other presence. Israel must realize by now that its view concerning the situation in the Middle East is erroneous, that its understanding of conditions in Lebanon is superficial. It results not from any understanding of reality but from the arrogance of power. The presence of Israel in Lebanon will not lead to stability in that country but will, rather, intensify the waste and destruction there. That may be what Israel wants; it is certainly what Israel is accomplishing. But Israel will not long escape the consequences, unless it hastens to correct the situation."

EGYPT — FRENCH INITIATIVE: "Egypt and France presented a joint initiative in the Security Council last July. Their draft resolution contained two parts, the first providing for guarantees of the sovereignty and political independence of Lebanon and the second dealing with and supporting the national and inalienable rights of the Palestinian people against the armed Israeli invasion."

"The Franco-Egyptian initiative called for the application of the principles of security in order to:

'Reaffirm the right of all States in the region to existence and security in accordance with Security Council Resolution 242 (1967);

'Reaffirm the legitimate national rights of the Palestinian people, including the right to self-determination with all its implications, on the understanding that to this end the Palestinian people shall be represented in the negotiations and, consequently, the Palestine Liberation Organization shall be associated therein;

'Call for the mutual and simultaneous recognition of the parties concerned. (S/15317, C, para. 1)'"

These are excerpts from many nations having made their statements at the United Nations. Currently over four out of five countries know that Israel, Iran, South Africa, Russia, the United Kingdom, the conflicting forces in Cyprus, Kampuchea, Western Sahara, East Timor, the Horn of Africa, create instability, loss of life, hunger and wrongful use of scarce funds. I am often ashamed of the insensitivity of my great country of the United States in respect of other nations. Our officials balk on global negotiations for a new international economic order, signing of the Human Rights agreements, ratifying the Law of the Sea accords. Our lack of diplomatic recognition of Cuba, Vietnam, Angola, among others, bothers me. We often lead to back extreme regimes whose only claim for us is that they are anti-communist such as our meddling, with the help of rightists, in Nicaragua and El Salvador. We walk out of international bodies because they refuse to accept the outlaw shenanigans of Israel. We fail to recognize the PLO and SWAPO, the representatives of the Palestinian and Namibian people respectively."

Black Americans know that this takes money from the solution of our problems or the enjoyment of economic opportunity as Africa, the Caribbean and our Arab friends need our faith and help."

Israeli Intransigence
Here are many of the distorted utterances of Yitzhak Shamir, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Israel, when he spoke to the General Assembly. Two-thirds of the delegations walked out on him:

"The principles upon which the United Nations was founded, as well as its Charter, should have moved the Organization and its Members — as far back as 30 years ago — to take a stand against the denial on the part of the Arab world of the right of a Member State, Israel, to exist in security. When the United Nations ignored this inalienable obligation, it did so at its peril, undermining its own credibility and moral power. Since then, the United Nations has lacked the courage to rise and condemn any act of aggression, threat, violence, blackmail and terror, both direct

and indirect, toward Israel by the Arab States and their accomplices..."

"United Nations documentation is replete with anti-Israel resolutions, which have increased yearly in both number and length, overflowing with distorted suppositions, arbitrary statements and one-sided and destructive recommendations and decisions..."

"Among the thousands of resolutions adopted by the General Assembly and the Security Council or any other United Nations body during the past 30 years, one will find hardly a single decision or resolution that explicitly condemns by name any Arab state or organization for attacks on Israel or Israelis..."

"Those resolutions allowed Arab countries to pursue their belligerence against Israel — military, political, economic and so forth — and the PLO could continue its terror warfare against Israel, Israelis and Jews, without any restriction by the United Nations. The enemies of Israel felt that they could embark on a full-scale military attack whenever they judged the hour to be right, knowing full well that the United Nations would not move a finger to stop them..."

"Double standards and distortion have spread from General Assembly and committee discussions to other United Nations bodies, including the Security Council, and from there to the directives given to the United Nations forces and instrumentalities in the Middle East. A notable case is the misuse of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA). That Agency was charged with the rehabilitation of refugees but became a tool to preserve the refugee camps, in which idle people were subjected to incitement and coercion in the service of terrorist organizations."

The specialized agencies, such as the World Health Organization (WHO), the International Labor Organization (ILO) and so on have also been exploited for the purpose of propaganda warfare against Israel..."

"The entire international community has the responsibility and should have the courage to stand up and formally ban PLO terrorism and expel its representatives from every self-respecting State and every international body. The United Nations and its agencies cannot begin the process of rehabilitation and revitalization as long as such organizations and their representatives are permitted to set foot in a civilized forum..."

"Pressing Israel for more territorial withdrawals will not bring peace. Indeed, there is no peace without security, and further territorial amputations negate security..."

"Often, attacks on Israel or Zionism in international forums serve as a transparent mask for anti-Semitism. The State of Israel, which is the fulfillment of the Jewish national movement, cannot and will not passively accept a resurgence of this evil ideology. We call on all self-respecting people and Governments to join in a renewed solemn undertaking to stamp out anti-Semitism, in all its forms and expression, from human society..."

• **Moumin Bahdon Farah, Minister for Foreign Affairs, Djibouti, Horn of Africa,** in his remarks said this critically about Israel which could be a rebuttal to Shamir:

"In the second half of this century the Zionist neo-Nazis have espoused a similar concept, although more limited in scope. They wish to eliminate the Palestinian people from the land where they have always lived. For the Zionists, Palestine was a land without any people awaiting the arrival of Jewish settlers to colonize it. History has been falsified; the physical characteristics, the demographic composition and the institutional structures of the occupied territories are being altered so as finally to leave no trace of the Palestinian heritage."

"In spite of that and in defiance of the aims of the Zionist plan, the Palestinian reality asserts itself more each day, because the Palestinian people, under the aegis of the PLO, its sole, legitimate representative, has shown its unshakable determination to struggle for the life of its cause."

Strengthened by that determination, Arab Kings, Sovereigns and Heads of State were at one in making it crystal clear to the world that just and lasting peace has always been their objective, an objective that Israel has rejected and continues to reject, wishing to deprive an entire people of its existence and of its identity."

• **Andrei A. Gromyko, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the USSR** had this to say in defense of his country's incursion into Afghanistan before the General Assembly:

"Dangerous scheming is still going on around the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan. The foes

of the Afghan people, including those who flaunt their commitment to democracy, are trying to hinder the building of a new and truly democratic life in that country. While in words a political solution to the problems which have arisen around Afghanistan is being advocated, in deeds the achievement of such a solution is being impeded in every possible way..."

"Opportunities for such a solution do exist. Only one thing is required, and that is to stop the armed intervention from outside against Afghanistan and not interfere in the internal affairs of that sovereign non-aligned State..."

"In the Soviet Union, we view as a step in the right direction the start of negotiations in Geneva between representatives of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan and Pakistan through a personal representative of the United Nations Secretary General..."

• **Sahabzada Yaqub-Khan, Minister for Foreign Affairs, Pakistan,** in his United Nations speech had this puzzling dilemma about Gromyko's reasoning:

"Despite the repeated calls of the United Nations and similar demands by the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries and the Member States of the Islamic Conference, the end of the crisis in Afghanistan is not in sight. It is a matter of regret that the Soviet Union, which had traditionally enjoyed good relations with countries of the area, including Afghanistan, and which takes pride in its solidarity with Third World causes, should engage and persist in and action which has caused immense tragedy to the people of Afghanistan and which has been firmly opposed by the international community."

"The grave political implications of the Afghan crisis are compounded by a vast and growing humanitarian problem in the exodus of the Afghan population on a massive scale from their country. Nearly 3 million Afghan refugees, who represent one-fifth of the total population of Afghanistan, have been forced to seek shelter on our soil and have placed on us an enormous responsibility for their upkeep which we have willingly accepted as our humanitarian and Islamic duty."

• **Yusuf Al-Alawi Abdallah, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, Oman** (obviously referred to the Ethiopia-Somalia conflict in his remarks);

"Our concern with events in the Horn of Africa is closely associated with the security and safety of the coastal States of the Indian Ocean. The Sultanate of Oman, as one of those countries, is concerned for the security of this area and is therefore in favor of declaring it a zone of peace. It calls for an end to the competition between the super-powers to establish spheres of influence in the region. As a member of the *Ad Hoc* Committee on the Indian Ocean, Oman is anxious to promote the efforts to arrange for the convening of the Conference on the Indian Ocean, which is scheduled to be held in Colombo in 1983, so that the goal of making the Indian Ocean region a demilitarized zone of peace may be achieved without further delay."

• **Mr. Branco, Ambassador of Sao Tome and Principe,** expressed the sentiments of many in the Third World in his speech:

"The delegation of the Democratic Republic of Sao Tome and Principe wishes to reaffirm from this rostrum its unwavering support for and its active solidarity with the people of East Timor and express the hope that the statements of the administering power on the subject of the decolonization of East Timor will lead to recourse being had to the machinery provided under the Charter to permit the Maubere people to express its views freely on its own future."

"Our delegation also wishes to express its militant support for the peoples of Western Sahara, Puerto Rico, Cyprus and Korea in their struggle to preserve their national sovereignty, self-determination, independence, national unity and peaceful reunification."

"A vast plot by the imperialist and reactionary forces is threatening the peoples and Governments of Africa, Latin America, Asia and elsewhere. An infernal machine is being unleashed against us in order to destabilize regimes freely chosen by our peoples and all possible means are being used in the creation of puppet movements and armed gangs, the dispatching of mercenaries, the establishment of military bases, the persistent refusal to make the necessary changes in the structure and machinery of international economic relations, the stopping of investment credits, aid blackmail, and so on. These actions have one purpose in common: to safeguard the economic and strategic neo-colonialist and imperialist interests in the region."

"Furthermore, armed border

conflicts are being fanned into flame and fueled among the developing countries to weaken our human and material resources and prevent our using our strength and solidarity in a true program of national reconstruction. In this vast plot, international and regional organizations are not spared. These bodies are threatened with paralysis and may very well, in this contest, cease functioning. It is as if the forces of evil want to prevent the peoples of the Third World from gaining access to credible forums where they can denounce and condemn the plots, the maneuvers and the massacres and diminish the historic role of those bodies, that is, to defend the struggle for emancipation of the peoples of the world against every kind of exploitation and discrimination."

"South Africa, although a member of the United Nations, is barred from the United Nations General Assembly. However, I fervently believe all States should be full participants in the United Nations deliberations. I am against barring little scheming and brutal Israel. The world can best keep an eye on her when she has to answer for ugly actions."

Support of United Nations Leadership Needed

Imre Hollai of Hungary is the 37th President of the United Nations General Assembly. All speakers to date have paid tribute to his ability.

Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar has issued a hard-hitting report calling for the United Nations apparatus and members to reappraise their goals and commitments. He, too, has received praise for his courage and departure from the traditional cosmetic claims of some of his predecessors. Frankly, Perez de Cuellar needs some achievements. He has few to date."

H.E. Rashad Abdullah, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs of the United Arab Emirates, had these kind words about Perez de Cuellar:

"The Secretary General has pointed out in his annual report the difficulties that the United Nations is facing in playing its role effectively and decisively, particularly with regard to the maintenance of international peace and security since it represents an ideal forum in the conduct of negotiations for peaceful settlement of international disputes. In this connection, I fully agree with the unequivocal reference in the report of the Secretary General that '...Our most urgent goal is to reconstruct the charter concept of collective action for peace and security so as to render the United Nations more capable of carrying out its primary function.' It is incumbent upon all governments to commit themselves to this sound approach, without which the logic of force will prevail and consequently states, especially the smaller ones, will be exposed to many dangers that threaten their security, safety, and territorial integrity. This situation is not imaginary, rather it is true in reality and is sharply and tragically represented in the area of the Middle East, specifically in Lebanon..."

Behind the U.N.'s Program Of Self-Determination

Since its inception, the UN has strived for the respect of the right of all peoples to self-determination and independence, taking into consideration their hopes, aspirations and interests. Although most peoples of the world have gained their independence, some territories are still under colonial domination, notably in southern Africa where the government of South Africa persists in its racist policy notwithstanding the international condemnation of it as a crime against humanity. The denial to the people of South Africa of the exercise of their fundamental right to self-determination constitutes a serious threat to international peace and security and a grave challenge to the international community..."

What encourages this racial regime in its intransigence has been the continued economic, military, and political cooperation which it receives from certain members states of the U.N. The U.S. Government considers Security Council Resolution 435 of 1978 as the soundest framework for the resolution of the Question of Namibia. It reaffirms the basic responsibility of the UN to this territory since the termination of the South African mandate in 1966. The Security Council should impose sanctions on South Africa and adopt the necessary measures envisaged in Chapter VII of the Charter. The U.S. delegation affirms its support to the legitimate struggle waged by SWAPO for self-determination and independence for the Namibian people. It strongly condemns the repeated aggressive acts carried out by South Africa against the neighboring states."

On Cooperation For A Better Economy
As a Third World country, the

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