

8/16/72
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Memorandum

To: Members, Platform Committee

From: Joseph M. Di Caprio, M.D.

President,

Americans for United Nations Responsibility in the Middle East, Inc.

"A Private Organization of Concerned Americans"

P.O. Box 15424, Wedgwood Station, Seattle, Wa. 98115

Subjects: The Middle East, the United Nations

The attached documents are submitted for your consideration. They include the following:

1. A Middle East Resolution presented with the purpose of preventing U.S. involvement in a Mideast War.
2. Specific proposals to strengthen the peacekeeping machinery of the United Nations.
3. A personal evaluation of the Middle East conflict which does not necessarily reflect the views of the members of the organization of which I am President.

Americans for United Nations Responsibility in the Middle East, Inc.

P. O. Box 15424, Wedgwood Station

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Seattle, Washington 98115

MIDDLE EAST RESOLUTION

Preface

The basic conflict in the Middle East is between political Zionist Jews, i.e., those Jews who favor a Jewish political state; and Palestinian Arabs, i.e., those Arabs who lived in the area included in the British Mandate of Palestine. The Palestinian Arabs must be included in peace talks if there is to be an enduring peace.

All countries, especially Russia, should be urged to halt all further arms shipments to the Middle East.

Israel and the Arab states should look to the U.N., rather than to the United States and Russia, for protection. Had President Nasser not requested the withdrawal of United Nations forces from Egyptian territory in May of 1967, or had Israel permitted the stationing of U.N. forces on Israeli soil either in 1956 or 1967, the June 1967 war might have been averted.

Egypt first turned to the United States for arms, and economic assistance to build the Aswan dam. The United States denied Egypt's requests and showed favoritism to Israel. Russia agreed to help Egypt; and this has increased her influence in the Middle East. Like other peoples, the Arabs would prefer to be independent; and Arab nationalism can be counted upon to eliminate Russian military presence, once the need for such assistance is over.

Russia voted for the U.N. Partition Plan of 1947 which created Israel, and has always supported the concept of its existence. Tension without war and Arab dependence is in Russia's best interests. An Arab military victory over Israel would eliminate Arab need for Russian military assistance. Russia will never provide the Arabs with the weapons necessary to achieve a military victory.

Rather than working to maintain the "balance of power" which leads to confrontation, the United States should be working for reconciliation. "Peace can not be kept by force, It can only be achieved by understanding." (Albert Einstein)

The adoption of the "Middle East Resolution", or modified versions thereof that retain its essential components, affords the best means of preventing American involvement in a Mideast war.

--July 1971

Americans for United Nations Responsibility in the Middle East, Inc.

P. O. Box 15424, Wedgwood Station



Seattle, Washington 98115

MIDDLE EAST RESOLUTION

Whereas, Washington's warning that "a passionate attachment of one nation for another . . . betrays the former into a participation in the quarrels and wars of the latter without adequate inducement or justification", is still valid today;

Whereas, in a democracy foreign policy should be in the interest of the whole community rather than for the real or apparent benefit of any special group;

Whereas; although neither the Jews nor the Arabs are the original inhabitants of Palestine, the claims of each to the land have some merit;

Be it herefore resolved that the United States support the concept of a settlement based on moral principles as opposed to force, through the United Nations.

Be it further resolved that the United States desist making any pledges regarding the political independence or territorial integrity of Israel or any Arab state.

Be it further resolved that the United States desist supplying arms to Israel, Lebanon, Jordan or any other Arab state.

(Presented in the interests of keeping the United States out of a Mideast war.)

Americans for United Nations Responsibility in the Middle East, Inc.

(A private organization of concerned Americans)

P.O.Box 15424, Wedgwood Station * Seattle, Washington 98115

Proposals for Strengthening the United Nations Peacekeeping Machinery

1. Establishment of a UN Fact-Finding Center which would have the responsibility of impartial, objective and reliable fact-finding in situations which threaten international peace and security. This center could provide information promptly in conflict situations and would also be of value to monitor cease-fire and truce agreements.
2. The UN standby forces (available on 1 week's notice) and the earmarked reserves (available on 2-8 weeks' notice) should be expanded.
3. The authority to dispatch UN forces should reside with the Security Council and/or the General Assembly.
4. Command responsibility for the UN field forces should rest with the Secretary-General . The role of the Military Staff Committee should be an advisory one.
5. UN forces designed to maintain the peace in border-conflict situations should be stationed on both sides of the border. Such forces should not be subject to recall by the states involved. Authority to withdraw such forces rests with the UN organ that dispatched them.
6. Creation of a UN Peacekeeping Fund.
7. Peacekeeping activities should be funded through regular budget assessments i.e. compulsory not voluntary contributions.
8. Improved communications for UN fact-finding personnel and UN armed forces should be regarded as an essential expense of the UN and should be financed through regular budget assessments.
9. All member states should be required to adopt Article 36 of the Statute of the International Court of Justice which defines the jurisdiction of the Court. Such declarations should be made unconditionally and for an indefinite period of time.
10. The Connally Amendment should be rescinded.

The Middle East Conflict*

A Brief History and Comments

Prepared by

Joseph M. Di Caprio, M.D.

President

Americans for United Nations Responsibility in the Middle East, Inc.

"A Private Organization of Concerned Americans"

P.O. Box 15424, Wedgwood Station, Seattle, Wa. 98115

The views expressed are the personal views of the author and have not been reviewed by the members of the organization. (However, the views are compatible with the general philosophy of the members of the organization.)

June 1972

The Arabs on the other hand opposed Jewish immigration in large numbers and sought the creation of a national government elected by the inhabitants.

The matter of Jewish immigration was the paramount issue and it was impossible for Britain to please both factions. Hitler's atrocities against the Jews increased pressures for Jewish immigration. In 1947, Britain decided to refer the problem to the United Nations.

UN Partition Plan (1947)

On November 29, 1947 the General Assembly of the United Nations adopted a partition plan that divided Palestine into a Jewish State, an Arab State and an international zone that included Jerusalem and adjacent areas. This plan was supported by the United States, the U.S.S.R. and the Zionists, but was opposed by the Arabs. At the time of partition, the population was 1/3 Jewish (600,000) and 2/3 Arab (1,200,000). The residents of Palestine were not given the opportunity to vote on the plan.

The Arabs expressed their opposition by resorting to arms and civil war erupted. On May 14, 1948, the Zionists proclaimed the State of Israel. At this point, the armies of the surrounding Arab countries came to the support of the Palestinian Arabs. Israel emerged victorious on the battlefield. Under the terms of the 1949 Armistice Agreements, the cease-fire lines gave Israel an area roughly one-third larger than that granted her under the Partition Plan.

The Arab state never came into existence nor was Jerusalem internationalized. Jordan occupied part of Jerusalem and the West Bank of the Jordan River. Egypt occupied the Gaza Strip.

Arab Refugee Problem

As the result of the fighting, many Arabs fled for safety sake to adjacent Arab countries with the idea of returning when peace was restored. When Armistice Agreements were signed in 1949, there were 700,000 Arab refugees. Over the years, as the result of a natural increase, the members increased. Thus, just prior to the June 1967 War, there were approximately 1,300,000 Arab refugees living in Jordan, the Gaza Strip, Lebanon and Syria. As the result of the June 1967 War an additional 300,000 to 400,000 refugees came into existence and over 1,000,000 Arabs reside in Israeli-occupied territory. A victorious Israel has not allowed these Arab refugees to return, except for a token number, and this has led to the emergence of the Palestine Resistance Movement with the avowed purpose of creating a single united secular state in Palestine.

Jewish Refugees

The establishment of the State of Israel created problems for Jews residing in Arab countries. Their allegiance to their country of residence was questioned and in some instances they were subjected to harassment and persecution. They feared for their jobs, property and lives and many migrated to Israel for safety. In some instances they were induced to leave at the urging of Zionist recruiters. Regardless of the reasons, it is significant that about 600,000 Jews migrated from Arab countries to Israel. The Israelis often justify their refusal to permit the return of Arab refugees by referring to this "exchange of refugees".

The Role of the U.S.S.R. in the Middle East

Even during the Czarist days, Russia had an interest in Palestine by virtue of the presence of Russian Orthodox shrines in the Holy Land. The U.S.S.R. supported the establishment of the State of Israel and during the 1948 fighting permitted arms from Czechoslovakia to reach the Zionists. When in the mid-fifties the U.S. stalled on Egypt's request for arms and refused to finance the Aswan Dam, the U.S.S.R. moved in to comply with Egypt's requests, thereby gaining a foothold in the Middle East.

War of 1956

A new crisis was precipitated when President Nasser nationalized the Suez Canal in 1956. Great Britain, France and Israel cooperated in a military attack upon Egypt. A settlement was reached whereby the attacking foreign forces were withdrawn and a United Nations Emergency Force was established on the Israeli-Egyptian border and at Sharm el Sheikh on the Strait of Tiran. These forces were only stationed on the Egyptian side of the border since the Israeli government refused to allow them on Israeli soil.

War of 1967

Had President Nasser not requested the withdrawal of these UN forces in 1967 or had Israel permitted these forces within her own borders in either 1956 or 1967, the June War of 1967 might have been averted. In any event, the U.N. did arrange a cease-fire. The present United Nations basis for a settlement of the conflict