

March 14, 2007

15 YEARS AFTER THE REPEAL OF ZIONISM
IS RACISM RESOLUTION

Thursday, February 22, 2007, 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Background information:

On November 10, 1975, the General Assembly adopted resolution 3379 which determined that Zionism is a form of racism and racial discrimination. On December 16, 1991 that resolution was revoked by 111 nations. The panelists in this meeting will discuss how and why this chain of events occurred.

Moderator:

Juan Carlos Brandt, Chair, NGO

Speakers:

H.E. Mr. Dan Gillerman, Permanent Representative of Israel
To the United Nations

Dr. John Hass, Director of Cerritos College Global Consortium

Dr. Harris Schoenberg, Center of U.N. Reform,
author of “The World Conference against Racism”

1. The moderator, Juan Carlos Brandt, welcomed everyone and introduced each of the speakers with their backgrounds.

2. The first speaker was Ambassador Dan Gillerman. He indicated that Resolution 3379 represented a permanent stain on the United Nations. It was a nail in the coffin of the United Nations and Israel relations. It created a schism that is taking a long time to heal.

Where are we today? In the last few years, the United Nations has taken significant steps to ease this memory and to make Israel more acceptable. In the summer of 2004, there was the anti-Semitism seminar at which Kofi Annan made a strong statement.

In 2005 there was a special commemoration of the 60th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz. This was the most emotional, significant and momentous event in that it occurred in the same hall that the ignominious resolution was originally adopted. He commended the Secretary-General for his work on this.

It was agreed upon by consensus that January 27 would forever be Holocaust Remembrance Day. In 2005, Annan and Ambassador Gillerman went to Israel together to inaugurate the new wing on Yad Vashem.

Beyond this symbolism, there have been changes in substance as well as in atmosphere at the United Nations. Israel has been accepted into WEOG. Israel now serves on several committees. Ambassador Gillerman is a Vice President of the General Assembly. He is the first Israeli to hold that title since Abba Eban.

There are United Nations programs on the Shoah throughout the world. Yet Today, 62 years after the Holocaust, there are deniers and threats to wipe out Israel.

3. The next speaker was Dr. John Haas. He has received awards for the global education that he has presented to his students and has also received congressional recognition. He is a history professor and is linked up with colleges all over the world. He has had Simon Weisenthal speak to his students. His classes tie up the world via their video conferences.

These classes work to promote global peace and understanding. They also make a difference by dialoguing. Some of the consultants helping include Dr. Judah Pearl, who has dedicated his life to eradicating the hatred that took his son's life.

4. The last speaker was Dr. Harris Schoenberg. He is an NGO and chairman of the Human Rights Commission. Resolution 3379 was introduced by Idi Amin of Uganda who was a genocidal tyrant himself. The rights of Jews to self-determination had been libeled. Many groups did in fact come out against the resolution. Martin Luther King said that attacking Zionism is racism.

Dr. Schoenberg worked for 16 years to revoke the original Zionism was Racism resolution. The resolution was the supreme act of deceit and debased the United Nations human rights program. It set back peace in the Middle East, and encouraged terrorism. Nothing that the United Nations had done heretofore done did more harm.

5. Questions/Answers:

5.1 Dr. Schoenberg; We still have many items at the United Nations that need to be corrected.

5.2 Dr. John Haas; In Darfur we are having difficulty getting in there to effect any Change.

5. Questions/Answers (Cont'd):

5.3 Dr. Schoenberg; The definitions of Genocide and Incitement to Hatred are both very clear.

5.4 Ambassador Gillerman; The United Nations do not train its forces. Ex President Jimmy Carter's book is very bad, very dangerous and should be condemned. The real war is now within the civilization. It is between moderates and extremists –Shias/Sunnis, Hamas/Fatah, Hezbollah/Lebanon. No one should be fooled that if the Palestinian/Israel conflict is resolved, the other problems will be solved. Most terrorists are Muslims – but so are most victims.

CONFERENCE OF PRESIDENTS' LUNCHEON;
THE 15TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE REPEAL OF THE
UN "ZIONISM = RACISM RESOLUTION

Thursday, February 22, 2007, 12:00 PM

Moderator:
Harold Tanner, President,
Conference of Presidents

Speakers:
Mr. Richard Holbrook, Past Ambassador to the United Nations

Mrs Elizabeth Moynihan, Wife of Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan.
US Permanent Representative to the UN in 1975

Mr. Alexander Wolf, Acting Ambassador to the United Nations
From the United States

H.E. Mr. Dan Gillerman, Permanent Representative of Israel
to the United Nations

1. The Moderator, Harold Tanner, welcomed everyone and introduced each of the speakers with backgrounds. He indicated that the passing of the resolution, that Zionism was Racism, was a dark day. It took 16 years to repeal but we still have major problems.

2. The first speaker was Ambassador Holbrook. He commended Mr. Tanner and Mr. Hoenlein of the Conference of Presidents for all the work they and the Conference of Presidents do.

They helped to break the log jam in the United Nations for Israel. Israel is now a member of the Western Group at the United Nations. The fight on behalf of Israel is a continuing battle.

Eleanor Roosevelt wrote the Declaration of Human Rights at the United Nations. He indicated that we must still fight for every issue and resolution. The United Nations still matters and is important. He again condemned Past President Jimmy Carter on his book.

Lobbying is important and a legitimate effort for us to have a voice on foreign policy. In a democracy it is our role. We have to fight anti-Semitism every where.

3. Malcolm Hoenlein reiterated the problem of the continuing notion of anti-Israel anti-Semitism. In 1991, Israel stood alone in the world. He stated that Mrs. Elizabeth Moynihan's husband, Daniel Patrick Moynihan, was a great friend of Israel and introduced Mrs. Moynihan.

4. Mrs. Moynihan stated that Israel is the only place in the Middle East with a Western influence. She stated that Daniel Patrick Moynihan worked closely with the President of Israel to try to repeal the resolution.

5. The next speaker was acting ambassador Alexander Wolf. He indicated that he had worked on spikes in Anti-Semitism in France. Ambassador Wolf stated that the United Nations Resolution Zionism is Racism is the most obnoxious resolution at the United Nations.

President Herzog of Israel condemned the resolution before the United Nations. The goal of Israel's adversaries was to extinguish Israel. Mr. Wolf indicated that he worked in 2007 to pass the new resolution. The entire membership at the United Nations adopted the new resolution.

He indicated that it is unfortunate that we have to spend so much time to condemn the original resolution and pass the new one. These are real challenges to ours and Israel's right to security.

Mr. Tanner indicated that the repeal of “Zionism was Racism” was the highlight Of Ambassador John Bolton’s tenure.

6. At this point, a guest, the Costa Rican ambassador thanked everyone for being invited to celebrate this occasion. His father was sent to the United Nations to support condemning the original resolution. He stated that his father was a great friend of Israel. The ambassador stated, that Costa Rica will always remain a good friend of Israel.

7. At this point the movie “Olin of Hymn Herzog” on the original resolution was shown.

8. Michael Herzog, Israeli Minister of Defense, now spoke on the phone from Israel. He indicated that this event was important. He spoke on the resolution and his late father’s battles with Patrick Moynihan against the original resolution. Mr. Herzog is still serving as an officer in the Israeli Defense forces. His whole family is in the Israeli Defense Force.

9. The next speaker was Ambassador Dan Gillerman. He thanked the Conference of Presidents and Melcolm Hoenlein for their efforts to repeal the original Resolution. He indicated that he feels very moved to be here today. He considers it a privilege to have served with Patrick Moynihan. He praised him. Mr. Gillerman stated that we must face the future on what has happened. We must create a budget program at the United Nations to teach the lessons of the Holocaust.

It was a shameful moment at the United Nations when the original resolution was passed. Today, we, Israel, hold are our heads high. Israel is a country that is making the world better with its accomplishments in agriculture. Israel will prevail. Ambassador Gillerman feels very proud to be here today with the elimination of the resolution condemning Israel.

10. At this point, Shelly Cardin, former president of the Conference of Presidents at the time of the repeal of the resolution stood up. She quoted what she wrote in the year 1992. Jewish people recall past and joys of the past. Malcolm Hoenlein and her were attending a Chanukah Party at the White House. They spoke with then President Clinton on repeal of the original resolution. They also spoke with the Vice President that the resolution must be repealed now.

Secretary Baker was called by then Vice President to move forward on the repeal. Secretary Baker sent letters to all Embassies of all countries in the United Nations asking them to move forward on the repeal. The vote was 111 yes. As a result of the efforts of all NGOs they got the representatives and others to vote yes.

He indicated that President Bush, Dan Quale and Secretary Baker were among the leaders who were for the repeal. The architect for all this was Assistant secretary John Bolton. Also Ambassador Pickering played an important role.

Shelly Cardin indicated that no one was more involved than Daniel Patrick Moynihan. He organized 53 senators in the effort. She concluded by saying that Israel and all humanity will benefit. Zionism is a force for good.

PDC George Weinstein
National UN Chairman