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186

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70

Folder
952

10th anniversary of the United Nations partition, 1957.

**Dr. Silver on Partition
Tenth Anniversary.**

**A Notable Moral
Achievement.**

Israel's Brilliant Record.

— By DR. S. MARGOSHES —

(Excerpts from Address of Dr. Abba Hillel Silver at Metropolitan Z.O.A. Dinner Celebrating Tenth Anniversary of U. N. Partition Resolution.)

The United Nation's decision on Palestine on November 29, 1947, came in the second year of the existence of that organization. It remains, to this day, its most notable moral achievement. For the Jewish people it was a turning point in its history, the realization of a bi-millennial hope and the culmination of generations of struggle and sacrifice. Forever honored in the annals of our great ancient people will remain the names of those friendly governments and statesmen who came to our aid. Nothing can dim the glory of that great hour of decision and nothing can minimize its immense significance and its continuing impact upon history.

Unfortunately, the United Nations was subsequently restrained for implementing its decision and from seeing it through. It remained for the poorly equipped but determined fighting forces of Palestine Jewry to uphold and carry into effect the decision of the United Nations in the face of the combined resistance of the Arab Governments who resorted to war to defeat it, and in the face also of British obstructionism and American indecision, reversals and a crippling arms embargo.

Had the United Nations not failed in this, its first major test which involved its authority and prestige, or, to put it more accurately, had Great Britain and the United States not inhibited the United Nations from acting resolutely in carrying out its decision which had been overwhelmingly adopted after prolonged study and debate, the entire subsequent history of the Middle East, and of the United Nations itself, and its role in other critical international situations would have been far different indeed.

But British foreign policy in the Middle East had long before then been caught helpless in the quagmire of Arab appeasement and American foreign policy was just then beginning its decent into the self-same bog and for the self-same reasons. Both convergent policies in their uncertain gropings and ambivalence, conspired to paralyze the world organization. It should be remembered that this took place long before the sharp differences over the Middle East which developed between the East and the West rendered the United Nations helpless. In those years the Soviet Union stood solidly behind the

NEWS AND VIEWS

Continued from page 1)

United Nations' partition decision and called for its full implementation.

When its authority was flouted by the Arab governments, the United Nations was permitted to act in a manner sufficiently swift and forceful to convince these governments that the United Nations' decision was final and that they must accommodate themselves to it, in fulfillment of their clear obligations as members of the United Nations. The Arab governments threatened and then resorted to war and the powerful governments of the West side-tracked their responsibilities. The United Nations was forced to capitulate. A precedent was established for analogous action in the future as well as a reputation for weakness and ineffectiveness which has tragically bedevilled all its subsequent urgent interventions not only in the Middle East but elsewhere in the world.

It may well be argued that the entire series of events in the Middle East in recent years culminating in the Soviet Union's fateful penetrations into that area can be traced back directly to these early blunders and failures in resolute purpose and in effective action. There might have been no need at all for a Baghdad Pact, a Sinai-Suez Campaign or an Eisenhower Doctrine. It was the chain-reaction to appeasement which finally put the Kremlin into Cairo and

Damascus—and the end is not yet.

Some day the United Nations will be granted the sovereignty to which it is entitled in might as well as in counsel. It will be permitted to speak and act in such a way that all nations will hearken. It will then become what its founders envisaged it to be—and what mankind prayerfully hopes that it will become—the true and dependable instrument for international peace. The United Nations paved the way for the establishment of the State of Israel. If the great power blocs of the East and the West will now permit it to act independently of their own competing interests in the Middle East, it may yet be able to bring peace to that greatly disturbed area of the world.

While many major problems of ten years ago still remain unsolved some of the most urgent have been solved. The State of Israel has been established. Close on to a million Jewish refugees fleeing from Hitler's devastated Europe and from persecutions in Arab countries, have found a home there. There are no more concentration camps of helpless Jewish refugees defiling the face of the earth. A welcoming Jewish homeland, whose doors are wide open, now stands as a beacon of hope and reassurance. The remarkable agricultural and industrial progress of the country in a brief decade have amazed the world. While many things still remain incomplete and imperfect, every impartial observer bears witness to the fact that Israel has made good in nearly every area of a civilized national existence. The people of Israel, coming from all parts of the earth, have demonstrated not only skill in pioneering but remarkable valor in the defense of their country as well as an admirable hardihood and capacity for sacrifices.

In every truth, those who had a hand in the adoption of the United Nations' Resolution in November, 1947, ought to experience a deep sense of gratification.