



Langdon in Punch

"How far into our fiscal year do we carry our spontaneous outburst of anti-Western feeling?"

Another Opinion

Barry Goldwater's Advice to Israel

The following defense by Barry Goldwater of Israel's claims to conquered Arab territories is reprinted here with permission of the Los Angeles Times Syndicate.

Israel should not give up one inch of the territory she was forced to take from the Arab nations.

I say forced to take because it seems crystal clear that the Arabs were the aggressors, that backed by the Soviet Union they forced war on Israel and that every action Israel took in turn was an act of self-defense.

Israel should keep the territory to protect her borders and her people against future aggressions from the Arab nations.

The Syrian gun positions along the Israeli border are an example. They have been used for years to harass Israeli farms in the area. Now they are silent and should remain so.

Military Graveyard

The Sinai Peninsula is another example. It has been a staging area for Egyptian plans of conquest. Now it is the graveyard of Egypt's Russian-supplied military machine. If it can serve in the future as a real buffer between the irrational hatreds and ambitions of such men as Gamal Abdel Nasser, it should so serve. If that means Israel keeping it, so be it.

Positions such as Sharm el Sheikh and Ras Nurani, guarding the entry to the Gulf of Aqaba, also should be denied to those who would use them as future doors to slam shut against Israeli shipping, as Egypt did this time in the act that first sent the region hurtling toward war.

The matter of Jerusalem is more emotional than strategic, and no outside comments are likely to be heeded in regard to it.

In making my other suggestions about keeping the territory taken in self-defense, it should be obvious that the main purpose is peace.

It is tragically obvious by now that mere words cannot keep peace in the Middle East, that the United Nations is totally dead in such a role

and that only an assured and protected position for Israel can dampen the flames in the Middle East.

This would not serve Israel alone. It would serve those Arabs who, if not led in feudal societies by men whose attitude toward Israel can only be called fanatical, probably could live in peace forever with their Israeli neighbors. Israel has no such fanatical hatred for Arabs and could be depended upon to remain at peace if left alone.

It is amusing to hear the Soviet Union joining in the chorus of those who want to both condemn Israel for

starting the war and to make her give up the territory taken in the fighting.

The Soviet Union, if there were any justice and not mere legalisms in the United Nations, would be soundly condemned as the power whose arms and influence started the war.

Words vs. Deeds

The Soviet Union should be hooted down for talking about someone keeping territory taken in self-defense, when she still holds captive millions of the peoples of Eastern Europe and elsewhere.

I am deeply mindful that keeping the territories she took in self-defense would impose upon Israel the most profound obligations of charity and fairness to the Arabs living in those areas. I am convinced that the Israelis can be as just in peace as they have been terrible in war.