

No Peace Through Manipulation

by Hilmar von Campe

The Camp David negotiations were an exercise in futility from the very beginning. Organized by President Clinton, they were tailored to his desire to win himself some sort of trophy agreement before he leaves office. They were not designed to solve the explosive situation in the Middle East and meet the needs of its people. Clinton's unholy pushing for results will continue to divide Israel; it has already broken up the Israeli cabinet, and it may result in another war, perhaps even in World War III. The expectations of both sides cannot be met.

For a long time Britain and France manipulated the Middle East -- creating countries, arranging borders, and installing governments -- according to their narrow self-interest, which boiled down to securing Arab oil. Israel became an obstacle. The United States is now following the pattern set by Britain and France.

On March 24, 1998, Marxist Kofi Annan, UN secretary-general, prodded Israel's then-prime minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, to hand over a total of 13.5 percent of West Bank land to the Palestinians under the rubric of "land for peace." I was present at Annan's news conference in Jerusalem. The slogan he trumpeted that day has become the magical new formula for peace.

In 1938, Neville Chamberlain, prime minister of Great Britain, and Edouard Daladier, prime minister of France, relied on the same formula -- "land for peace" - - when they signed their agreement with Hitler and Mussolini that the Czech (formerly Austrian) provinces containing 3.5 million Sudeten Germans would be ceded to Germany. The agreement included a guarantee against unprovoked aggression for the remainder of Czechoslovakia. In March 1939 Hitler occupied the country whose security he had guaranteed, and a few months later, World War II began. "Peace partner" Hitler unmasked himself as the enemy he had always been.

The Western leaders had made a deal with a corrupt and unreliable partner whose agenda went far beyond the worthless paper he signed. Hitler reaped whatever gains were available that day and, having obtained them, proceeded directly to the

next item on his agenda. Yasir Arafat's agenda was and is the destruction of Israel. He is as corrupt as Hitler was; he is only striving to obtain today whatever gains are obtainable today.

Arafat resembles Hitler not only in diplomacy but in domestic policy also. He has established a police state where it is dangerous to express an opinion different from his. His police have tortured and killed countless people. There are 40,000 policemen in 17 different police organizations. According to the German newspaper Die Welt, there is one policeman for every 50 people in the Gaza Strip. As early as 1995, Amnesty International stated that "arbitrary politically motivated arrests are the order of the day."

And as for corruption, Tom Gross reported in the London Sunday Telegraph that Arafat has deposited \$35 billion into accounts in Zurich, Geneva, and New York. Computer records discovered through a break-in at the PLO headquarters in Tunis also showed that the PLO owned stock -- including shares in Mercedes Benz -- traded at the major stock exchanges in the world, as well as property in prestigious districts of European capitals. But when Arafat visited Berlin early this year, he didn't ask for credits; he asked for grants! Neither he nor the oil-rich Arabs are supposed to finance any "peace" deal -- American and European taxpayers are.

The question of Arafat's legitimacy -- and that of his operation -- can be disposed of quickly. The PLO was thrown out of Jordan and Lebanon for subverting those countries, and never in history has a Palestinian state existed.

Now hearken to Arafat, speaking in Gaza in May 1995: "I say it again, Israel is the principal enemy of the Palestinian people and will be so in the future." The Norwegian paper Dagen reported that in a closed session on February 16, 1996, Arafat explained to the Arab ambassadors in Stockholm how the PLO would bring down Israel: dividing the nation psychologically and bringing in hundreds of thousands of Palestinian refugees. Within five years, he said, 5 million to 6 million Palestinians would live in the West Bank and would make life impossible for the Jews. His purpose, he declared, was the destruction of Israel and making Jerusalem the Palestinian capital.

Peace in the region is not a Jewish/Palestinian but a Jewish/Arab issue. For the Islamic fanatics, their own legitimacy and the superiority of Islam are at stake. Israel wants peace; they don't. Clinton is a fool to play with fire he doesn't understand. Islam claims the Al Aksa mosque, which has sat for 1,300 years on top

of the Jewish Temple Mount. It is on that historic site that King Solomon erected the first Jewish temple 3,000 years ago. Western civilization has its roots there. Jewish and Islamic claims are incompatible.

No fundamental political issue will be resolved in the Middle East unless the heart of the matter is addressed: character, healing of hatred, a change of heart in the people, real reconciliation, and human relations based on truth and trust. That is no task for self-serving manipulators. There will be no peace outside compliance with God's commandments.

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