



WHO SHALL JUDGE ISRAEL?

by Colin Welch

Every day poor Israel seems to forfeit a little bit more of the sympathy of the guilt-ridden West. The process surely began with the spectacular success of her wars.

Jews had long been pitied as underdogs. Their traditional role was to suffer, their traditional reward the innutritious tears of their sympathizers. It seemed like a reversal of nature when the underdog suddenly and repeatedly leapt up and fought back, scattering other dogs, even more under, in all directions.

Hearts which had bled for Jews started to bleed for Palestinians as the victims of Israel's aggression and injustice. A new anti-Semitism, or perhaps the old one in a new and more respectable guise, became socially and intellectually acceptable—though of course Palestinians are Semites too.

Admittedly Israel now had some new friends, of that sort which admired dash, self-reliance, resolution and military prowess. But such people are not typical of those now in power in the West, who are on the whole more likely to be embarrassed by the shameless display of such qualities.

Mr. Begin's bloody past has not won him friends, nor does his tactless intransigence influence people. His apparently sordid chafings and grabbings have about them a remaining whiff a garlic and the ghetto, especially by contrast with the apparently Parsifal-like openness of Mr. Sadat. Israel's arrogant and intrusive behavior in her new territories reminds some of South Africa. Like South Africa she has not even any oil. Former friends draw away as if someone weren't using Amplex, though it is rats which I think I smell.

In our zeal to redress injustices once inflicted on Jews, we in the West may once have overlooked the

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A NOTE TO OUR READERS

As in years past, the Continuing Crisis appears only once in the three summer months. Next month it will return.

Incidentally, along with editing *The American Spectator*, R. Emmett Tyrrell, Jr., now writes a nationally syndicated column for King Features. If you are a newspaper editor or publisher and want further information on Tyrrell's column write or call: Dick Fales, National Sales Director, King Features, 235 E. 45th St., New York, N.Y. 10017. (212) 682-5600.

legitimate interests of Palestinians. Our blind eye is now turned in the opposite direction. In our zeal to redress Palestinian injustices we may overlook the legitimate interests of Jews. Nor is there anything to be proud of anyway in redressing injustices at other people's expense.

The Arab-Israel matter is often looked at and discussed as though it were a simple matter of restoring stolen property. Israel has stolen this or that from the Palestinians; it is thus her clear duty or even in her interest to give it (or the like) back.

If there is a flaw in this very simple view, an analogy may help to

reveal it. Suppose I have stolen a gun from my neighbor. The judge's duty is superficially clear: to punish me and to restore the gun to its owner.

But suppose that the judge is credibly informed that my neighbor has never shown any obvious intention of using the gun for legitimate sporting purposes, but has on the contrary repeatedly threatened and tried to blow me to smithereens with it. Well, then, surely the judge should take a different course?

Another analogy incidentally may reveal not so much another flaw in the simple theft-restitution view as a further complication. Suppose that my neighbor has for years

neglected his vast estate, ruining the soil and impoverishing himself and others. Suppose then that by a mixture of fair means and foul I encroach on his estate, restoring and making fruitful all the land which I control and making others prosperous as well as myself. He sues me for its return. The judge may in strict law be forced to return some or all of it to him; but he need not do it with any great enthusiasm.

One of the main purposes of the laws governing property, after all, is to ensure that precious and scarce assets are in private hands preserved, cherished, developed, enhanced, and put to the best use. Wherever property laws actually work against this basic purpose, wherever they favor waste, squandering and ruin, they really cannot be defended with tremendous vigor, if at all.

To return to the first analogy, we in the West have every right to ask the Israelis to give back whatever may be given back without danger to their security or even survival, *but nothing more*. And since what is necessary to Israel's survival and what is not are matters legitimately debatable, we should without rancor expect Israelis to be much more careful about what they give back than we would like them to be.

They know full well that, while the Arabs may with relative impunity lose war after war, the Israelis can afford to lose only one which, lost, would be for them curtains. In such circumstances it may be unwise of Mr. Begin to be provocative, as he is. It is certainly not unwise for him to be cautious or even grasping in his stewardship of whatever Israel has got.

If we were in the Israelis' position, should we not surely behave more or less as they do, a little bit better or a little bit worse, or go under? If so, by what right do we become so censorious? □



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EDITORIAL



WAR GAMES

by R. Emmett Tyrrell, Jr.

As I write, thousands of visitors to the Olympic Games in Moscow—journalists, athletes, and ardent sports fans—are hunkering about, dodging two hundred thousand Soviet security agents. Over this joyous sports festival the American flag does not fly, a deficiency for which Jimmy Carter is in very hot water with Lord Killanin, preeminent potentate of the Comité International Olympique (IOC). Briefly put, his Lordship finds our great President ill-informed on "sporting matters."

In a fuller explication of his complaint this illustrious international sportsman lamented that, when the Carter administration decided to boycott, "They did not understand how sport is organized in the world. They did not understand how national Olympic committees work. They did not understand the workings of the International Olympic Committee. They did not understand the workings of the international federations and national federations." It is an awesome array of charges.

How could our President be so ignorant of the ritual and science of Lord Killanin's IOC? Mr. Carter himself was once district governor of the Lions International (1968-1969), and he hails from an area abundant with Elks, Moose, Rotarians, and societies of less favored repute. What did he think the IOC was anyway?

During the Games' opening ceremonies, as dutiful members of the KGB were smashing cameras and kicking groins, I repaired to my archives, there to steep myself in the lore of the IOC. There was much to learn, and I certainly wish Ham and Jody had called me before upsetting Lord Killanin. I would have referred them to several learned tomes essential for understanding Lord Killanin's

arcane world, namely: *The Approved History of the Olympic Games* by William Henry and Patricia Henry Yeomans, *Olympic Cavalcade* by F.A.M. Webster, and *Positive Thinkers* by Donald Meyer.

The IOC is no dilettantes' clique. Oh no! It is an idea, a dream, a movement, a gathering of men wearing blazers who come from all over the world to further certain numinous principles, and, admittedly, to have a few drinks. The founder of the

modern games, Baron Pierre de Coubertin (1863-1937), was a scholar and educator who believed that much of the Greeks' Golden Age was owing to their emphasis on sport and sports festivals. As he entered the twentieth century the Baron hoped that by reviving the Olympics the twentieth century would be more peaceful and civilized than the century he was then exiting. I leave it to Lord Killanin and to the exalted of the IOC to judge the Olympic movement's success in this area.

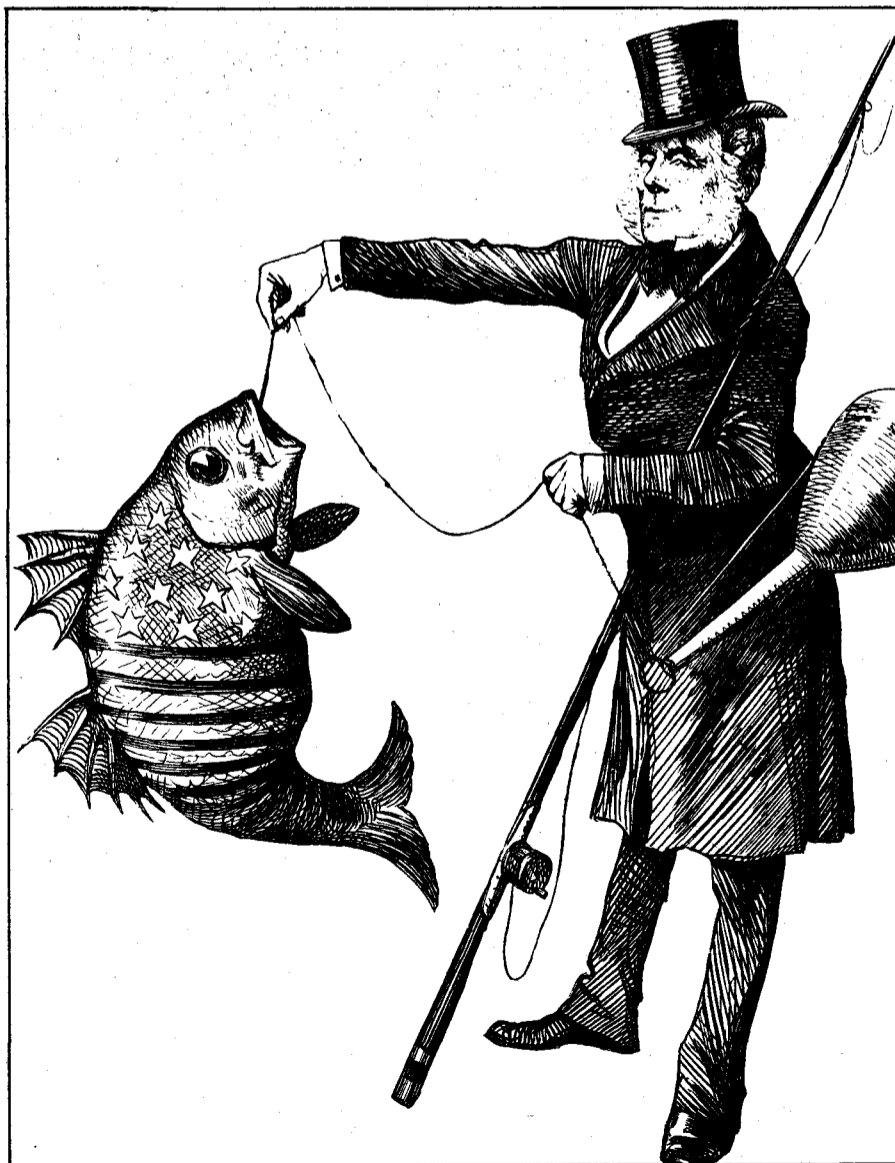
Since the first games in 1896, the

IOC has grown heavy with honors and responsibilities. Its headquarters are in Lausanne, Switzerland, and its members are elected for life after the most vigorous scrutiny. Once elevated to the Comité their first loyalty must be to it, not to nationality, an arrangement somewhat similar to that of the Sacred College of Cardinals.

In the course of carrying out its high purposes, the IOC awards cups and diplomas to local Olympic federations, and it holds the Olympic games. The games are circumscribed by the most grandiose ceremony. No meeting of Shriners or Knights of Pythias can match them.

There is the greeting of the host country's chief of state by the IOC President. There is the entry parade, the official uniforms, the trumpet fanfare, the raising of the Olympic flag, the release of the Olympic pigeons, the artillery salute, the arrival of the sacred flame (a *sine qua non!*), the benediction, and the singing of the glorious Olympic hymn—all are punctiliously prescribed in the sacred manual by the boys back in Lausanne. During this swell pageant every IOC member sways and beams.

The games have been held every four years except during World War I and World War II. Why the hell the IOC would allow a world war to interrupt their schedule is incomprehensible. Surely in 1940 and 1944 the late Adolph would have gladly hosted them. His 1936 facilities were still intact. Yet if the IOC did not want to distract der Führer, why not ask Mussolini? We all know how much he liked parades, hymns, and artillery salutes. For that matter, Papa Brezhnev adores parades. My guess is that he would gladly host the Olympics every year, especially if the ceremonial opening march could include



Adapted from RET's Monday Column in the Washington Post.