

### *Two Nations?*

In 1969, after race riots that shook America, the National Commission on Civil Disorders, or the Kerner Commission, issued a report. The most ominous conclusion of the report stated that if racial divisiveness persists "our nation will be moving toward two societies, one black, one white—separate and unequal." In the decade-and-a-half since the report was issued, nothing seems to have boosted that gloomy premonition more than the Rev. Jesse Jackson's Damascus episode. Throughout the Vietnam War period, our nation was divided along ideological lines to the extent that the American ultra-liberal and radical left initiated its own foreign policy, through which it openly challenged the official moral and political vision of the war. The end result was the first unmitigated disaster in American history: the predicted domino effect went into full swing; some societies teetered on the verge of genocide, while others went over the brink and experienced the cruellest exterminating subjugation of our time. Our diminished global potential and our consequent woes on the international scene fell upon us so oppressively that the tragic eventuality of a nuclear war became more real than it had been before our defeat in Southeast Asia. What's most important, however, was the destructive feeling, bolstered by history's teachings, that once one part of a society (that which disagrees with its democratically elected government) starts conniving with an enemy and that activity becomes acceptable as a result of moral relativity or laxness of laws (that are supposed to protect our freedom), our national sovereignty is jeopardized to an intolerable degree.

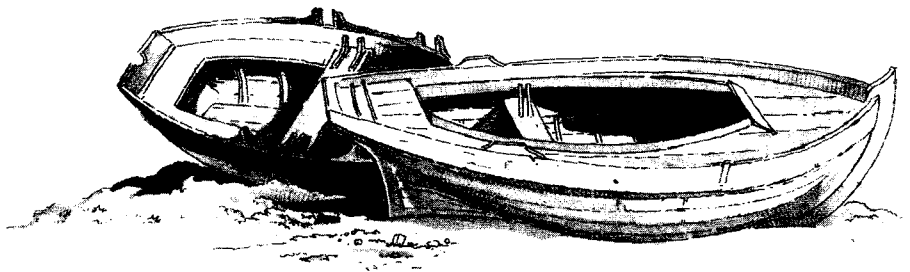
Rev. Jackson did not connive with an enemy, because Syria is not an enemy at war with us. What we witnessed was a surfeit of either deliberate stupidity or not-too-discreetly concealed smartness, both of which bode ill. Let's recall the now familiar stages of Rev. Jackson's excursion. Our liberal, all-distorting

media saw in it "a drama": one still remembers the manic gleam in Mr. Rather's eyes when he elaborated on the "suspense" linked to incertitude whether or not the Syrians would let Lt. Goodman go. But there was no drama involved: totalitarian countries do not admit in visitors for negotiations, only for enacting a priori-contrived scenarios. Syria is, of course, ferociously totalitarian. Therefore, before they issued a visa to Rev. Jackson, the decision had been made: support was going to be given to a strongly adversarial Democratic presidential candidate, a veritable demagogue, a politician with a powerful (if incoherent) leftward push and a record of subservience to Arab causes and interests, and, after all that, a black to boot. There are many throughout the world who dearly wish to throw some sand into the Republican administration's forthcoming campaign; the embarrassing problem of a military captive who's not exactly a prisoner of war, and with whom no one knows exactly what to do, suddenly has become an opportunity to do so. President Assad quickly made up his mind, consulted with the Soviets (one always consults a worldwide enterprise to which one owes some \$X-billion for delivery of arms), who reinforced the idea that it makes a lot of sense to stir up the racial antipathies in America.

By now we know that the Syrian government even shouldered the lion's share of Candidate Jackson's expenses, which the good Reverend promised to reimburse, but we won't wait with bated breath for the drafting of the check. All we know is that when Jackson embraced President Assad, whose avuncular smile cannot overcome the intensity of his

beady, cruel, mercilessly watchful eyes, Mr. Rather went into another transport of dimwittedness and quoted Assad as saying that he was the only one for Lt. Goodman's release, that he went up against the opinion of all his ministers. In Mr. Rather's media-engineered intellect, this was obvious proof of the Arab leader's independence of mind and courageous pluralism. At that moment, Mr. Rather conveniently forgets that this is the same Arab leader whose political police arbitrarily breaks into his citizens' homes and rapes the women on a whim—not because the citizens are antigovernment (those people were killed off long ago), but because they happen to be appealing women. This is the type of "statesman" that Assad is. When he and the Rev. Jackson smooched in the public eye, Mr. Rather seemed transported with bliss.

All of the media's inane jubilations, analyses, and political projections aside, there are questions that remain to be answered: why did Reverend/Candidate Jackson become a tool, and who wielded it? Our enemies on this planet—and Syria is one of the most implacable of our foes, if only because of our chumminess with you-know-who—want nothing more than our being turned into two nations with two separate foreign policies, a paralyzed entity in which Uncle Jesse fixes things for Uncle Sam's soldiers. Many blacks could conclude that Jackson's maverick approach is the right one, and our enemies will know how to use this new concept, the dangerous alteration of a lawful democratic polity. There are already celebrations under way throughout the country that cast the whole event into



a symbol of black separatedness, make out of it an autonomous black issue. Asked whether Rev. Jackson would have gone on his "mission" were Lt. Goodman white, a spokesman for Rev. Jackson delivered something which seemed to be his boss's official stand on *this* dilemma: no, he said, for if he had been white, the pressure to free the hostage coming from both the U.S. government and the public would be so strong that it would not require his intervention. And plenty of blacks in this country will buy this bald-faced lie, which is both politically lame and primitive, and overlook the fact that the Reagan Administration made strenuous efforts on behalf of Lt. Goodman precisely to show, in the electoral year, that it *cares* about blacks and can cull some dividends for its warm and tender concerns.

Therefore, we must respectfully but firmly disagree with our President who closed the Jackson interlude in the otherwise dull season of political intrigue with an adage: "You do not quarrel with success." We think that one does quarrel with even a glittering accomplishment if one feels that its long-range consequences can be dismal, perhaps nefarious. And with a clean conscience we can assert that the only actor in this "drama" who behaved with admirable composure and dignity was Lt. Goodman who, when meeting Rev. Jackson for the first time, said to the countless journalists who had assembled: "I was informed by the Syrians that someone very important by the name of Jackson was coming to see me, and I wondered who it might be—Reggie Jackson, Michael Jackson?..." We wonder why this line was never quoted in our liberal press? □

#### *Ambition . . . Ambition . . .*

Can be sung to the *Fiddler on the Roof* tune, wistfully—or with an Irish accent. Sen. Moynihan, once upon a time one of the most clear-thinking personalities in politics and academia, our favorite Democratic intellectual (no oxymoron in-

tended), talks of late like an enfeebled McGovern clone. And his debilitation is most acute and obvious when he discusses foreign policy, a topic upon which he formerly became fascination incarnate. What could be the cause of this sudden infirmity? Does he really wish to be the next Vice-President of the United States? Does he think he can make it there? □

#### *Respectability & Fairness*

Professor Carl Sagan is a respectable scientist. At least, that is what the wide range of media outlets, both print and electronic, maintain as they build up his image of an impressive scholar and trustworthy man of thought. He is also a staunch foe of nuclear weapons, a firm, even aggressive, supporter of the nuclear-freeze movement, and a severe critic of the American foreign policy that is based on the concept of a military defense against America's enemies.

In a recent issue of *Parade*, the chief organ of pop liberalism that invades millions of American homes every Sunday, Prof. Sagan published a large feature entitled "The Nuclear Winter" and ennobled by a quotation from Dante's *Inferno*: "Into the eternal darkness, into fire, into ice." This is, according to Dr. Sagan's thesis, where we are heading if we continue preparing to meet the nuclear challenge. His argument is highlighted in *Parade's* pages by sentences like: "Scientists initially underestimated the effects of nuclear explosions. What else have we overlooked?" "Even small nuclear wars can have devastating climatic effects . . . enough to generate an epoch of cold and dark." "It is not yet too late. We can safeguard the planetary civilization and the human family if we so choose."

Dr. Sagan presents his data and reasoning in a way that inspires esteem, and we are not in a position to refute his inferences and assertions. But we know that there are many scientists, scholars, nuclear physicists, and high-technology sages who have more to say on the subject than he does, who are competent enough to contradict him, reject his

speculations, demolish his conclusions, come up with knowledge, data, and empirical evidence that make his suppositions frail, tenuous, unconvincing, or downright false. But we know something else; although those scientists often present *their* argument in public, they will never be published by *Parade*, a paper committed to one sort of journalistic integrity only—the liberal one. *Parade* serves the liberal political agenda and therefore feels free *not* to present both sides of an issue to its readers.

Yet, in a boxed sequel to his article, the "distinguished scientist"—as *Parade* calls Dr. Sagan—reveals himself as either a political illiterate or a political operative of those who do not wish us well. To mobilize *Parade's* readers, he urges them to support proposals which would thwart the efforts designed to defend America as we know it and still cherish it. He writes:

The Soviet Union has several times, including in addresses by its late President Brezhnev, indicated its support for massive cutbacks in the global strategic arsenals. I believe that a major bilateral reduction in nuclear armaments might be carried out safely—particularly if the ingenuity and dedication that went into developing strategic weapons systems in the first place were devoted to finding a way out of the deadly trap we have set for ourselves.

Those are distortions of truth at best, hostile and devious propaganda statements at worst. Since the very beginning of nuclear negotiations between the U.S. and the Soviet Union, the leaders of the latter have loudly supported for public consumption "massive cutbacks" and rabidly opposed any concept of *objective* verification of such actions. On-site inspection of the disarmament process has been many times, and in diverse documents, nonnegotiable rejected by the Russians on dialectical grounds; as imperialists, we are untrustworthy, even if we open to the Soviets all our laboratories,