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Upheaval in Israel

Should Israel Make Further Concessions to the Palestinians?

As of this writing, the situation in Israel has gravely deteriorated. The Palestinians have exploded into murderous rage, into violence, and into bloodshed. Almost 100 people—Israelis and Palestinians—have been killed. Close to 1,000 have been injured. Can this situation be calmed by Israel's making further concessions to the Palestinians?

What are the facts?

A carefully programmed riot. The Arabs seem determined to find a pretext to riot, to engage in bloody confrontation. The pretext that was decided upon by Mr. Arafat to whip his followers into a killing frenzy was the opening of an entrance to an archaeological tunnel that has been a tourist attraction in Jerusalem for eight years. The tunnel and its entrance in no way desecrate any Islamic holy places. The pretext of the "offensive entrance" to the tunnel is utter nonsense.

What makes the world's hypocritical indignation to this alleged desecration particularly disgusting is

that during the 19 years that the Jordanians occupied East Jerusalem prior to the Six-Day War, they drove all Jews out of their part of the city,

destroyed all synagogues and Jewish holy places, and used the headstones of Israeli cemeteries as paving stones and to build military latrines. The world, now so critical of Israel, stood silently by.

The world has come to expect the "Moslem fanatics" to commit unspeakable crimes and acts of terror. Tens of thousands have been and are being killed in Afghanistan; many more are being killed in Sudan; the horrors committed by the Iraqis and the Iranians defy description. The bloody rioting in Israel under the ridiculous pretext of a tunnel entrance was carefully programmed and orchestrated by Arafat and his cohorts, in an attempt to destabilize the peace process and to press for further concessions by Israel.

No peace by making more "concessions". The previous Israeli government imprudently allowed Yasser Arafat to form a fully armed and equipped "police" force that now numbers 45,000 men. That is without question the highest police-to-population ratio anywhere in the world. But these

are not really "police," of course; these are soldiers, trained to attempt the destruction of Israel in the final assault, when the Arabs, in concert with their Iranian allies, will attempt the final destruction of the Jewish state, a destruction that, so far unsuccessfully, they have unremittingly attempted for almost 50 years.

Those who believe that peace with the Arabs can be obtained by making concessions to them and by giving them more land are dreamers. The vaunted peace with Egypt is a sham. Egypt is armed to the teeth with the most advanced conventional and "unconventional" weaponry and is frantically engaged—just as Syria, Libya, Iraq, and Iran—in the production of

atomic weapons, biological weapons, and poison gas. What for? The answer is obvious. It's all for the next assault against Israel that, it is hoped, will finally

drive the hated Jews into the sea and make Israel disappear from the face of the earth.

Israel — America's steadfast ally. For Israel to allow itself to be dismembered, allowing the creation of a Palestinian state, and be made helpless and at the mercy of its sworn enemies, would be suicidal folly. A strong Israel is America's most reliable anchor in the Middle East. All the other dominoes have fallen or are likely to fall very soon. Iran was America's great ally; it is now our most implacable enemy. Saudi Arabia, the kingpin of our Arab policy, is shaky and could be toppled any day by internal unrest. Turkey, considered the staunch "eastern flank of NATO", has just elected an Islamic fundamentalist government. Israel alone is America's steadfast ally in the entire Middle East, an ally that has the means, the determination, and the resources to back up its own interests and those of the United States. To diminish Israel's strategic potential by attempting to truncate it or by arming its enemies would be a major policy blunder.

"We must hope that Mr. Netanyahu will stand firm...that he will not allow the creation of a Palestinian state... nor the division of Jerusalem."

Recent events have shown that any pretext, however flimsy, will suffice to provoke Arab/Muslim fury. Without any provocation, the Palestinian police turned its weapons on Israel, which so generously had granted the Palestinians those very weapons and a wide measure of autonomy. There are many minorities in the world—the Basques in Spain and in France; the Kurds in Iran, Turkey and Syria; the Hungarians in Romania; the Turks in Bulgaria—and so many more, who would be deeply grateful if they were given even half of the autonomy that Israel is granting the Palestinians. But there must be a limit. In the interest of the world, the interest of the United States, and, of course, the existential interest of Israel itself, we must hope that Mr. Netanyahu will stand firm against all pressures: That he will not allow the creation of a Palestinian state in the "West Bank"; that he will not yield the strategic Golan to Syria; and that he will not countenance the division of Jerusalem.

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