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Will friendships between Israel and African nations quash the "automatic majority" against the Jewish state in the UN?

Dear Friend of FLAME:

With the excitement and historic nature of the Abraham Accords, recently signed on the White House lawn, the growing intimacy between <u>African nations and the State of Israel</u> has gone largely unnoticed.

But connections to African neighbors can play a huge role in helping reduce the abuse heaped on Israel in international forums, forging peace in the region and <u>elevating Israel's deserved status</u> as a world leader.

Both Chad and Malawi have stated in recent weeks they are ready to open diplomatic missions in Jerusalem. Formal relations with Sudan look to be <u>only a matter of time</u>, especially after Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu met with chief of Sudan's Sovereignty Council, Abdel Fattah al-Burhan, earlier in the year.

This is significant because Africa was always considered very much a part of the bloc of nations that would <u>automatically vote against Israel</u> in international institutions and were reticent to be seen as growing too close to the Jewish state.

This was largely a result of threats over oil and trade, and the power of the bloc of 57 Islamic nations and the bloc of 22 Arab nations that dominate the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) of developing countries at the United Nations. The coalition gave Islamic nations an "automatic majority" in the NAM, which itself has the majority of member states at the UN and other international institutions.

Nevertheless, it wasn't always like that.

Israel and African nations held good relations during the 1950s and 1960s based on a shared fate—both threw off colonialism to reestablish independence.

Israel and sub-Saharan Africa had similar challenges with increasing desertification and a lack of water resources. The young State of Israel was among the first countries to extend substantial assistance to the newly

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FLAME is the only organization that defends Israel with paid

independent countries and their liberated peoples.

Israel's aid was provided in fields from agriculture, medicine and defense to infrastructure projects, such as the construction of airports, the establishment of shipping companies, and educational and professional training institutions.

This ended in 1973 when the Organization of African Unity (OAU) begrudgingly bowed to Arab pressure during the oil crisis of 1973. For the next few decades, African nations were manipulated to become a <u>major source of antagonism</u> toward Israel in multiple international institutions, like the United Nations, where the Non-Aligned Movement of developing countries could guarantee passage of any anti-Israel resolution.

Since that time, the most notable commodities Arabs have exported to sub-Saharan Africa have been terrorism, Jihad and Islamism. Terrorist groups like Boko Haram, Al Shabaab and other offshoots of Al Qaeda and ISIS have <u>cost thousands of African lives</u>. These groups remain a constant threat to sovereign nations in East, West and Southern Africa.

However, Israeli intelligence, experience and knowledge have played pivotal roles in ensuring greater security for African nations, and have thwarted many potentially deadly attacks.

In addition, the Israeli government, through its international aid and development agency, MASHAV, has been helping African governments and people to find solutions for the challenges of <u>water scarcity and food security</u> through advances in Agritech (agricultural technology), Foodtech (food technology) and Watech (water technology). Israeli experts are at the forefront of providing electricity to rural villages through solar power, desalination to arid countries and ensuring food grown locally has a longer lasting shelf-life.

These blossoming ties have improved diplomatic relations, with African representatives expanding their missions in Israel, attending numerous Israeli tech events and <u>starting to side with Israel</u> in the international arena. In recent years, numerous African nations have voted with Israel or at least abstained on resolutions against the Jewish state that they would previously have supported instantly.

During the annual Israel-hate fest held every year— "International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People"— many African nations <u>changed their votes</u> in favor to an abstention or against, including Cameroon, Nigeria and Rwanda.

As increasing numbers of Africans are beginning to understand—based on shared roots, mutual interests and growth of Evangelical Christianity—the State of Israel is not just an ally, but a beloved nation. In Kenya, presidential candidates fight over each other about who is more pro-Israel, and one visits the Kotel on the eve of elections. In Zimbabwe, one of the presidential candidates is pictured <a href="wearing a Jewish prayer shawl">wearing a Jewish prayer shawl</a> and makes opening of an embassy a core election promise. Many African leaders talk of the fraternal bonds between the Jewish and African peoples.

In recent years, standing against Palestinian diplomatic bullying tactics, African nations have begun to realize that Israel is a committed and reliable ally in the

editorial hasbarah messages placed in media nationwide every month: The dire threats from Iran, Hamas and Hizbollah, the injustice of BDS, Palestinian anti-Semitism and more. If you support a bold voice that tells the truth about Israel in American media, please donate now.

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battle against the effects of <u>climate change and terrorism</u>, and can help these countries progress and develop.

The friendship between Israel and Africa is also starting to remove a major weapon in the Palestinian arsenal—the automatic majority against Israel in international forums and the BDS movement.

During Israel's early years, when it was constantly attacked militarily, economically and diplomatically, it created the Alliance of the Periphery. This strategy called for Israel to develop strong ties with nations beyond the Arab bloc, such as in sub-Saharan Africa. With Israel no longer at war with many of its neighbors and the Arab League Boycott all but ended, the diplomatic war on Israel is all that remains. Now, with its extensive achievements in Africa, this final pillar of Palestinian rejectionist strategy is being dismantled.

I hope you'll help friends, family, colleagues and your elected representatives understand that while the automatic majority remains at the UN for now, it is being <u>steadily eroded</u> as a result of the impotence of Palestinian threats, the rejectionist bloc slowly losing power and successful Israeli diplomatic achievements.

Most importantly, be sure to emphasize that Africa is steadily moving away from the Palestinians and their maximalist positions, and one by one its 54 nations are moving to support and collaborate with Israel.

I hope you'll also take a minute, while you have this material front and center, to visit FLAME's lively <u>Facebook page</u> and review the P.S. immediately below. It describes FLAME's new hasbarah campaign—which explains the sad, but true reasons Palestinians continue to fail at forming their own nation state.

Best regards,

Jim Sinkinson

President, Facts and Logic About the Middle East (FLAME)

P.S. Some American and European politicians argue that Israel's intention to apply sovereignty to the militarily critical Jordan Valley would inhibit formation of a Palestinian state. Nothing is further from the truth. The Palestinians don't have a state—despite numerous offers of land for peace by Israel—because the Arab group simply hasn't mustered an adequate strategy, political unity or leadership. They're simply unable to say yes. To clarify this point, FLAME has created a new hasbarah message called "What's Stopping a Palestinian State?" I hope you'll review this convincing, fact-based paid editorial, which will run in USA Today, the Washington Post, and other media nationwide. It spells out specific reasons the Palestinians have failed to create a sovereign state and why it's time for the world—and Israel—to move on. This piece will also be sent to all members of Congress, Vice President Pence and President Trump. If you agree that this kind of public relations effort on Israel's behalf is critical, I urge you to support us. Remember: FLAME's powerful ability to influence public opinion —and U.S. support of Israel—comes from individuals like you, one by one. I hope you'll consider giving a donation now, as you're able—with

\$500, \$250, \$100, or even \$18. (Remember, your donation to FLAME is tax deductible.) To donate online, just go to donate now. Now, more than ever, we need your support to ensure that the American people, the U.S. Congress and President Trump stay committed to realistic policies in relation to Israel, Iran and the entire Middle East.

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