

**ADL'S  
60<sup>TH</sup>  
YEAR**

OF DEDICATION TO  
AMERICA'S DEMOCRATIC LEGACY

# ADL BULLETIN

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## Comment: The Third Front

*"At stake is the survival of Israel . . ."* by Benjamin R. Epstein

**I**T WAS YOM KIPPUR, the holiest of Jewish holy days. A nation had put down its arms and defenses. A people were in prayer. Israel was a temple—a temple with three million congregants.

And on this day, Egypt and Syria bombed the temple.

In the United States, it would have been like bombing the churches on Christmas day.

This fourth round in the Arab-Israel conflict was not to be a six-day war. It dragged on, the fighting bloodier, the casualties higher. Israel was defending herself on two fronts—depending, in addition to her own courageous actions, on two lifelines: the support of American Jewry and the support of the American government.

There was no question about the first. American Jewry responded immediately, with a heightened sense of unity and of Jewish affirmation.

The American government responded, too, a little more slowly, attuned, as could be expected, to public opinion.

"The sympathies of the American public are on the side of the Israelis," said a Gallup poll taken shortly after the attack. "But," the report of the survey continued, "nearly half of all persons interviewed lean to neither side in the conflict or do not express an opinion."

These were the figures: 47% supported Israel; 6% favored the Arab cause; 22% favored neither side; 25% had no opinion.

AS THE FIGHTING moves from the

battlefront to the conference table, there are two concerns: one, to prevent erosion of commitment from the 47% now in support of Israel; two, to prevent Arab propaganda from capturing the opinion of the 47% non-committed. For Israel faces battles at the conference table as crucial as those fought in the field.

The Anti-Defamation League, together with other major Jewish organizations, began a third front—the battle for American understanding and support—hours after the war began. At stake is the survival of Israel. But at

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**The articles in this issue of the ADL Bulletin are excerpted from Anti-Defamation League background papers relating to the Mideast situation. Full texts of these and other ADL fact sheets on the topic are available from League regional offices around the country.**

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stake, too, is the security of the American Jewish community.

Does the American public understand the issues? Does it understand the unprecedented outpouring of support by American Jews for this tiny nation which is the refuge for their coreligionists? Does it understand Israel's insistence on safe and secure borders? Does it understand Israel's mistrust of the United Nations? Does it understand the Soviet Union's role in orchestrating the war? Does it understand the United States' own stake in preventing the fall of the Mideast's only democracy? Is it knowledgeable enough to withstand the threats of Arab oil blackmail and the temptation to scapegoat Jews for an energy crisis in the United States that is not related

to Israel or American foreign policy?

These are vital questions. The answers cannot be left to chance. This is a nation still recovering from its long and sad involvement in the war in Vietnam and now facing the frustration and disillusionment of internal economic, social and psychological problems.

As the League monitors the far left and the far right in this country, the professional hate-mongers and the extremists of every ilk, it is apparent that they mean to waste no time in resurrecting old charges against Jews and pushing forward with new ones. Indeed, some of the comment from "respectable sources" in the media and in government has also been disturbing. There the tone may be different and more subtle, but the meaning is the same—warnings against dual loyalty and against so-called international Jewish power and influence at odds with America's self-interest.

THE LEAGUE has made a major, nationwide educational campaign its top priority for the difficult time ahead. Utilizing the resources of our national headquarters and 28 regional offices and the man and woman power of B'nai B'rith, our goal is to expose and combat anti-Jewish and anti-Israel sentiment and to provide factual background on every aspect of the Mideast situation to government officials, mass media reporters and commentators, educators, religious leaders of every faith and denomination, minority and ethnic groups, all American institutions.

With 60 years of experience and activities which have earned us the highest degree of credibility and respect, with the supportive assistance of our constituents—ADL has embarked on one of the most important campaigns in its history

It is a campaign that cannot fail.

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Benjamin R. Epstein is national director of the Anti-Defamation League.