

No limits to Congressional hypocrisy: Part III

LOOMING quite literally right in front of us is a major swindle by Israel, an unprecedented but very public "diversion" of hundreds of millions of American dollars specifically designated to pay for the greatest resettlement of Jews since World War Two — and all at the expense of the Palestinians of course.

In the past few weeks I've written about the unprecedented magnitude of Congressional hypocrisy being displayed in regard to the issue of Soviet Jewish immigration.

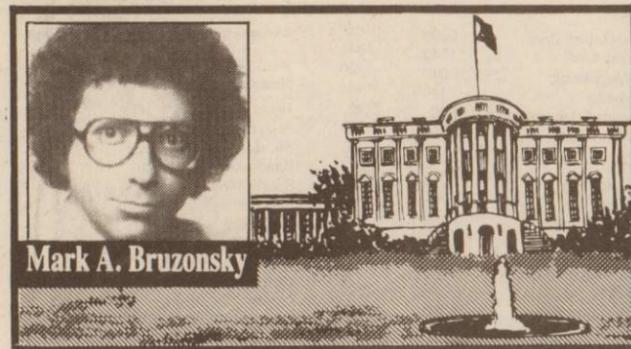
Two weeks ago I detailed how the Congress is being manipulated to pressure the Soviet Union to allow "direct flights" to Israel, in effect forcing the Soviet Jews to go there even though in most cases they strongly prefer another destination.

And last week I outlined how "Congressional hypocrisy has rarely been more blatant." "Not only is the American Congress today championing "direct flights" after decades of previously insisting on the right of Soviet Jews to choose where they want to go," I noted. But the same Congress has now passed legislation specifically "closing the immigration gates to this country while at the same time pushing the departing Soviet Jews upon the Palestinian Arabs who are themselves being expelled and suppressed with other funds allocated by the same Congress.

What is involved here is a major political conspiracy being perpetrated by a Congress held hostage to Jewish lobby pressures and money.

At a time when funds should be reduced to Israel for a growing variety of reasons — including the end of the cold war, Israel's gross violations of human rights, the Pollard affair and the Contra scandals, and the need to re-allocate the small amount of American aid allocated worldwide, to name just a few — the Amer-

From



Mark A. Bruzonsky

Washington

when it comes to further monetary give-a-ways as well as blocking any serious political pressures from the Executive branch.

The most important current example of these realities is Israel's new grab for more than \$400 million in US loans that is currently "sailing through Congress" according to an analysis prepared by *The Washington Times*.

- Never before have such housing funds been allocated at the request of any country; in the past it was always the US Agency for International Development (AID) which initiated such requests.

- Until now, the greatest amount ever allocated to any country in a single year has been just \$25 million. The Israelis are likely to get six or seven times this amount yearly for the next two or three years at least!

- In the past, all such housing funds have gone to impoverished countries. No country with Israel's standard of living has even received any such funds. The previously richest country to receive any housing funds, Portugal, has a standard of living less than half that of Israel's. And it's not enough that Congress is violating all of its prior principles and concerns to find more and more ways of channelling greater funds to Israel.

- While all other borrowers pay a loan origination fee of



Bush

resent another savings to Israel (i.e. cost of the US) of nearly \$2 million yearly.

Of course the Bush administration is on record indicating that it is against providing Israel these additional funds unless and until the Israelis promise that they will not be using any of these dollars to settle Soviet Jews in the occupied territories.

But the political reality here in Washington is that this really isn't a serious restriction — it's more a matter of public relations with the Arabs. The Israelis are sure to get around it one way or another. Indeed the Israelis have developed quite an expertise over the past few decades in avoiding American restrictions and in holding out for better timing to

Partly because of Arab counter-pressure this goal

At a time when funds should be reduced to Israel for a growing variety of reasons, the American taxpayer is now being further enlisted to reward the intransigent and belligerent Israelis.

The Bush administration is on record indicating that it is against providing additional funds. But it isn't a serious restriction.



Arafat

ty for Israel was to get American Jewry to drop its insistence on "freedom of choice" and to get the American Congress to restrict Soviet Jewish immigration into the US.

Both of these goals have been accomplished and now the US will only accept about a fourth of the number of Soviet Jews who are emigrating.

The second step was to set up travel mechanisms that quite literally force Soviet Jews to go to Israel. Here is where the concept of "direct flights" originated and here is where the current effort to get the American Congress to push for "direct flights" comes in.

The debate isn't any longer over whether Soviet Jews should have freedom to go



Pollard

Israel continues.

Furthermore, should there be some more serious political problems ahead, the Israelis are well positioned to accomplish their aims even while appearing to bend a bit should that be thought a good idea.

Most important of all the Israelis have managed to define the terms of public debate in a way quite to their benefit.

The public debate today isn't over whether large numbers of Soviet Jews should go to Israel; it's about whether or not American money should be used to help them settle in the occupied territories.

The debate isn't any longer over whether Soviet Jews should have freedom to go

oeuvred into a position in which they can drag out "talks about talks" for a very long time while they step up pressures to crush the Intifada; into a position where the small concessions they will eventually make will be made to appear huge; into a position in which time is now on the side of the Israelis rather than that of the Palestinians.

There are some compensating factors, of course, and they have been much discussed. But they are not dominant.

The struggle for Palestine that has dominated much of this century is not about to be concluded peacefully in the foreseeable future. The diplomatic theatrics to which we are all historic witness may be taking some of the pressure off for some governments — most especially the Americans, the PLO, and the Egyptians — by giving the illusive impression of some hope.

Put it behooves all who care about a real peace, a just peace, a lasting peace, to realise that the struggle is just beginning for real.

Yes, one way or another, there will probably be some kind of talks in Cairo or elsewhere and probably some time this year. Not talks about a Palestinian state mind you, or even about a comprehensive peace; but rather talks about more talks about limited elections under occupation; talks about what "kosher" Palestinians under very restricted conditions and with a very restricted agenda will then "negotiate" about the very autonomy rejected a decade ago at Camp David!

And in this context the campaign to squeeze from the Americans more tangible concessions will be renewed. That's when, if Congress hasn't already approved all the further monies to resettle Soviet Jews, the issue will be re-activated and accomplished — or even more will be sought.

Unease in Japan as Rising Sun returns to school

By Elisabeth Zingg

ALL public primary and secondary schools in Japan this week will be required to raise the Japanese flag and sing the national anthem, despite strong opposition and fears the rule is a step back to a militarist past.

The patriotic act will be required at major school ceremonies throughout the year, including the start of the new term taking place in stages over the few days.

The Ministry of Education requirement took effect on Sunday despite opposition from a large segment of the population, particularly in areas like Okinawa, which suffered devastation during World War Two.

Teachers refusing to abide by the rule could be disciplined in the same way that they would be if they refused to follow school manuals.

Made notorious by World War Two, the Hinomaru flag of the Rising Sun and the Kimigayo anthem, which pledges loyalty to the emperor, are not only sensitive subjects in Japan, but also in Korea, China and other parts of Asia.

Intellectuals

Critics in Japan, including many intellectuals and the powerful national teachers union (Nikkkyoso), recall that both were used in the past to stir up militaristic sentiments and say that they could lead to a resurgence of Japanese nationalism.

The new Minister of Education, Kosuke Horn, explained recently that the anthem and flag raising, which he said would be required at all major school ceremonies, were to help Japanese children understand their country better.

Similar, but less important ceremonies take place before and after summer vacation in July and September and before and after winter break in December and January.

Before the new requirement took effect, a quarter of all schools had raised the flag and sung the anthem at back-to-school ceremonies last year, according to a recent survey by the *Mainichi* daily.

But on the island of Okinawa, which suffered heavy losses in World War Two after invasion by United States forces, and in Osaka, many people expressed strong reservations about the measure, according to the survey.

In Osaka, Japan's second city, educational authorities announced their intention to concern themselves solely with the flat requirement to begin with, putting aside temporarily the anthem issue.

Divided

The general population remains divided.

A poll of 3,000 people conducted on March 25 and 26 by the *Asahi* daily showed that only 39 percent were favourable to the constraint, while 50 percent were strongly opposed.

Seventy three percent of those aged between 20 and 30 years old were opposed to the rule.

Yet in past five years more Japanese view the flag and anthem favourably, with figures of 74 percent and 65 percent in that order today, compared to 64 percent and 62 percent in 1985, according to the same survey.

In a recent survey of 100 11-year-old pupils at a primary school in Kogoshima in southern Japan, 54 percent

ican taxpayer is now being further enlisted to reward the intransigent and belligerent Israelis.

No wonder those who have power in Israel—and it's important to understand that Likud and Labour are really Siamese twins — are disinclined to make major political concessions as they are well aware how they can continue to enlist the American Congress on their side

pay a loan origination fee of 1 percent, Congressman Howard Berman of California has got the House Foreign Affairs Committee to reduce this to ¼ of one percent for the Israelis, thus costing the US another \$3 million.

• All other countries pay one-half of one percent of the outstanding balance as a normal servicing fee on these funds. But a new provision now limits the yearly ceiling to just \$150,000 and will rep-

achieve their goals.

What has been happening over the past year or so is that Israel has pursued a clear and clever strategy ever since it became certain that large numbers of Soviet Jews are likely to be leaving their country.

The first step was to ensure that most of these Soviet Jews would have to go to Israel whether they wanted to or not. The major necessi-

has yet to be fully accomplished. But with America's gates closed and a variety of charter and clandestine means available, most Soviet Jews are going to be faced with "no choice" whether or not there are "direct flights."

The third step, currently underway, is to insist on American dollars, or "guarantees" if that sounds more palatable, to give Israel the financial resources necessary to "resettle" these Soviet Jews without further lowering the general standard of living in today's Israel.

And the fourth step, one with an eye to the future of course, is to use the new emigrants to strengthen and expand the Israeli state — even if that goal has to be put in the background for a while in view of the current political climate.

What does this all mean? With steps one and two accomplished, and with step three well on the way and four quite inevitable once the other steps are taken, the Israelis are enjoying a major strategic success even as the Intifada continues, public opinion worsens, and the political deadlock within

should have freedom to go where they wish (as it was until recently), but over whether or not there should be "direct flights."

And, of course, in this overall context the debate isn't over pressuring the Israelis to respect Palestinian rights, but rather about the emigration of Soviet Jews and some kind of eventual but very limited talks with Palestinians in Cairo.

In short, today's public discussion isn't about pressuring the Israelis to stop crushing the Palestinians and allow them their freedom now that the Palestinians have both recognised Israel's right to exist and declared their own statehood.

Instead what is being debated is whether or not the Israelis should go to Cairo to talk with non-PLO Palestinians about elections under Israeli occupation that will then lead, somehow and at some time, to talks with non-PLO Palestinians about "autonomy" rather than independence.

All this represents, to my way of thinking at least, a major public relations defeat for Yasser Arafat and the PLO.

For the Israelis have man-

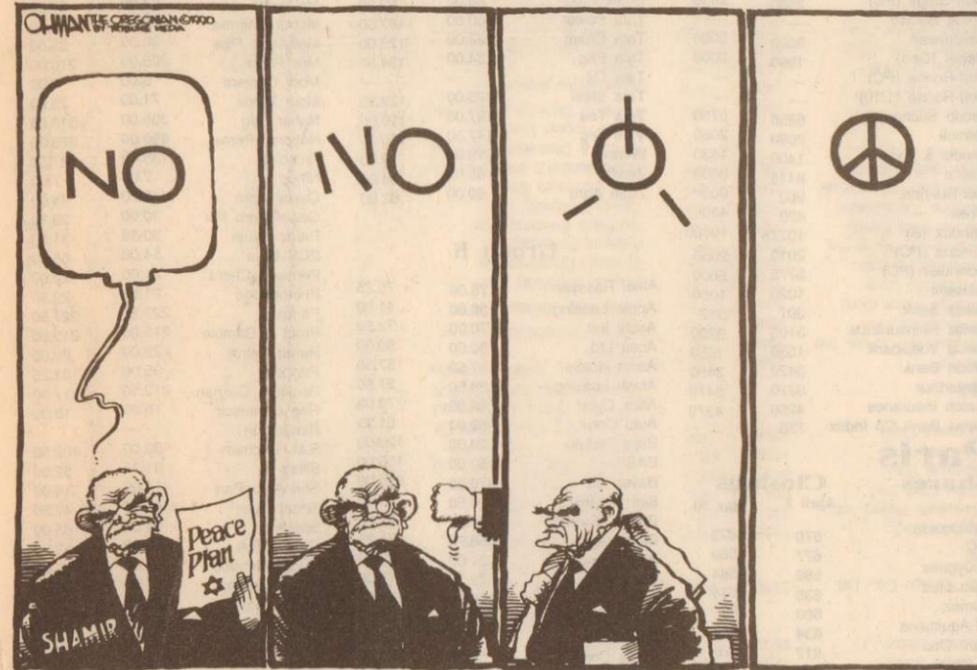
So make no mistake about it, the historic influx of Soviet Jews to Israel with American underwriting has the potential to become a major strategic defeat not only for PLO and Arab diplomacy but also for the chances of accomplishing the "mutual-recognition two-state settlement" that has been so tortuously discussed for so long.

stand their country better. "Every country regards its national flag and anthem as important social customs," he said.

Major ceremonies occur at the start of the school year in April and at the end of the year in March, when the principal gives speeches before teachers and pupils.

said they had no special feelings about the flag. And if 68 percent of them knew the words to the anthem, only nine percent knew their meaning, it showed.

In fact the Kimigayo has no status in law, but it is recognised as the national anthem and is played at large sporting events.—(AFP)



Soviet Union

Continued from Page 8

the period after which the East European countries will be given the right of EC membership.

It is this balance of interests which has kept the Soviet Union withstand the recent gusty winds of change while at the same time compelling the other world powers to prove itself as a force for liberation in order to maintain its identity.

This balance, together with its economic and civilisational dimensions, provides the evidence for Zionist involvement in the game of the next world. Zionism has laid down plans to transform the Soviet Union as a superpower of communism becomes a philosophy that is incapable of practical application except through accepted civilisers which will strip the philosophy of its components.

— which has prompted Gorbachev to find a new formula to communism a philosophy not fit

for practical application — aims to make affiliation to the communication option just like what is the case in Western Europe regarding membership in the Communist Parties which is optional and nobody is compelled to join them.

The attempt to force the Soviet Union out of the balance of power game and leave the West with the sole leadership of world economy by virtue of the capital at its disposal which is owned largely by international Zionism either through financial establishments, or commercial houses or individuals gives the semblance of success at first sight.

But this gleam of success is deceptive because the notion on which the supremacy of the West is based was wrong as it ignored the third global power which is communist in thought and in practice. This power will rise to the position of the second superpower when the Soviet power wanes.

China, with a third of the total world's population, adamantly opposes any

movement for reform or restructuring within its society. The brutal suppression of university students is an illustration of China's refusal of the type of reforms championed by Gorbachev.

China's rise to a competitive position to counterbalance the West would rally to it many communist countries in Latin America and Africa thus constituting an open challenge to the Western systems of government.

Indeed there is already a growing realisation of the increasingly dangerous role being played by communist nations committed to strict application of Marxism under the leadership and assistance of China.

This realisation of danger from smaller communist nations under their new-found association with China which is hard to deal with, has led Bush to ask Cuban President Fidel Castro to hold free elections that would bring a popular government in his country as in Nicaragua and Panama.

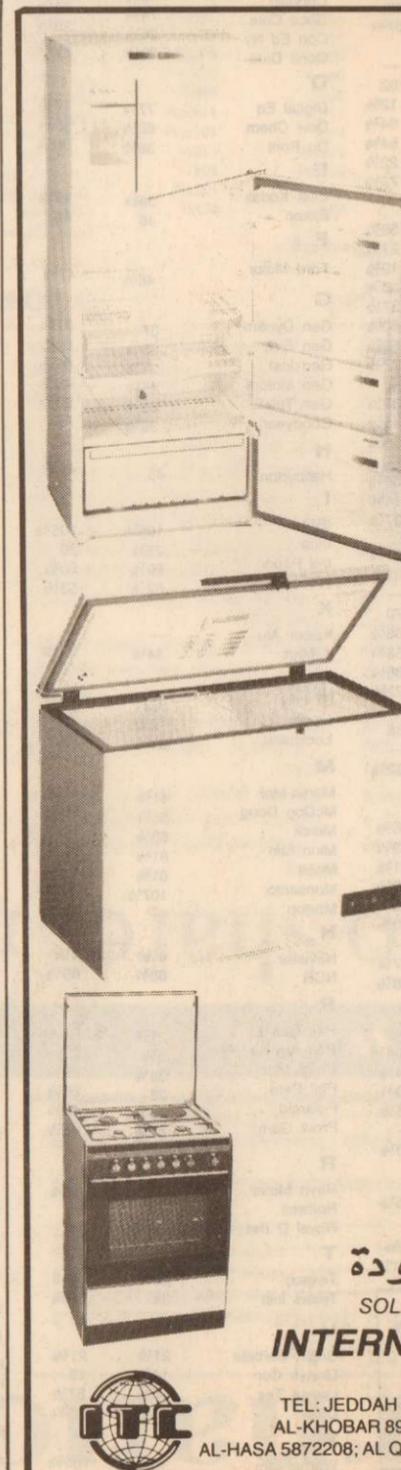
It appears that the US will have to use force if it insisted on imposing this demand on Castro who is certain to reject any demand from Bush.

The repetition of gunboat diplomacy of the US against its neighbours will widen the gap between it and those countries falling victims to its gunboat policy which has become more frequent after neutralising the Soviet Union.

This US policy of violence will open the way for China to strengthen its relations with Third World countries, both communists and non-communists.

The US mistakes during World War II led to the division of the world into communist and non-communist, and since then the world has been living in a state of tension due mainly to the contradiction between the two camps.

A repetition of the US mistakes of seeking hegemony would drive the world to rally under Chinese leadership against the US-Soviet rapprochement and the possible rise of international dictatorship.



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