

'Guaranteeing' Israel

WHEN I first came to Washington back in the mid-1970s, before Carter, before Camp David, before the Egyptian-Israeli treaty, before the Lebanese war, and before the Intifada... the subject of "guaranteeing" Israel's security with American assurances was in vogue.

Back then this subject of guarantees was tied in with another concept — that of "imposing" a settlement on Israel.

Guarantees were discussed in the open.

Imposition was discussed far more quietly.

This was the period after the 1973 war, after the American airlift that saved Israel, after the "nuclear alert" that brought the US and the Soviets into the most dangerous showdown since the Cuban missile crisis.

And very interestingly the primary advocate of this "imposing" approach was a very eminent Zionist elder statesman, the founder of the World Jewish Congress, the president of the World Zionist Organisation, and a man of unparalleled diplomatic experience.

Nahum Goldmann was that man and his audiences were the top American and European politicians and statesmen.

Indeed, Goldmann visited with President Carter soon after Carter's presidential triumph and urged the new chief executive forward when it came to a "Palestinian homeland", an "international peace conference," a joint Soviet-American effort, and an urgent push forward with an Israeli-Arab peace settlement before it was too late.

This was also the time of George Ball's emergence with his notion that Israel had to be saved from itself — a more public approach that graced the pages of the American establishment's pre-eminent journal of foreign policy, *Foreign Affairs*.

I recall this period very clearly as I was caught up in it myself.

New and fresh to Washington from law school and graduate study in international affairs at Princeton University, during 1975 I published a lengthy monograph titled *A Security Guarantee for Israel?* at what was then the Georgetown University Centre for Strategic and International studies.

So the basic idea of "guaranteeing" Israel's borders, i.e. Israel's survival a la American assurances, has been around in

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one form or another for quite some time.

Now that idea, in a rather interesting form, is being brought back and pushed forward in a new book form by a previously unknown writer publishing with an obscure California publishing upstart.

But being unknown or obscure or an upstart is not necessarily synonymous with being unimportant or insubstantial.

Indeed, author Andrew J. Hurley, and publisher, Mission Publishing of North Hollywood, California, are pushing and pull-

ing and cajoling in every way they know how to provoke a fresh debate on these matters...before it is too late.

For among the central tenants of this rather unique book — titled *Holocaust II? Saving Israel From Suicide* — is a growing sense of urgency.

Hurley makes it very clear that he sees a terrible war ahead...unless some new way, maybe his way, is found.

"The most serious threat to world peace today is the unresolved and worsening crisis in the Mid-east" the author repeatedly warns. And according to

The teaser on the backcover say that the intent and purpose of this book is to offer a *solution* to the Mid-east crisis and to outline a plan for peace between Israel and Palestinians, a plan that will provide for Israel the security it needs, and at the same time will satisfy the rights of the Palestinian people. As part of his thesis, the author expresses the view that the members of the American Jewish community have a special responsibility to themselves and to the people of Israel to support the advocates for peace. If they fail to respond at this critical moment in Israel's history, they must be prepared to accept the eventuality of a new 'Holocaust' with the Jews of Israel among the victims.

his publicist, what Hurley proposes is "a plan for peace that has never been proposed before, and yet which has been validated by history."

So just who is Andrew J. Hurley?

And just what is Mission Publishing?

And just what is going on with this resurgence, in rather pointed form, of the idea that it's up to the US, with its own military forces, to "encourage" an Israeli-Palestinian peace by "guaranteeing" Israel's 1967 borders?

Next week I'll provide the answers.