

THE PRESS AND THE NATION RISE AND FALL TOGETHER

THE MUSLIM

Regd. No. R-12

EVERY MORNING FROM ISLAMABAD

VOL. V NO. 259

JAMADI-UL-AWWAL 7, 1404.—FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 1984

PRICE Rs. 2.00

U.S. pilots and U-2s aided Israel in 1967 war

WASHINGTON, D.C. Feb. 9: Over the past weekend, a new, unique book was featured on both the NBC Evening News and in a major United Press International story in the United States.

Both national news stories primarily focused on the book's charge that American pilots stationed in Ramstein, Germany and American military photo technicians stationed at Upper Heyford in England were secretly flown to Israel's Negev to aid Israel with photo intelligence during the 1967 war.

Citing an unidentified Air Force technician whom he interviewed, author Stephen Green indicates that the American Air Force men were forced to give up their military I.D.S. and their uniforms when they changed planes in Moron, Spain. They then proceeded to Israel and landed at a deserted airbase in the Negev desert near Berásha (one built by and for the French during the 1956 war), from where they used both American planes and their portable photographic developing rooms called 'Cubes'.

Green charges in his book, "Taking Sides": America's secret

relations with a militant Israel, that the American pilots flew "combat reconnaissance" missions for the Israelis using advanced cameras and side-looking radar which Israel did not then have. This intelligence information, processed on the spot by other American personnel, permitted the Israeli military to have information about the location and size of Arab forces which they otherwise would have lacked, helping make possible Israel's swift victories over all Arab armies.

Green adds that the American military personnel at the end of the '67 war were "reverse cleansed" on Germany and England and ordered their way back to their bases in place. At the time, President Johnson and other top-ranking American officials totally denied Arab charges that American forces were in any way involved in the war on Israel's side.

Meanwhile, it has become known in Washington that a number of Green's sources have been contacted by Air Force Intelligence and threatened with legal prosecution should they disclose their involvement or knowledge with anyone.

Also now known is that Green uncovered evidence, but too late

for inclusion in his book, that just prior to Israel's devastating air strikes on Arab air forces, the decisive first blow in the '67 war, American U-2 reconnaissance photos of Arab Air Force locations were shared with the Israeli Air Force.

"A remarkable book," says former Senator J. William Fulbright, "An explosive expose." adds Princeton Professor of International Affairs Richard Falk. "Taking Sides" is indeed a very unusual and very important investigative effort, one which might influence the future course of American involvement in the Middle East through its uncovering of sensitive secret details of the past. Sales of the book are already quite brisk in Washington.

William Morrow and Company, among the leading publishing companies in this country, has already begun a third printing, having rushed the book to stores a few weeks ahead of the official publication date of 15 February. Faber Books in the United Kingdom is now readying the English version of the book for early March

From MARK A. BRUZONSKY

throughout "Taking Sides":

1) That Israel has always been an aggressive, expansionist power in the Middle East, constantly desiring to capture and incorporate more territory. That only during the short period of Levi Eshkol's Prime Ministership did an Israeli government seriously consider attempting peace with the Arab States based on mutual recognition between Israel and the Palestinians and that at no time in her short history has Israel ever faced a threat of military defeat by the Arabs.

2) That American relations with Israel underwent a basic shift during Lyndon Johnson's Presidency. Before that period, the United States had attempted a policy of distance from and restraint with Israel. But, according to Green, "In the early years of the Johnson Administration, 1964-67 U.S. policy on Middle Eastern matters abruptly changed. It would perhaps be more accurate to say that it disintegrated. America had a public policy on the nonproliferation of nuclear weapons, but suddenly had a covert policy of abetting Israel's nuclear weapons programme. We had a public policy on arms balance in the region, but secretly agreed, by the end of

1967, to become Israel's arms supplier. Officially, the States was 'firmly committed' support of the political independence and territorial integrity of the (Middle East) nations, consciously, covertly the 'Middle East team' set about ing Israel to redraw to her tags virtually every one borders with neighboring States."

Green adds, "It was, of a policy without principle, w integrity." Furthermore, concludes, "U.S.-Israeli relations would never be the same. The pattern established in 1967 has continued more or less down to the present day. Israel become America's client State." 3) Green's final theme in rates his motivation for this book and for beginning on the sequel which will cover period 1967-1985.

Green quotes former Secretary of State George P. Shultz's Congressional testimony from 15, 1982. "The burden of comments this morning" Ba noted "is that our country by needs to recast its relation Israel.... United States Middle

U.S. anti-Arab role unveiled

From Page 1

policy has marched to an Israeli drum far too long."

But Green's final theme can best be captured with a series of his own questions which come on the final page of "Taking Sides": "Will men like Begin and Sharon secure Israel's future with a mangled fist? Does truth really come from the barrel of a gun? Will Israel be a safe Jewish homeland in the Middle East as an

independent state with normalised political and economic relations with its neighbors, or will it finally have to become a formal dependency of the United States, deriving its economy and security from that relationship?"

"Gradually, over the time span that is the focus of this book," Green concludes, "...America took sides - not with Israel as such, but with the militarists within that country whose vision of the future never allowed space for the others who were clinging to the plank. With American support and assistance of a different kind, there might yet be a future for all who wish to call Israel and Palestine their home."

Impact on American opinion.

Stephen Green is not a Middle East expert. Actually, he's one of the leading American experts on international disaster relief with three books to his credit on that theme. But as with other disaffected American Jews, the reality of Israel past and present especially as Israel has come to affect American policies has awakened a commitment to bring about a change. "Taking Sides" is one result.

Though it is probably something of an exaggeration to conclude that Green's research has resulted

in "the most important book ever written about U.S.-Israel relations," as Princeton Professor Richard Falk suggests, "Taking Sides" is something of a journalistic coup combining academic, political and journalistic efforts in a volume sure to be considered one of the classics on American-Israeli relations.

But do such efforts really have an impact on American policies? When America's premier investigative reporter Seymour Hersh, labours for 3 years and gives birth to a devastating best-seller - "Kissinger: The Price of Power" - and still Henry Kissinger is running to again become Secretary of State, does the written word still have major potency?

The answer to these questions is not doubt mixed. There does seem to be a gradual, marginal, accumulative impact of books of this type.

In the larger context, though, Stephen Green's book is a sign of the times. American publishers, American public opinion, and American Jewish opinion, are changing.

And yet these changes, these long overdue reconsiderations of history and politics which make such a book like "Taking Sides" possible - and which in turn make other such efforts possible may be too little, too late. There seems to be considerable and growing awareness that we may only be a few moments to midnight, with the possibility of reasonably partitioning Palestine between Jewish and Arab nationalism fading and with an even more desperate future ahead than the past which is finally being revealed.
