

MARK A. BRUZONSKY
INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATES

Please send signatures to:

TELEX:
TUUNN MAR 111

1417 21st ST. N.W.
WASHINGTON, DC 20004

TIME TO RECONSIDER RELATIONS WITH ISRAEL

A generation ago our parents and grandparents were faced with crucial and historic decisions. They supported the creation of a Jewish State in Palestine and they gave of their resources and energies to help that State prosper. Their decisions then were proper and the validity of the State of Israel is one we continue to appreciate and understand. Indeed, our overall views are motivated as much by a firm desire to see this State secure and at peace as they are by our views of the imperatives of a just and lasting Arab-Israeli political settlement and of long-term American national interests.

Yet we find ourselves in this generation facing different historic, political, and moral responsibilities. And we can no longer be silent or silenced. We can no longer avoid speaking out publicly of our concerns or allowing others to claim to speak on our behalf. While we will continue to support Israel's statehood and to promote her welfare, we can no longer allow either Israeli officials or leaders of the organized American Jewish community to claim that they speak on the behalf of all or even most American Jews. We believe many American Jews — possibly even a majority — are deeply troubled by the actions and attitudes of the government of Israel and by the sadly acquiescent behaviour of most American Jewish organizations.

Specifically, we refuse to support or condone the following:

- 1) The repressive rule by Israel of the Palestinian people living in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip; a rule designed in our view to liquidate Palestinian nationalism and to dispossess the Palestinian people of this part of their historic patrimony.
- 2) The unjustifiable and grossly excessive warfare initiated by Israel in Lebanon which we believe is primarily designed to buttress Israel's occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip in a vain and ill-conceived attempt to destroy the Palestinian national movement;
- 3) Israel's ever-increasing role as arms supplier and clandestine supporter of many of the world's most repressive governments in Latin America and Africa;
- 4) The constant attempts by Israel to frustrate significant American and international political initiatives which might make possible a just and comprehensive peace between Israel, the Palestinian people, and Israel's neighboring Arab states;
- 5) The constant attempts by Israel to undermine the independence of the American Jewish community and the world Jewish Diaspora coupled

to the sacriligious use of the memory of the Holocaust for contrived and controversial political purposes.

We speak as American Jewish professionals who are deeply concerned about Israel's future as well as independence for the Palestinian people; about world peace as well as the achievement of a negotiated peace in the Middle East; about a reversal of the international arms race as well as the achievement of a nuclear free and stable Middle East region; about American moral and political leadership in world affairs as well as American national interests. We know our convictions will be criticized and we know that from some quarters there will be rebuke and attempts to discredit our motives, our views, or even our persons. But we believe unalterably in the responsibility of the individual in a democracy to speak up when faced with moral and political imperatives. And we believe that what is urgently required is a vociferous debate on the issues in question, not further assaults on the right of persons to express their beliefs or to publicly petition for changes in policies.

We further believe that actions must accompany thinking, that sincere beliefs require acts of protest as well as acts of support. Since many of the financial contributions given to Israeli agencies or to American Jewish organizations are used, directly or indirectly, to perpetuate policies and attitudes from which we must divorce ourselves, we have decided to selectively reduce, and in many cases end, our involvements and contributions until:

1) Israel indicates her willingness to reach a negotiated end to the occupation of Arab lands in full accord with U.N. Security Council Resolution 242;

2) Israel ceases all settlement activities in the occupied territories pending a negotiated political settlement with the Palestinians, Jordanians, and Syrians;

3) Israel indicates a willingness for mutual recognition with the Palestinian national movement which is widely understood throughout the world to be embodied in the Palestine Liberation Organization;

4) The Israeli government ceases its attempts to silence or intimidate Jews living outside of Israel who express views divergent from those it holds.

We hope this statement will encourage thoughtful Palestinians to urge their leadership to take similar steps which could provide the requisite political basis for mutual recognition, direct negotiations, and a comprehensive peace accord.

As Americans, we encourage the Congress and the Administration to give serious reconsideration to the types and amounts of military, economic, and political support extended to Israel so that American actions will be in conformity with American efforts to achieve a just and comprehensive Arab-Israeli peace.

Furthermore, as American Jews, we urge the leadership of the American Jewish community to return to earlier held beliefs calling for

a partition of Palestine and the need for a Palestinian Arab state to coexist with Israel, to reassert full independence from Israel on matters crucial to American national interests and the welfare of Jewish communities throughout the world, and to begin to rechannel resources to rebuild effective and proud American Jewish institutions.

For much too long, in our opinion, the feelings and thinking of many American Jews have been either misrepresented or unheard. We claim only to speak for ourselves and we indicate our occupations and affiliations only for purposes of identification. Yet if our statement can help open up a thoughtful and honest debate about the proper policies that should be pursued by the United States and Israel then we believe this statement will have fulfilled a useful and necessary purpose.

We urge those who believe as we do to find appropriate and effective ways to make their positions known and to promote the changes in policies and attitudes both in the U.S. and Israel that are urgently required.

* * * * *

Those who support this statement and those who would like to see it distributed more widely are urged to send their names and contributions to:

P.O.Box
Washington, D.C.

Name _____
Address _____
City, State and Zip Code _____
Telephone _____
Contribution for publication _____

PROFESSOR LEONARD SIRANSKY
University of Michigan

PROFESSOR MEYER N. ZALD
Chairman, Sociology Dept.; University of Michigan

PROFESSOR LEONARD SIRANSKY
University of Michigan

PROFESSOR STANLEY HOFFMAN
Harvard University

DR. JOHN MACK
Professor of Psychiatry Harvard Medical School

PROFESSOR STANLEY N. KATZ
Professor of Public Affairs and History
Woodrow Wilson School, Princeton University

PROFESSOR GORDON FELLMAN
Brandeis University

DR. NATILE Z. DAVIS
Professor of History Princeton University

PROFESSOR JOEL WEISBERG
Assistant Professor of Physics Princeton, N.J.

DR. EILEEN NEWMARK
Ph.D., Intercultural Communications; WANG Laboratories
Boston, Mass.

MARK A. BRUZONSKY
Foreign Affairs Consultant
Former Washington Associate, World Jewish Congress

Mark Bisnow
Harvard Law School; Cambridge, Mass.

EARL COHEN
Attorney; Minneapolis, MN.

RICHARD HURWITZ
Graduate Student; Tuck Business School, Dartmouth College
Hanover, New Hampshire

DIANE SINGERMAN
Graduate Student; Princeton University

GEOFFREY BASIK
Editorial Staff; Lambert Publications; Washington, D.C.

PROFESSOR RICHARD ARENS
University of Bridgeport
Bridgeport, Conn.

STEVE HARTMAN
Graduate Student; Princeton University

AARON BORNSTEIN
Librarian; Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies
Washington, D.C.

ALLISON CAVE
Amideast, Educational Counselor
Washington, D.C.

RICHARD WALDEN
President, Operation California
Beverly Hills, California