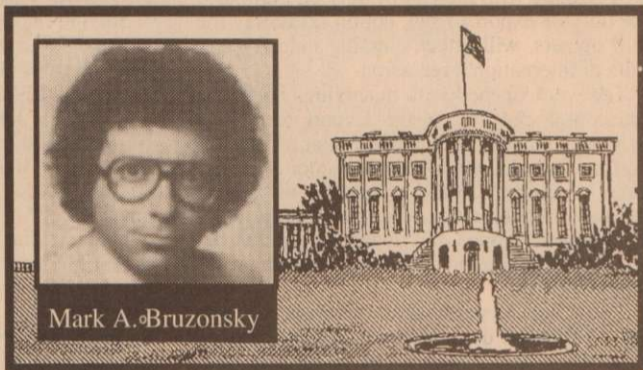


TEXT OF
AMERICAN
LIBRARY
ASSOCIATION
— ALA —
RESOLUTION
CONDEMNING
ISRAELI
CENSORSHIP

Librarians protest at Israeli censorship

From



Washington

WHEREAS ALA ... states that "threats to the freedom of expression of any person becomes threats to the freedom of all; therefore ALA adopts as policy the principles of Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights by the United Nations General Assembly. The association will address the grievances of foreign nationals where infringement of their rights of free expression is clearly a matter in which free people should show concern, and;

WHEREAS ALA has over many years voiced its criticisms of various countries for practising censorship and other endangerments to intellectual freedom, in the hopes that these countries would stop these practices in response to international concern, and;

WHEREAS ALA has reaffirmed its commitment to Article 19 in 1991... "everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression; this right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media regardless of frontiers, and;

WHEREAS the Article 19 International Centre on Censorship's 1991 World Report on Information, Freedom and Censorship (co-published by ALA) documents the following forms of censorship in the occupied territories of the West Bank and Gaza: banning publications and books, harassing, imprisoning and deporting journalists; closing universities and research institutions including libraries; censoring telecommunications, etc, and;

WHEREAS Israel considers itself to be a democracy established with the express purpose of creating a safe haven for the Jewish people, and

WHEREAS Israel has enjoyed a special relationship with the United States as the recipient of the largest amounts of annual US aid per capita, and;

WHEREAS that special relationship and annual aid helps offset the costs of the 25-year Israeli military occupation, making the US a party to these censorship practices and other violations of human rights, and;

WHEREAS the tight censorship in the occupied territories serves to stifle dialogue and nonviolent expression which are preconditions for a just and peaceful solution to the Palestinian-Israeli conflict, and has led to serious forms of censorship in Israel itself;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the ALA calls upon the government of Israel to end all censorship and human rights violations in the occupied West Bank and Gaza and in Israel it-

The Israelis, now led again by the Labour Party, are busy trying to figure out how to implement their long-held desire to squeeze the Palestinians into "autonomous" reservations. They are even beginning steps towards a limited civilian police force for the occupied territories, one which will be manned by Palestinians but controlled behind-the-scenes by Israelis ... of course.

But not everyone is being fooled and not everyone is being quiet even though both the Democrats and the Republicans — so worked up over Iraq and Bosnia — didn't utter a peep when it came to the brutal occupation they pay for and make possible ... the one in the militarily occupied territories held by Israel for a generation.

Now speaking of not being quiet

One of the latest pro-Palestinian efforts here in the US is being "quietly" promoted by a group of "activist" librarians.

For a few years now this core group has been raising basic issues of Israeli censorship and repression against the Palestinians. And finally this year, their efforts were successful.

A couple of weeks ago, meeting in San Francisco at their 111th annual convention, the American Library Association — an organisation with a membership of 52,000 — passed a very controversial and much contested resolution.

True enough, this resolution isn't likely to have much impact on the Israelis.

Nevertheless, the resolution is an expression of the ongoing concern within important segments of American society that the Israeli-Palestinian conflict be finally resolved fairly and honestly.

It's a relatively short and straight-forward resolution; and it's worth reading.

self;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the ALA encourages representatives of the Israeli and Palestinian peoples in the quest for a peaceful and just solution of their conflict, and; BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ALA encourages its members to develop ways to support librarians, journalists, educators and others working for peace, human rights and freedom of information and expression in the Middle East, and that ALA calls upon its International Relations Committee to develop ways to implement these goals, and;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this resolution be sent to the Israeli government, the US State Department, the United Nations, the Article 19 organisation, the International Federation of Library Associations, and the Palestine Liberation Organisation.

re
s.
et
d.
n-
re
in
fly
ift

other
Rus-
verted
e one
pean,
onies,
power
ularly
red a
Asian
ill fur-
dis-
ity.
n hear
n that
ite all
o make
hina is
nd real
er seen
. None-
k up of
ise geo-
the two
differ-
greater
n China

Dragons
Taiwan,
re not in
laimants
ars to be
ia. Hong
ountry in
Korea is

n Europe
European
ntry both
nography
omorrow,
ther in the
he forma-
EC. And
gger Asian
by dis-
rted by the
e distance
sed Asian
rtance giv-
ing to the
1 the other
l, their res-
es as small
themselves
egration to

square one.
a can really
erhaps not.
ave a ten-
sian country
singer spoke
l that Asians
Europeans,
that Asians
t, but rarely.