

Jewish Lobby Attacks U.S.-Soviet Agreement

The following is a representative sample of statements from the Jewish Lobby to the U.S.-Soviet Geneva plan:

Legislative aide, American-Israel Public Affairs Committee: It was very disconcerting of the U.S. to bring the Soviet Union into negotiations prematurely. In our view, the Carter Administration has made a real blunder in going with the joint Soviet communique. It was a major blunder, a huge mistake...Across the country there is anger about what has happened with Carter and the Soviets. Jews, Christians, everyone is up in arms. Because everyone knows that when the U.S. is talking about Palestinian rights, the U.S. is talking about the Arabs, is backing the Arabs. Many, many Congressmen and Senators have written letters to the President...A delegation will go to the White House too, to protest. Carter isn't going to get away with this, I can tell you.

Senatorial aide close to Sen. Jackson: There's a lot of caucusing going on on Capitol Hill, I can assure you. Carter's gonna get it out of his ear...This was an extremely crudely timed move by the Administration. And Brzezinski's statement on using leverage to get a Mideast settlement — Brzezinski has really screwed Carter! Carter is really vulnerable, this U.S.-Soviet agreement really stinks, plain and simple.

Aide to a prominent Northeast Senator: The Administration is really acting in a slapdash way. Carter is scrambling, he's got egg on his face on a lot of issues, he's scrambling with this Panama thing. Anything, especially this Mideast stuff, could quake under his feet.... Anyway, we can undercut Geneva. The Israelis can refuse to go, or the conference can be made to break down. These are two big possibilities and they may be pulled off.

Rabbi Alexander Schindler, Chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, (scheduled to accompany Dayan on an organizing tour through Atlanta, Los Angeles, and Chicago): (For Israel to negotiate with the Palestine Liberation Organization is like) having a civil rights leader negotiate with the Ku Klux Klan.

Edward Koch, candidate for mayor of New York—a combination of the statement that Koch handed to Carter in New York and comments Koch made to the New York Times earlier in the week): I fear that in this recent agreement, the U.S. had abandoned its commitments to peace, to Jewish refugees, to the protection of Israel. (Carter is) under the influence of Arabists in the State Department. (The U.S. should) end its alliance with the Soviet Union on this matter.... Israel will never, nor should it ever, have to sit down with the PLO murderers...I believe that it is outrageous that the U.S. Government should associate itself in any way with the Soviet Union when it comes to the Mideast. (The Soviet Union is) bent on the destruction of the state of Israel.

Anti-Defamation League—Oct. 3 statement: (The Vance-Gromyko accord is a) shameful, dangerous change (in American policy, a) shocking about-face, (an) essentially pro-Arab position. (Renewed Soviet influence in the Mideast is being established when the Mideast was) comparatively well rid of it.

Rita Hauser, Chairman of the Middle East Committee of the American Jewish Committee—Oct. 5 New York Times: The State Department is doing everything in its power to get the P.L.O. to the table, in one guise or another.

The joint American-Soviet statement on an approach to the Geneva conference on the Middle East is but another move in this direction, shortsighted and bound to be counterproductive....

The reality in the Middle East dictates another avenue to Geneva. The P.L.O. is at its nadir, because of the past and current price it is paying in the continuing conflict in Lebanon. The Arab states, by common accord, are far weaker militarily than Israel, and the Soviet Union seems unwilling for the time being to get sucked into another losing battle on behalf of the Arabs. The conference table is thus far more important to the Arabs than to Israel, and it is *they*, not Israel, who must seek a way around the P.L.O. dilemma....

There is no historic precedent or sound reason to elevate the P.L.O. to the status of a representative delegation at a Geneva conference unless, of course, as many now suspect of the Carter Administration, it has already decided that the conference will create a state on the West Bank and that the P.L.O. will be anointed as its government.

Those who oppose this result are correct in joining issue now with Washington. Satisfying the P.L.O. would promote an era of conflict and destruction, and any peace conference premised on that result would be a hollow achievement for President Carter.