



A WEEKLY COMMENTARY

# ON TARGET

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*The price of Freedom is eternal vigilance –*

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**THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK:** *"Powerful allies made yet more powerful by political favours always retain the ultimate power to change sides at will. The more you give them, the less power you have to say no next time. And they always jump ship sooner or later – once they've used you up."*

– Margo Kingston, in *"Not Happy, John"*, 2004

**JUDAISM: ABOVE ANALYSIS, CRITICISM AND COMMENT?** *The Daily Telegraph*, October 13th, 2004, reported the astounding news "the US Congress has ordered the State Department to start rating governments throughout the world on their treatment of Jewish citizens". It is the intention of the State Department to have "the resulting report cards on anti-Semitism published in annual US surveys of human rights abuses around the world".

The newspaper article continues: "The proposed law was passed by the House of Representatives on Monday, in response to what its sponsors called *an alarming surge in anti-Semitism*, especially in Europe. It has already been passed by the Senate."

At least some diplomats put up some sort of objection by complaining in an internal memo that a special focus on Judaism, "opens us to charges of favouritism and challenges the credibility of our reporting", although Congress overruled their opposition

There is little doubt that the new law will create diplomatic waves.

France, Russia, Malaysia, Egypt, Canada and Australia were singled out by congressional sponsors of the law as countries that had witnessed disturbing outbreaks of *discrimination* against Jews in the past year.

The law, the Global Anti-Semitism Review Act, also ordered the establishment of an office at the State Department dedicated to monitoring anti-Semitism, again over the department's protests.

**The 'Act' backed by both parties:** The resulting internal row must now be resolved by President George W. Bush as the legislation heads to his desk from Congress. With the act overwhelmingly backed by both parties, officials in Congress said they expected he would sign it into law.

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A three-page State Department memorandum, leaked to *The Telegraph* yesterday, complained that congressional plans would throw US human rights reporting "out of balance", and "*erode our credibility by being interpreted as favouritism in human rights reporting*".

In a sign of the diplomatic anxieties, the State Department argued for anti-Semitism monitoring to remain a task conducted behind closed doors, by the department's existing "special envoy for holocaust issues."

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Tom Lantos, a California Democrat and Holocaust survivor who was one of the sponsors, denounced State Department talk of 'favoritism' as an alarming nod to "the worst stereotypes of Jews perpetrated in anti-Semitic tracts throughout modern history".

Lynne Weil, his communications director, said: "It's unclear why anyone would be offended by this."

<http://telegraph.co.uk/news/main.jhtml;sessionid=4W1FITYDSCQGJQFIQMGSNAGAVCB>

**THE JEWISH 'PARADOX':** What will the monitoring of "governments' treatment of Jewish citizens throughout the world" mean in effect? Most people find it hard to grasp just what is being done to them, and what such a move will eventually play on their liberties and freedoms; they find it hard to 'get their mind around' what was explained by South African journalist and writer Ivor Benson as 'the Jewish Paradox' ("*The Zionist Factor*", 1984).

- In what ways have they been 'discriminated' against in the past year?
- What were examples of the 'worst stereotypes of Jews perpetrated' to which Tom Lantos, the Californian Democrat refers?

Using quotes from Dr. Nahum Goldmann's book "*The Jewish Paradox*" (Weidenfeld & Nicholson) Benson gave us examples to help with the difficulty of interpreting the Jewish 'doublespeak', and of grasping the not so obvious *paradox* of the Jewish presence in the 20th Century. Not just an ordinary Jew, Goldmann had spoken "for world Jewry with all the world's leaders since long before WWII."

But first let us establish just what is a *paradox* and using the *Concise Oxford Dictionary* as a reference Benson says it is either:

1. A seemingly absurd though really well-meaning statement
2. A self-contradictory, essentially absurd statement.

But he saw we could learn far more about the paradox by the way it has been used from time to time – such as the way Dr. Goldmann used it in his book and as Jewish writers continually use it in their art of 'doublespeak'.

**A paradox can be used in two ways writes Benson:**

1. It is simply the truth stood upon its head and can be used when a writer wants to attract attention to what he wants to say.
2. But it can be used for very different purposes as Dr. Goldmann demonstrated in his book, producing the effect of a sort of double paradox, simultaneously mind-boggling and instructive, words used with consummate skill to instruct some readers while at the same time thrusting others more deeply into ignorance and confusion.

**Benson gives examples from Goldmann's work:** Having campaigned all his life for a return of the Jews to Palestine 'in fulfilment of Bible prophecy', he candidly admitted that he was not an orthodox Jew.

- Having informed us that not all Jews are *religious believers*, he goes on to say they are all united in believing for *religious reasons* the Jews were fully justified in taking Palestine from the Arabs.

**On Jewish 'Identity':** Prepare to enter the mazes of the Jewish labyrinth when entering in on the subject of 'Jewish identity' warns Benson. Writes Goldmann: "I remember giving a lecture ... during which I offered *more than twenty definitions*: Judaism is a religion, a people, a nation, a cultural community, etc. None of them was absolutely accurate... For some the keystone is religion. For others it is the glory of a people who has given the world monotheism, the prophets, Spinoza, Marx, Freud, Einstein and so many geniuses. For others again it is their respect for Jewish sufferings past and present that cements their adhesion."

- And yet Goldmann *rejects a definition offered by one of Jewry's staunchest defenders*, Jean-Paul Sartre: "A Jew is anybody whom other people designate as such."
- It is also paradoxical that the short list of Jewish 'geniuses' should have included Spinoza who in 1632 was cursed and anathematised by the Amsterdam rabbinate.
- The claim that Jews gave the world 'monotheism' is no paradox at all, but a simple falsehood – for we read in the ancient Egyptian *Book of the Dead*, dated approximately 2600BC: "*Thou art the one, the God from the very beginnings of time, the heir of immortality, self-produced and self-born, thou didst create the earth and make man.*" (Translated by the British archaeologist and Egyptologist E.A. Wallis Budge.)

"Jewish philosophy, thought and ideology," Dr. Goldmann continues, "are made up of manifold contradictions. One of them is that we are at one and the same time the most *separatist* and most *universalist* people in the world."

Should those who fear that they have been *discriminated* against by what he calls "the Jewish God", he explains: "That is the great characteristic of our people; we are *apart* and *isolated* from the rest, and at the same time destined to fulfil a mission which concerns the whole world, to be the *servants of humanity*."

**Benson highlights the paradox in the above statement:** The paradox is concentrated in one word, "servants", which stood upon its head gives us the word *rulers* – for was there ever a ruler, no matter how vicious and arbitrary, who did not regard himself as the servant and benefactor of his people?

There is much more in the same vein... in the introduction we read that "the Jews are the most separatist people in the world" whose "belief in the notion of the chosen people is the basis of their entire religion", and we read also that no other religion has "proclaimed so passionately the equality of all races and all classes before God".

**In other words:** "All animals are equal, but some are more equal than others" – since there must surely be *some superior kind of equality among those who qualify as "the chosen"*.

Benson suggests that instead of trying to follow Dr Goldmann through the labyrinthine caves of the Jews' "revolutionary notion" of a people that is at once "separatist and universal", let's drive a perfectly straight, well-lit tunnel right through this great mountain of paradoxes and see what we find:

Using another metaphor he suggests we switch on a powerful fan and blow away the dense clouds of paradoxical bull-dust – and what do we find?

According to the claims of Dr. Nahum Goldmann the Jews are:-

1. A chauvinist people: They have a prejudiced belief in the superiority of their own kind.
2. A (inter) nationalist people: They have a devotion to their own interests and culture and set out to promote their interests to the disadvantage of their host country.
3. A racist people: They are a racially-oriented people who have learned how to preserve their unity and cohesion in spite of geographical dispersion.

Once we understand this, we have a key which instantly unlocks every imaginable manifestation of "the Jewish paradox". It is a relationship of competitive nationalism which gives rise, inevitably, to the practice of twin ethical codes, an "in" code and an "out" code, one for "us" and the other for "them". **Another good example:** On the subject of 'nationalism' Dr. Goldmann is surprisingly frank, but always, of course, in the same paradoxical way. Thus, the man who made no secret of the fact that he *carried the passports of eight different countries*, quotes himself as saying in an interview with Dean Acheson, then US Secretary of State: "Listen, Mr Acheson, I am talking to you now not as a Jew but as an American. *I am an American citizen*".

The paradox is that although "the US Congress has ordered the State Department to start rating governments throughout the world on their treatment of Jewish citizens", it is the chutzpah of these now powerful Jewish citizens, no matter in which country they have settled, and their treatment of the host people among whom they have settled, in trying to try to impose their will upon those host people – and still cry 'foul'!

This is the dilemma folk like writer Margo Kingston face. They believe themselves to be Australian, stand for the freedom of free speech, of the press, uphold the principles of parliamentary democracy, and yet are going to have extreme pressure exerted by powerful Jewish forces who have another internationalist agenda and who will challenge them on their 'Jewishness'.

**As for the Anglo-Saxon Australians:** If the Anglo-Saxon peoples and nations want to retain their own identity, preserve their own history, culture, judicial and political systems, preserve their own *nation* – which their people have grown and developed over hundreds if not thousands of years – they are going to have to strengthen their backbones and gain the moral courage necessary to take on the task of regaining their own identity, history, culture, etc.

And the first step is to have the courage to fearlessly speak out and defend what is theirs.