



A WEEKLY COMMENTARY

# ON TARGET

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*The price of Freedom is eternal vigilance -*

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**THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK:** AIJAC were strong supporters of the Iraq invasion and publicly campaigned for Australian involvement. A few months after the start of the Iraqi war, Jewish leader Sam Lipski even said Howard's decision to help topple Saddam 'earned a pride of place in Zionist military history' because in his view, Israel had been made safer thanks to Australian grunt.

Like a dutiful actor following a script, Howard uttered the lines that the pro-Zionist lobby wanted to hear (and that he undoubtedly believed):

"Can I take this opportunity, in the wake of the recent events that have occurred in Iraq, to say as a great and staunch friend of Israel, that I believe the world has an historic opportunity to try and convert some of the events that have occurred in the Middle East to the achievement of some kind of lasting peace."

– Antony Loewenstein in "My Israel Question", 2006

**JOHN OR KEVIN: WHICH ONE IS THE MOST INGRATIATING?** by James Reed: John Howard, Prime Minister of Australia said in his address to the Australia-Israel Chamber of Commerce in Melbourne, 26 April 2007: "I take this opportunity of re-committing my government to... a proper protection of the legitimate rights of the State and people of Israel." I have come here... to take the opportunity to pay tribute to the extraordinary commitment over generations that the Jewish community has made to the life and shaping of our nation."

**Kevin, not to be outdone:** Kevin Rudd, Federal Opposition Leader in an address to the Labor Friends of Israel, 27 April 2007 said: "As you know, we in the Labor Party have been with Israel from the jump. From the beginning... And if you examined the diplomatic record and look at the intervention which Ben Chifley engaged in on the telephone with Atlee in London and with Truman in Washington, encouraging and urging and building a consensus around the important upcoming vote in the United Nations General Assembly for the establishment of the State of Israel, we played no small part." Source: *Australia-Israel Review*, June 2007 pp.26-27.

Yes folks! There is an election coming and the red carpet of propaganda is being rolled out.

**THE PHILOSOPHY OF THE ONE-WAY STREET** by Betty Luks: Atheist Richard Dawkins has caused quite a stir in some circles with his book: "The God Delusion", but what particularly interested

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me was an article in *Quadrant* (May 2007) "Dawkins and the Morality of the Bible" by David Hodgson, a judge of the N.S.W. Supreme Court.

Mr. Hodgson observed most of the published responses to Dawkins' book focussed on his atheism but gave little attention to "its clear and forceful criticism of the morality of aspects of major religions, including Christianity and Judaism".

**He wrote:** "Dawkins is certainly right in his assertion that religions should not be immune from rational criticism. We must be rational in making decisions as to what is right and what is wrong; and because beliefs on religious matters can have a strong bearing on those decisions, we must be rational in addressing religious questions, no less than in addressing any other questions that may be relevant to our conduct. It is important that any 'leap of faith' to religious belief be consistent with rationally held beliefs about the world and particularly about morality, and that any beliefs contrary to reasonable morality be rejected."

The judge agreed with Dawkins "that there are aspects of the stories and teachings of major religions that are immoral, and have the potential to encourage evil attitudes and actions". Not only that, we shouldn't "be deterred by considerations of respect for those religious beliefs from pointing this out and urging that it be recognised."

**An example of a 'one-way street' philosophy:** I well remember asking a reverend-politician a question along these lines. I was in the audience when this reverend-politician publicly attacked the League of Rights but defended the actions of hard-line Jews in Israel. It was some time ago so my memory is rather vague as to the context of his defence. I later asked him did he think God still saw the Jews as His 'chosen' even though they may continually break the Ten Commandments. His answer was a firm 'yes'.

How can a rational discussion take place about the killings and destruction in the Middle East with anyone with that mind-set?

And therein lies a major problem for people generally and religious leaders in particular, how do we distinguish between that which is good and that which is evil, and that which is 'lawful' (equity, fairness, just, right) and that which is 'legal' when considering the host of issues confronting us today?

**The 'two-way street':** Whatever happened to: "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you?" Or: "Love your neighbour as yourself." (Agape: contains the meaning of social and moral). It is a two-way relationship, of *mutual* love and co-operation. If there is ever going to be peace and security for the people of the Middle East – and elsewhere – shouldn't the actions, the judgements, be based on mutualism, a 'two-way street' philosophy?

**THE U.S.S. LIBERTY AND AMERICA'S RELATIONSHIP WITH ISRAEL:** Many Americans recently commemorated the day 40 years ago when America's 'ally' Israel attacked one of her ships and killed many of the sailors on board. Justin Raimondo, Antiwar.com wrote in a May column: "Remember the *Liberty*! When Israel attacks, the Pentagon retreats." He quoted the words of former Secretary of State Dean Rusk.

"I was never satisfied with the Israeli explanation. ... Through diplomatic channels we refused to accept their explanations. I didn't believe them then, and I don't believe them to this day. The attack was outrageous."

**Even more outrageous was the cover-up by the Pentagon:** – and the White House of Lyndon "Hey Hey LBJ, How Many Kids Did You Kill Today?" Johnson.

Raimondo continues: **According to U.S.S. Liberty officer David Lewis, who was below deck at the time of the attack:**

"[6th Rear Fleet Adm. Lawrence Geis] told me that since I was the senior *Liberty* survivor on board he wanted to tell me in confidence what had actually transpired. He told me that upon receipt of our SOS, aircraft were launched to come to our assistance, and then Washington was notified. He said that [Secretary of Defense Robert McNamara] had ordered that the aircraft be returned to the carrier, which was done. RADM Geis then said that he speculated that Washington may have suspected that the aircraft carried nuclear weapons so he put together another flight of conventional aircraft that had no capability of carrying nuclear weapons. These he launched to assist us and again notified Washington of his actions. Again McNamara ordered the aircraft recalled. He requested confirmation of the order, being unable to believe that Washington would let us sink. This time President Johnson ordered the recall with the comment that he did not care if every man drowned and the ship sank, but that he would not embarrass his allies."

**President 'buried' the truth:** Rather than embarrass his "allies", the president of the United States caved in to the Lobby and buried the truth about the death of American servicemen under a mountain of obfuscation and official silence. As Tim Fischer, a former deputy prime minister of Australia and a former army officer, put it in *The Age* (26/5/2007): "If Israel did deliberately attack the most powerful nation on Earth, it knows it can do so and get away with murder. Worse still, U.S. military personnel now know that if the truth is politically inconvenient, they and their legacy are expendable."

**Our sons and our daughters, we are all expendable:** Raimondo: "When it comes to the calculations of the Lobby, we are all expendable – that is the bitter lesson we are learning as a futile war in the Middle East not only rages on but threatens to expand beyond the borders of Iraq. Our "ally" Israel is an albatross hung 'round our necks'..."

Former captain in the Judge Advocate General Corps assigned to the *Liberty* investigation, Ward Boston, has signed an affidavit stating unequivocally: "The evidence was clear. Both Admiral [Isaac C.] Kidd and I believed with certainty that this attack ... was a deliberate effort to sink an American ship and murder its entire crew. It was our shared belief, based on the documentary evidence and testimony we received firsthand, that the Israeli attack was planned and deliberate."

**And that is the bitter truth:** When it comes to the plans and ambitions of corrupt and venal leaders the sons and daughters of their nations, the cream of their own nation's youth, are expendable. It is not only Communists who believe that to lie to, to cheat, to steal, to kill is 'moral' if it advances 'the cause'.

**WOULD YOU BELIEVE IT?** – From Robert Fisk's: Lies and outrages... would you believe it? It was Israel which attacked Egypt after Nasser closed the straits of Tiran:

"When I was a schoolboy, I loved a column which regularly appeared in British papers called "Ripley's Believe It or Not!" In a single rectangular box filled with naively drawn illustrations, Ripley – Bob Ripley – would try to astonish his readers with amazing facts:

"Believe It or Not, in California, an entire museum is dedicated to candy dispensers ... Believe It or

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Not, a County Kerry man possesses an orange that is 25 years old ... Believe It or Not, a weather researcher had his ashes scattered on the eve of Hurricane Danielle 400 miles off the coast of Miami, Florida." Etc, etc, etc.

Incredibly, Ripley's column lives on, and there is even a collection of "Ripley Believe It or Not" museums in the United States.

The problem, of course, is that these are all extraordinary facts which will not offend anyone. There are no suicide bombers in Ripley, no Israeli air strikes ("Believe It or Not, 17,000 Lebanese and Palestinians, most of them civilians, were killed in Israel's 1982 invasion of Lebanon"), no major casualty tolls ("Believe It or Not, up to 650,000 Iraqis died in the four years following the 2003 Anglo-American invasion of Iraq"). See what I mean? Just a bit too close to the bone (or bones). **1967 Arab-Israeli War:** "But I was reminded of dear old Ripley when I was prowling through the articles marking the anniversary of the 1967 Arab-Israeli war. Memoirs there have been aplenty, but I think only the French press – in the shape of *Le Monde Diplomatique* – was prepared to confront a bit of "Believe It or Not".

It recalled vividly – and shamefully – how the world's newspapers covered the story of Egypt's "aggression" against Israel. In reality – Believe It or Not – it was Israel which attacked Egypt after Nasser closed the straits of Tiran and ordered U.N. troops out of Sinai and Gaza following his vituperative threats to destroy Israel.

"The Egyptians attack Israel," *France-Soir* told its readers on 5 June 1967, a whopper so big that it later amended its headline to "It's Middle East War!".

Quite so. Next day, the socialist *Le Populaire* headlined its story "Attacked on all sides, Israel resists victoriously".

On the same day, *Le Figaro* carried an article announcing that "the victory of the army of David is one of the greatest of all time". Believe It or Not, the Second World War – which might be counted one of the greatest of all time, had ended only 22 years earlier.

Johnny Hallyday, France's undie-able pop star, sang for 50,000 French supporters of Israel – for whom solidarity was expressed in the French press by Serge Gainsbourg, Juliette Gréco, Yves Montand, Simone Signoret, Valéry Giscard d'Estaing and François Mitterrand. Believe It or Not – and you can believe it – Mitterrand once received the coveted Francisque medal from Pétain's Vichy collaborationists.

**It cannot work without oppression, repression and expulsions:** "Only the president of France, General de Gaulle, moved into political isolation by telling a press conference several months later that Israel "is organising, on the territories which it has taken, an occupation which cannot work without oppression, repression and expulsions – and if there appears resistance to this, it will in turn be called 'terrorism'". This accurate prophecy earned reproof from the *Nouvel Observateur* – to the effect that "Gaullist France has no friends; it has only interests".

And Believe It or Not, with the exception of one small Christian paper, there was in the entire French press one missing word: Palestinians."

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