

Fuzzy Diplomatic Gobbledegook at Root Of Current American-Israel Differences

Editor's note: The United States and Israel have been hotly debating the situation in the Gaza Strip in Egypt. Israel suggests this country has broken a promise to keep Egypt out of Gaza. "We never promised," replies the U.S. United Press, Diplomatic Correspondent Donald J. Gonzales shows, in the following dispatch, how the use of "fuzzy" language has sparked the current row between the two countries.

By DONALD J. GONZALES
United Press Correspondent
Washington—(U.P.)—One of the chief causes of the current row between Israel and the United States is their use of fuzzy diplomatic language. Such language can, and in this case does, conceal sharp differences of viewpoint.

This blurring of national intentions can lead to serious results when the inevitable showdown reveals a country's real hand. A review of the U.S.-Israel dispute shows the word trap these two nations got themselves into.

Two weeks ago Israel withdrew its armed forces from Egypt on the basis of its widely publicized "assumptions and expectations" that things would be better in Gaza, Suez and the Gulf of Aqaba than they were before Israel invaded Egypt.

Not Unreasonable
The United States, during Israel's withdrawal, said its "hopes and expectations" were (1) not unreasonable as Ambassador Henry Cabot Lodge Jr. put it, or (2) "reasonable" as President Eisenhower later put it.

This diplomatic gobbledegook is at the root of current American-Israel differences. It prompted Israeli Foreign Minister Golda Meir to fly to Washington in search of new definitions and actions to break them up.

Israel, in general, claims the United States before Israel's withdrawal gave "promises," "endorsements" and "moral commitments" which now demand U.S. action.

Not so, says the United States. Secretary of State John Foster Dulles did not give Mrs. Meir the definitions she wanted to hear. He said only, "The United States stands firmly by the hopes and expectations" it previously voiced.

Wrong Language
How did all this business of hopes—assumptions—expectations come about? Why didn't the two countries use the language of "agreements," "understandings" or "guarantees"?

Israel didn't want to give up all the military gains of its October-November attack on Egypt. It said it withdrew from Gaza would mean use Egyptian guerrilla attacks and renewal of Egypt's bar to Israeli ships in the Gulf of Aqaba.

The United States, with an eye on its relations with oil-rich Arab states and Israel in effect, "You committed aggression—you have no right to hold territory gained that way!"

When Israel insisted Egypt must "never" return to the Gaza Strip the United States said it "hoped" the United Nations would stay there. But it said Egypt had the legal right to govern the strip if it wished.

Czech Offer for Syria Refinery Wins Over U.S.
Washington—(U.P.)—Syria has rejected a bid from an American firm to build an oil refinery in Syria in favor of an offer from Communist Czechoslovakia, informed sources said today.

The decision went against strong advice from the United States government.

However, American officials were not too surprised Syria paid little heed to U.S. advice. In recent years Syria has been doing an increasing volume of business with Soviet-bloc nations.

Dependent on Lebanon
Syria, which is now dependent on neighboring Lebanon for its refined petroleum products, called last fall for bids on construction of a refinery in Syria.

Several American firms were interested as well as outfits in Britain, France and Czechoslovakia.

Procon, Inc., a New York construction firm, was apparently the most interested of the American companies. The firm was reported to have spent between \$50,000 and \$60,000 on planning in connection with submitting a bid.

Last Saturday, Syria awarded the contract to Czechoslovakia. U.S. officials said Syria claimed it chose Czechoslovakia over the American firm because it could get more for its money. American authorities think political reasons actually were the principal factor.

Repayment Terms Unknown
Czechoslovakia is reported to have agreed to build the refinery for about \$15.4 million. Terms of repayment are not known here but are reported "favorable."

The oil to be run through the refinery comes from Saudi Arabia and Iraq in three pipelines which run across Syrian territory. Syria is entitled to a share of the oil shipped through these lines.

The Syrian refinery is designed chiefly to produce oil for Syrian domestic use. However officials said some refined products may be left over for export—presumably to the Soviet bloc.

Moves were pushed in the United Nations to invoke punitive action (sanctions) against Israel. The United States did not want this. It also believed Israel might be persuaded to withdraw with a little urging.

Through French intervention, the Israelis then began talking in terms of "assumptions and expectations" as a way out. This sounded okay to the United States— which studiously had avoided "guarantees" or similar language that might commit this country further than it was willing to be bound.

But this wasn't the end of the word struggle. Mrs. Meir's March 1 statement in the UN, in which she announced Israel's withdrawal intentions and spelled out her "assumptions and expectations" was shown in advance to the State Department and the U.S. delegation to the United Nations.

Officials admit the United States made "certain suggestions."

Israel, during the March 1 debate in the UN, was startled to hear Lodge say the United States regarded Israel's "hopes and expectations" as "not unreasonable." Israel didn't like the negative sound—"not unreasonable."

A crisis arose. There was talk March 2 of Israel reneging on its withdrawal announcement. Israeli Ambassador Abba Eban flew to Washington for another talk with Dulles—mostly about words.

This led to a letter from Mr. Eisenhower to Israeli Prime Minister David Ben Gurion which took Lodge's statement and turned it around. Mr. Eisenhower said he believed it to be "reasonable" for Israel "to entertain such hopes and expectations" as those voiced by Mrs. Meir.

Because Dulles took a look at Mrs. Meir's proposed statement and made "suggestions," Israel now is saying: "The secretary of state, in persuading Israel to withdraw from Gaza, endorsed the March 1 assumptions on Gaza outlined by

Mrs. Meir and carefully checked their formulation."

But Dulles told his news conference March 5 that Mrs. Meir, in her UN speech, had talked "primarily in terms of expectations and not necessarily of assumptions."

Regarding Mr. Eisenhower's letter to Ben Gurion, Dulles said it "referred generally to the hopes and expectations for a better future for the area, and should not be interpreted as necessarily an endorsement of every detail of everything that everybody said . . ."

One key point arose during the long American-Israeli talks. It is important in today's argument.

Mrs. Meir on March 1 said "Israel would reserve its freedom to act to defend its rights" if conditions "deteriorate" in Gaza.

The United States has not endorsed any Israeli "assumption" that it has the right to go to war again to put the Egyptians out of Gaza.

American policy, already on the record, is that any new hostilities in the area "would create a situation for United Nations consideration."

All this helps explain the shouting between the United States and Israel in sandlot language: "You did! I did not!"

Those are words anyone can understand.

Appointments Being Taken for CAA Jobs
The Civil Aeronautics Administration announced today that career civil service appointments are now being offered to people qualifying as electronic maintenance technicians at starting salaries ranging from \$4,080 to \$5,440.

To qualify applicants must have a minimum of 3½ years experience in technical maintenance, development or installation of electronics equipment such as radar, radio transmitters or instrument landing systems.

Career appointments are also being offered to qualified radio communicators and air traffic controllers who will be assigned to CAA facilities throughout the 11 western states. Applicants qualifying for the positions must have experience in communications, air traffic control, flight operations or 250 to 350 solo flying hours. Starting salaries for the positions are \$3,670 for communicators and \$4,080 for traffic controllers, with approximately a \$900 increase upon completion of a six-month training program.

Persons interested in the positions should contact Everett J. Her, airways technical district supervisor, Medford airport. Mailing address is post office box 832, Medford.

Seattle Firm Bid Low On Klamath Air Base
Seattle (U.P.)—A combination of two Seattle firms was the apparent low bidder here yesterday for construction of additional facilities at the Navy Air Base at Klamath Falls.

Hall-Atwater Inc., and O. A. White Construction Co. submitted a bid of \$2,893,000.

Washington—(U.P.)—Rep. John Taber, ranking Republican on the House Appropriations Committee, has thrown his support behind a move to cut President Eisenhower's \$71.8 billion spending budget to \$65 billion.



FLYING to New York, Israel's Foreign Minister Golda Meir meets press before conferring with Secretary of State Dulles on Gaza situation. (International)

Quotes From the News

By UNITED PRESS

Jerusalem—Israeli Premier David Ben-Gurion, disclosing he withdrew Israeli troops from Egyptian territory because of fears that United Nations sanctions would cut off his country's arms supplies:

"Even Israel's old and true friends, Canada and France, would have been unable to sell us modern aircraft if powerful nations such as the United States allowed sanctions to be imposed."

Tel Aviv, Israel—Jacob Farhi, spokesman for the Israeli Development Commission, on the first ship (an Israeli-chartered freighter) to pass through the Straits of Tiran since Israeli troops withdrew from Sharm El Sheikh:

"We have given these people a thousand guarantees, but you never know. The captain may head north and return to base."

Hollywood—Actress Sheila Stewart Renour, Marilyn Monroe's girl friend, describing the "wrong door" raid on a nearby apartment:

"We heard a terrible noise. Marilyn was tired from working and I was preparing dinner. She was sitting and listening to some records when all the commotion broke loose."

San Francisco—Artist Charles Modecke, a member of a "jury" which has banned the works of a finger-painting chimpanzee in a Berkeley art show:

"It's bad enough to have them say 'My kid could do better' without inviting ignorant comparisons to the play of animals in a zoo."

New York—Singer Sophie Tucker, disclosing plans to do rock 'n' roll in England:

"It's going to be rock 'n' roll Tucker style, not Presley style."

Halt of Projects Seen Budget Help

Washington—(U.P.)—A House Appropriations subcommittee said today the only way to cut the budget is to stop setting up new federal projects.

It rejected administration and Hoover Commission proposals to give Congress a tighter control over spending as merely "magic devices" that won't work.

The subcommittee called on would-be budget-cutters to face the "facts."

"Each year new programs and projects are authorized and old programs and projects are expanded," it said.

"In contrast, seldom are existing programs and activities deauthorized. The cumulative effect is increasing demands on the federal treasury."

The economy-minded House Wednesday passed its fourth "trimmed" appropriations bill of the current session. The lawmakers chopped more than a half billion dollars from a \$5.9 billion request for operating 18 government agencies including the Civil Defense and Veterans administrations.

Dr. Stevenson to Speak At Empire Friday

Ashland—Dr. Elmo N. Stevenson, president of Southern Oregon college, and Hugh G. Simpson, director of information will speak at a meeting of the Gamma chapter of the SOC Alumni association at the Charleston grade school, Empire, March 22, at 6:30 p.m.

The evening will feature a crab feed and entertainment for all Coos county alumni and a contingent of Alpha chapter members from the Eugene-Springfield area headed by Miss Elaine Leach. Alumni association president. President of the Gamma chapter is Al Reiner, Coquille school administrator. Wendell Austin, Springfield, is president of Alpha chapter.

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