

Graffiti for intellectuals



SIMON SAYS



MARCH
12
2007



Si Frumkin

BUT WHAT HAVE YOU DONE FOR ME LATELY, ISRAEL?

About twenty years ago - before the Soviet Union collapsed and the Cold War was as cold - or as hot - as ever I wrote a column about the debt America owes Israel. I described Israel as America's "unsinkable aircraft carrier", the only bit of an unstable Middle East that the U.S. could depend on to be a trustworthy ally.

I spoke of the three wars that Israel won without direct American participation and without a single drop of American blood being spilled. Each time, Israel soundly defeated Soviet Union's Arab clients who had been subsidized, trained, armed and directed as



part of an ongoing effort to convert the Middle East into a Soviet colony. If Israel had lost just just one of these wars - in 1956, 1967 or 1983 - it would have ceased to exist, the Mediterranean would be a Soviet dominated lake and the newly formed Peoples Republics of Saudi Ara-

bia, Iraq, Egypt, Syria or Yemen would turn the oil spigot to Europe and the U.S. on and off, as commanded by the Kremlin.

The U.S. would be isolated and opposed by an oil-dependent and Soviet subservient Europe. We would be isolated, hated, blamed by the world for any and all problems and facing a choice of a deadly worldwide conflict or total surrender to the victorious Soviet superpower.

It didn't happen. Israel won - Soviet surrogates lost. Arab sheiks and dictators continued in power while benefiting from our largess and protection and propagating hatred of America at home and worldwide. Israel continued supporting us, sharing its impressive technical, military and security expertise with us, and cooperating with America's policies even when Israel's interests were jeopardized by them. Our relationship is covert: our wounded are flown to Germany - a 10 hour flight - rather than on a 30-minute helicopter jaunt to the most modern and experienced trauma hospitals in Jerusalem or Tel Aviv; Israeli native-Arabic speakers are reluctantly and sparingly employed by the U.S. government which gingerly balances American security considerations against the fear of

annoying Muslims by employing Israeli Jews.

America's debt to Israel is largely unacknowledged and unfamiliar to most Americans but even those who are aware of Israel's role in defeating America's enemy in the Cold War are apt to forget what is now ancient history. Thanks, they say, but what have you done for me lately, Israel? And what can you do for us in the future? Should we really side with 5 million Israelis - population of a smallish American city - against 1.8 billion Muslims who will then hate us even more than they do now?

I hate to say this, but this isn't an unreasonable attitude. A government official is sworn to act in a way that will benefit his country, his people, his government. Sympathy, fairness, morality are not supposed to be the guiding factors in making decisions. And yes, Israel is a democracy and it is a friend, and it has done quite a lot for us, and we sympathize with their predicament, but this is a cruel world and fairness is not a word we should use in determining our foreign policy.

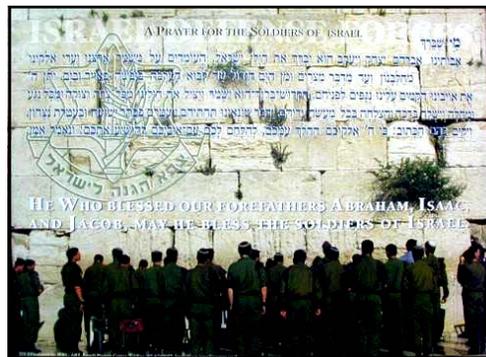
(By the way, this is exactly what our State Department, Defense Department and the majority in Congress felt in 1948 when all of them loudly and vehemently opposed president Truman's desire to recognize the brand new state of Israel. Truman was sentimental - maybe foolish? - to disregard them all. Possibly the same idealistic naivete motivates George W. Bush nowadays to support a country that has no oil, that is despised and hated by the Europeans and the American elites and is supported mostly by American Jews

who overwhelmingly voted for Bush's opponent)

So what has Israel done for America lately? Well, frankly, not a hell of a lot and if a politician wants to be given a reason to support Israel he has two choices: he has to be an idealist who wants to do the right thing out of conviction and fairness, or he has to have a better, more practical, reason than that.

The second motivation is immeasurably more important, and here it is, in fact, here they are, about 25 - 35 million reasons. They are the evangelicals. They are those who call themselves Christian Zionists.

They are the ones who already have more than 100,000 churches around the world that have created a brand new Christian holiday to be celebrated yearly on the first Sunday of October: The Day of Prayer for Peace in Jerusalem. And for those among us who believe that they only pretend to be our friends, that they support Israel because of some apocalyptic visions of Israel's de-



struction for some obscure theological reason that will bring about the second coming of Jesus - please, please believe me: it is nonsense. The reason the Christian Zionists support Israel is very simple: they believe that the Lord doesn't lie! And they believe that He said that the Land of Israel belongs to the Jews - not Muslims, Christians, Arabs, Americans, or extraterrestrials, just Jews. And He also said, "I will bless those who bless the Jews and curse whoever curses the Jews (Genesis 12:3) and, see above, they know



(See "LATELY, ISRAEL?" Page 2)

THE LATINO REVOLUTION

Dick Morris and Eileen McGann, February 21, 2007

A revolution is underway among America's Latino population that will have profound implications for the future of American politics. Of the 41.3 million Hispanics in the United States today, 37 percent identify themselves as "born-again" or "evangelical." Just 10 years ago, the proportion that did so was about 15 percent. All told, there are now about 11 million Evangelical Protestant and 3 million Evangelical or Charismatic Catholic Latinos in the United States. In 1996, there were only 4 million.

This explosive growth in Evangelical religious affiliation among Latinos — about 1 million converts annually — portends huge changes for American politics. With the Latino population swelling from 22 million in 1990 to 41 million in 2004, any change of these proportions in the beliefs of Hispanic-Americans will have a momentous impact on politics.

Evangelicals, of any race or ethnicity, are fertile ground for Republicans and may provide a huge opening to swing the formerly Democratic Hispanic vote toward a more even-handed stance or even make it a core element of an emerging Republican majority.

I recently met with Rev. Sam Rodriguez, the leader of the national association of Evangelical Latino churches. He's a Republican dream: pro-life, anti-gay marriage, and a Bush voter. He notes that the growing religious faith and the increase in Evangelical enrollment — particularly in the Pentecostal Church — may presage a sea change in

Hispanic political affiliations.

Unfortunately, the hostile reception immigration reform has received from the GOP side of the aisle in Washington is turning off the very voters the Re-

publicans can now, for the first time, hope to attract to their side. Based on a fear of Democratic domination of the Hispanic vote, Republican insistence on barring the way to citizenship and voting rights for undocumented or illegal immigrants may drive these very potential Republican supporters back into Democratic arms.

The Latino population is clearly the jump ball in American politics. While now only 8 percent of the registered voters — but 14 percent of the population — the Hispanic vote is going to swell in the coming decade and tip the 50-50 balance now prevailing between the two parties. Red states like Texas, Arizona and Florida may become sharply and suddenly blue when Hispanic voting reaches its full potential among those currently here, not to count those who will come in the future. Texas, for example, is now a majority-minority state in population.

Its GOP affiliation is an artifact of the past if the Hispanic vote goes Democratic.

But the fervent religiosity and increasing support for Evangelical positions and thinking among Hispanics may be the saving grace for the GOP if they let it happen. According to the Rev. Rodriguez, half of Evangelical conversions among American Latinos occur in their home country; half take place after they enter the United States. The handwriting is clearly on the wall — traditional Catholicism is on the wane among America's Hispanics. Can Democratic affiliation be similarly in danger?

In 2000, Gore carried Am and Egyptian POWs 1967erica's Hispanics by 30 points. But Bush's ardent cultivation of the Latino vote paid off in 2004 and Kerry carried them by only 10 points. However, the best efforts of Republican congressmen like Tom Tancredo (R-Colo.) succeeded only in driving Latinos back into the arms of Democrats: They voted Democratic in 2006 by 47 points.

It's time for the Republican Party to start thinking of its future and embrace the basic tenets of immigration reform to win the inevitably increasing proportion of the U.S. vote cast by Hispanics.

It is pure folly to say that we will force 11 million people back across the border in order to obtain legal entry. Such a forced population movement would be unparalleled in American history and would be reminiscent of German-Polish-Russian forced migrations during the years right before, during, and after World War II.

Immigration reform calls for an earned path to citizenship that most Americans can and should support. If Latinos work, pay taxes, do not commit crimes, and learn English for several years, they should be able to become citizens. These requirements are not applied to any other immigrants and are due penance for illegal entry into the United States.

It's time Republicans awakened to the political opportunities of Evangelical Hispanic conversions and got with the program. ●

"LATELY, ISRAEL?" from P. 1

that the Lord does not lie. By the way, history supports them. Those who curse the Jews have not fared very well- the Assyrians, Egyptians, Romans, Babylonians, and more recently, the Spaniards, Germans, Russians and yes, the Arabs, have not done well. The Americans have.

The Christian Zionists vote. Their numbers are growing and so is their influence. They are something relatively new on the political horizon. They are there because they know that Israel is in danger and they want to help. **Locally, they will be in Los Angeles on May 17 and 18 for a Jerusalem Prayer Banquet** that will be attended by Jewish and Israeli leaders and, more importantly, by Christian leaders from all over the world.

If you are as worried about Israel's future as I am, do as I have done. Join the one force that is effective, that is powerful, that can and will influence Washington. It is they who will make the politicians listen. They need Jewish help and Jewish cooperation for, as Benjamin Franklin said, "We must all hang together or most assuredly we will all hang separately". Sympathy, fairness and calls for justice and equal treatment of Israel by the media, politicians and the left-leaning educational elites will not save Israel in today's world. Humanitarian appeals were not effective during the Holocaust when access to America by European Jews was denied by politicians who were conscious of voters' concern for an influx of a cheaper labor force. Humanitarian appeals on behalf of Darfur, Zimbabwe, and Middle Eastern slave trade are trumped by lack of political pressure.



Israeli soldier & Egyptian POWs

Conversely, we won the fight for the Jews from the Soviet Union - the only Soviet population group that was permitted, albeit with capricious restrictions, to emigrate. Reason? We had managed to convince Washington - and Moscow - that 6 million American Jewish voters were ready and eager to vote for politicians who supported the Jewish exodus.

What we need is pragmatism and the abandonment of outdated Jewish attitudes and prejudices that are based on a past history of Christian anti-Semitism. It may be difficult but the anti-Christian suspicions must be discarded in present day America. We need to develop and nurture an alliance and close cooperation with tens of millions of Christians -eloquent, reliable, committed, friendly voters.

And then, when a politician asks - or even thinks - "What have you done for me lately, Israel?" you may be in a position to explain what tens of millions of lovers of Israel may be able to do - by writing, calling, contacting and, most importantly, voting for those who decide to bless Israel. Ω

PS: Go to sifrumkin.com & click "contact" for a copy of the original 1982 "Does America Owe Israel?"



KIM'S KOREAN BILLIONS

Continued from page 4—by Claudia Rosett

we will never know the full story. But what we do know is suggestive of the depth, scope, and reach of the vast criminal enterprise that is doing business as the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

North Korea itself provides no reliable information about its financial affairs, but extrapolations can be made from events such as drug busts, documented missile sales, and



the like. Its basic practices are not in doubt. North Korea's regime has specialized for years in breaking every rule in the global book, and gaming every angle of the international system--an approach punctuated by missile tests and, last October, a nuclear test. But nuclear extortion is just one of Kim's many rackets.

For years, the North Korean state has been raking in money from the illicit, international sale of drugs, ranging from heroin, cocaine, and methamphetamines

to fake Viagra. A North Korean defector testified to Congress in 2003 that the mass production and sale of narcotics was official state policy. In the tightly controlled North Korean state, factories turning out fake pharmaceuticals are part of Kim's plan. Some of these drugs have been peddled out of North Korean embassies by official staff. According to congressional research reports, this has resulted in more than 50 verifiable drug busts in more than 20 countries, most of them since Kim Jong Il took over from his late father in 1994.

North Korea's illicit activities also include gunrunning, illegal fishing, a dash of alleged insurance fraud, and the counterfeiting of cigarettes and U.S. currency. Lest that seem a remote problem, it's worth revisiting the April 25, 2006, congressional testimony of a former State Department official, David Asher, who worked on countering North Korea's illicit activities. To illustrate what he called "the rise of the North Korean criminal state," Asher described a North Korean and Chinese criminal network busted in a sting operation in the harbor of Atlantic City, New Jersey, in 2005. As Asher described it, the federal indictments showed that this network "was engaged in selling tens of millions of

dollars per year of contraband--everything from counterfeit U.S. currency, counterfeit U.S. postage stamps, counterfeit U.S. branded cigarettes and state tax stamps, counterfeit Viagra, ecstasy, methamphetamines, heroin, AK-47s, and even attempting to sell shoulder fired missiles (manpads) and rocket propelled grenades (RPGs) into the U.S." Estimates of Pyongyang's earnings from such enterprises vary widely. Analysts suggest that for North Korea, particular illicit enterprises go in and out of vogue. Kim's regime tends to focus on one area until it runs into too much heat or some other difficulty, and then the focus tilts to a different racket. For instance, heroin was big in the early 1990s. Then floods in 1995 and 1996 wrecked the poppy crops. The regime adapted by manufacturing and exporting more methamphetamines. (This was during the same period in which the regime's state rationing system left more than a million North Koreans to starve to death.) Poppies later made a comeback that lasted until 2003, when a North Korean ship, the *Pong Su*, carrying some 275 pounds of pure heroin, was seized off Australia.



The next North Korean racket to grab attention was the counterfeiting of U.S. currency. This finally brought crackdowns from the Treasury and the Feds resulting in such actions as the seizure of \$2 million in North Korean-made counter-

feit banknotes last year in the port of Los Angeles, and the freezing in 2005 of \$24 million of North Korea's money in the Banco Delta Asia in Macau (where Kim's eldest son, Kim Jong Nam, likes to go for gambling and R&R).

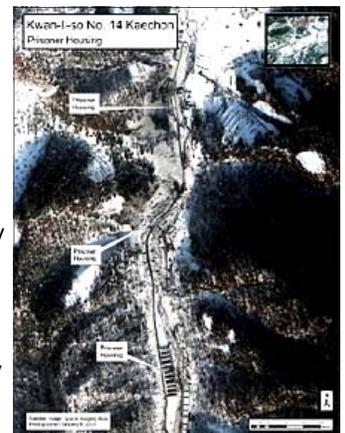
In recent years, Kim's regime has been wallowing in profits on counterfeit cigarettes. A tobacco industry study in 2005 estimated the gross revenues from these sales to be \$520 to \$720 million per year. (Cigarette smuggling is highly profitable because a pack costs just pennies to produce; most of the retail price is excise taxes.) Though North Korean refugees find it almost impossible to reach the United States, North Korean contraband fares better. In testimony before a Senate panel last year, a State Department official dealing with drug enforcement, Peter Prahar, referred to federal indictments alleging that North Korea-sourced counterfeit ciga-

rettes had been entering the United States at a rate of one 40-foot container per month

North Korea also sells missiles and missile technology, not always illicitly. Estimating the income from the traffic is, once again, extremely difficult. A number often cited is \$560 million in sales for the year 2001 alone. A former Pentagon aide and author of a book on North Korea's negotiating strategy, Chuck Downs, explains that this was the amount North Korean officials presented to the Clinton administration around 2000 as the cost of giving up their missile traffic--so it is probably inflated. But in selling missiles and missile technology over the years to such places as Venezuela, Egypt, Libya, Pakistan, Syria, and Iran, North Korea has by some educated guesses earned \$1 billion or more.

A number of seasoned observers of North Korea, including American Enterprise Institute scholar Nicholas Eberstadt, estimate that, in his commerce with the world, Kim faces a shortfall of about \$1 billion per year, which he makes up with criminal activities of one kind or another. Over the past dozen years, China, South Korea, and even the United States have poured billions' worth of aid into North Korea. By many accounts, much of that has ended up supporting the government rather than feeding the hungry. And none of it has swayed the basic criminal bent of Kim's regime. Instead, we have the bizarre spectacle in which U.N. agencies purport to be dishing out food and instructing North Koreans in the rudiments of development, while down the road North Koreans as part of state policy are cranking out top-quality counterfeit U.S. banknotes and tooling missile and nuclear bomb components.

Clearly there is no dearth of entrepreneurial talent in North Korea. But under this regime, the name of the game is violence, fakery, and extortion. The fate of any promise offered by Kim Jong Il is perhaps best summed up by a look at his cash. The list above is necessarily approximate and incomplete, but the bottom line is clear.



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KIM'S KOREAN BILLIONS Claudia Rosett, Weekly Standard

WHILE

U.S. CHIEF NEGOTIATOR CHRISTOPHER HILL HAS BEEN STRUGGLING IN BEIJING TO CUT A DIPLOMATIC DE-NUCLEARIZATION DEAL WITH THE REGIME OF NORTH KOREAN DICTATOR KIM JONG IL, SOME OF US HERE IN THE UNITED STATES HAVE BEEN STRUGGLING TO FIGURE OUT JUST HOW MUCH KIM'S PROMISES ARE WORTH. AS EVER, IT'S ILLUMINATING TO FOLLOW THE MONEY.

SO--AS THE U.S. GOVERNMENT LOOKS FOR WAYS TO CAJOLE NORTH KOREA'S DEAR LEADER INTO PROMISING TO DISMANTLE THE SAME NUCLEAR PROGRAM THAT WE PREVIOUSLY REWARDED HIM FOR PROMISING NOT TO PURSUE IN THE FIRST PLACE--I'VE BEEN TRYING TO PUT TOGETHER AN INCOME STATEMENT FOR KIM, WHO LIVES A COSSETED LIFE OF LUXURY AS HIS PEOPLE STARVE.

Dear Leader's Cash Flow

per year unless noted

- Believed to vary widely by year
- \$45 million detected in circulation, including \$2 million seized last year in the port of Los Angeles
- Including heroin, methamphetamine, and fake Viagra
- From South Korea, supposedly part of 2000 summit deal that won former South Korean President Kim Dae Jung a Nobel Peace Prize
- 1998 to present (for just one South Korean-run resort in North Korea)
- Criminal synergy: Mining done by forced labor.
- Food, fuel and medical supplies, mostly under "Agreed Framework" nuclear freeze deal of 1994 (some via the U.N.)
- A tidy \$10 million from failed missile-sales talks
- \$700 worth netted in one raid
- Including in Russian logging camps and factories in Poland and the Czech Republic

EXPENSES: Nuclear-weapons program costing hundreds of millions annually; missile R&D; military estimated to cost \$5.2 billion or more per year; \$24 million worth of Swiss watches imported during the 1990s famine; some \$12 million a year in Euro-luxuries (mink coats, Mercedes and BMWs, furniture, sporting goods, French china); cognac, pleasure palaces, villas abroad, cronies at home.

• Missile Sales	\$100+ million
• Counterfeiting	
• Dollars	\$15-25 million
• Cigarettes (gross rev.)	\$520-720 million
• Drug Smuggling	\$100-200 million
• Alleged Payoffs for Peace	\$100-500 million
• Illegal Tuna Fishing	\$22 million
• State-Controlled Tourism	\$980 million
• Gold Sales (2006)	\$30 million
• Remittances	\$95+ million
• Aid	
• From UN agencies	\$2 billion+ since '96
• From China, South Korea:	Billions in recent years
• From the U.S.	\$1 billion+
• Non-Criminal Exports	\$1 billion+
• Petty Cash/Miscellaneous	
• Bilked from Saddam during Oil-for-Food	
• Counterfeit U.S. Postal Stamps	
• U.S. Fees Paid for War-Remains Searching	
• Forced Labor	
• Misc. Smuggling: Conflict Diamonds, Rhino Horn, Ivory	
• Embezzling	
• Pending Reinsurance Claims	

The crib sheet for Kim's cash above is drawn from congressional testimony, research reports, media accounts, and phone interviews. Don't bother auditing the figures. There is no way finally to reconcile all the varying estimates of North Korea's cash-generating activities. Unless someone, someday, retrieves Kim's private records from his palaces and bunkers in a future, liberated Pyongyang, (**See "KIM'S BILLIONS" continued on p.3**)