

ACTION ALERT:

**Council For The National Interest:
The Latest in Israel-Bashing**



ACTION ALERT:

COUNCIL FOR THE NATIONAL INTEREST:

THE LATEST IN ISRAEL-BASHING

A new organization, COUNCIL FOR THE NATIONAL INTEREST (CNI) is anything but.

In its November 14, 1989, birth announcement, the group says it is for "[d]oing the right thing in the Middle East." Could that mean being anti-Israel?

"CNI is not, in any sense, anti-Israel," its statement says, anticipating the question. "It is neither for nor against any foreign country. It is pro-America."

CNI is, in fact, an anti-Israel propaganda front, put together by people who have made careers of Israel-bashing.

CNI's Board of Directors includes:

--TALCOTT SEELYE, a former United States Ambassador to Syria, Jordan, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Lebanon and Tunisia. According to the Near East Report, Seelye, in 1982, "said that the best way to restrain Israel would be to apply sanctions to American Jews. He said that American Jews should register as lobbyists."

Seelye called the Arab states more "moderate" than Israel. He termed the Camp David Accords "a red flag in the area." And, shortly before he left office, his criticism of Israeli Prime Minister Begin was so unwarranted and harsh that the State Department disavowed his statements.

--ANDREW KILLGORE also held diplomatic posts, serving in Lebanon, Jerusalem, Jordan, Iraq, Bangladesh, Iran, Bahrain and New Zealand. Since retiring from the foreign service in 1980, he has made a career of attacking Israel through such organizations as American Educational Trust and the American Arab Affairs Council.

United States support "makes possible Israel's aggression against Arabs," Killgore said. Israel is "no strategic asset" to the United States. He called U.S. aid to Israel a "so-called bargain [that] is a costly and dangerous trap . . . [a]nd when Americans discover fraud, they often get angry."

Killgore's goal is not only to attack Israel. According to a letter he signed calling for "a Founding Convention for the Creation of a Holy Land State," his purpose is "to Liberate the United States from the domination of Zionism," which, he says, seems to have "Congress and the news media" in its "grasp."

Quoted in the anti-Semitic Liberty Lobby paper Spotlight, Killgore "scoffed at the continuous charge of 'anti-Semitism' . . . [he] strongly believes that nothing threatens Judaism more than the existence of Israel' as a state."

--RICHARD H. CURTISS, also of the American Educational Trust and the American Arab Affairs Council, has written that "few seriously argue today that the U.S.-Israel relationship is a net strategic plus to the U.S., particularly in view of the heavy strains it puts on U.S. relations with 20 Arab countries extending from the Straits of Gibraltar to the Straits of Hormuz."

Curtiss was executive director of the American Educational Trust, which published a pamphlet entitled "Maps and Mythology: What Israeli Records Reveal About the Land and People of Palestine." The pamphlet proclaims that "Zionists have always expressed themselves on two levels. At one level they have created myths for public consumption, to obtain the international support needed to achieve their aims. At the other level they have dealt with facts for private consumption, to direct the efforts and maintain the enthusiasm of Zionist zealots for their cause."

--MARSHALL W. WILEY is associated with the National Council on U.S.-Arab Relations. According to the Washington Post, the National Council "urged the U.S. Government to . . . [repeal] laws that prevent U.S. companies from cooperating

with the Arab economic boycott of Israel." Wiley, speaking at an Arab-American Affairs conference on "The Challenge to U.S. Interest in the Arab World," said that U.S. policy is distorted by strong pressure groups, and cited the anti-boycott law as an example.

--PAUL FINDLEY is a former congressman who has made a career of criticizing Israel and its supporters. He was an early supporter of Yasir Arafat. While in Congress, he railed against Israel. "Are we like the Germans in World War II who knew of the Holocaust in their midst and could have done something to stop it but did not?" he asked on the floor of the House of Representatives. "A holocaust now rages in Beirut," he continued, "perpetrated by the Israelis."

His book, They Dare To Speak Out, is an attack on organizations and individuals who support Israel. He blames the "Israel Lobby" for his defeat. The book is on the reading lists of many anti-Semitic organizations, including those that deny the Holocaust.

--PAUL "PETE" McCLOSKEY is another former Congressman who blames his election loss on "the Jewish will to contribute money to the defeat of a politician deemed hostile to Israel."

Congressman McCloskey said: "It is clearly time to recognize Israel as a potential enemy of all that the United States seeks to achieve in the world." He has accused American Jews of dual loyalty, saying "It seems to me you can't have it two ways. You're either an American for American policy or you're a Jew who puts Israel ahead of the U.S."

"The people we are trying to keep on our side in that part of the world are the Arab nations," he said. "Its no use having an ally against people that you want to be your friends." He has termed Israel an outlaw nation, and in 1982 called its leaders, "the new Hitlers."

He, like the other members of the CNI board, denies charges of anti-Semitism. Those who criticize him are, of course, engaging in "reverse anti-Semitism."

The Council for the National Interest bills itself as an "objective" group that is "not, in any sense, anti-Israel."

That is a blatant lie.

If it appears in your community, let people know that it is simply the latest Israel-bashing organization, put together by people with more than 160 years of experience in the field.

Kenneth S. Stern,
Program Specialist -- Anti-Semitism and Extremism

November 20, 1989

89-970