

Analyzing the “superiority” of the Israeli Air Force that Weizman was singly most responsible for building up, Schiff quotes a top Israeli pilot: “We are the best, even if Russian pilots come against us ... I think our character is what gives us this supremacy. It’s something connected with the history of the Jewish people ... To lose supremacy means for the nation to walk into the sea. I don’t think it will happen.”

Weizman himself stated, in *On Eagles’ Wings*, “In 1948 and 1967, and during all the difficult times up to 1970, we never budged from the concept, without which Israel’s existence would have been inconceivable, that our safety would be ensured not by parity of armament, but by the quality of the Israeli soldier; that it wasn’t technological superiority which made us stronger than our enemies, but *our great spiritual preeminence.*” (emphasis added)

In an interview with Schiff in the early 1970s, Weizman stated bluntly, “If we stand against the Russians, in equal numbers, we will overcome them.”

Not surprisingly, Weizman had been one of the more adventurous superhawks during the 1967 Arab-Israeli war. In *On Eagles’ Wings*, Weizman notes “the fear” during the first hours of the war that “following Egypt’s crushing defeat, the Syrians had taken on such importance in Soviet eyes that rather than see the Syrians beaten, the Russians would overcome their apprehensions and send combat forces into the Middle East. (Defense Minister) Dayan and others were much preoccupied with this fear ... This feeling did more than just reinforce our fears about Syria. It was the reason we stopped where we did, on the banks of the Suez Canal, instead of thrusting deep into Egypt ... I can say in my defence ... that ... I had contended that we ought to push onto Cairo and there dictate peace, or any settlement we found convenient ... For years we had awaited such an opportunity for settling accounts with our most bitter foes. But the chief of staff left that night (June 8, 1967 — ed.) in the certainty that the Golan Heights would remain Syrian and the settlements below would continue to suffer from Syrian viciousness.”

Weizman then exults, however, that “there is no explanation for what happened to Moshe Dayan that night ... Without consulting the chief of staff, without sending the order to the head of Northern Command through the usual channels — some even claim, without prior Cabinet agreement — Dayan did a complete turn-about and added ... Syria to the list of routed states.”

Weizman, Dayan, and the Cowboy Clique

The Weizman-Dayan interaction is, more generally, an important element in the propagation of the Masada-breakaway mentality. Dayan, who is Weizman’s brother-in-law, is described in Weizman’s autobiography: “Anyone who says he isn’t a brave man, doesn’t know Moshe Dayan.” After the 1967 war, Weizman gloats, “Moshe Dayan’s name was on everyone’s lips, a modern Ghengis Khan enjoying absolute veneration.”

This revealing statement identifies an absolutely fundamental aspect of Weizman’s persona, his cowboy-bravado profile, which he freely flaunts in his writings. Linked to an ideological flair for Zionist expansionism, Weizman has been the traditional “bête noire” of the three decades of Israeli history.

For him, the 1967 war represented the “liberation of the land of Israel,” the emergence of “Greater Israel” (the title of one of the chapters of *On Eagles’ Wings*). “The liberation of Jerusalem, Judea, and Samaria,” he exults, “was more than just (a dazzling victory) — far more. For me it meant returning home, to my own country, to places whose very names filled me with excitement and made my heart tremble.”

These views, he boasts, had often, prior to 1967, branded him within Israel as an “historical hysteric, without any rational foundation.” Analyzing why he was bypassed for the Chief of Staff appointment in the 1960s by the Labour Party leadership, he stresses, “I didn’t conceal my views from anyone. Everyone knew that ... my roots weren’t in the dominant Labour movement. The loyal party stalwarts understood that it was an unusual animal they had in this Weizman. To them I was a wild man, with horrifying opinions: a senior commander who claimed that we have the right to Hebron and Nablus (both in the Arab-inhabited West Bank — ed.) and all of Jerusalem, and that we must endeavor to implement that right by force of arms, if there is no other alternative ... They viewed me as a ‘national desperado’ who preached that the best pilot in the world isn’t a man who knows how to squeeze the right button and send off his missile at the right moment, but must believe in the justice of his deeds in defence of the rights of the Jewish people to the land of Israel.”

Weizman and the British

In developing these traits, Weizman has played an interesting counterpoint with the former British occupiers of colonial Palestine. While joining the anti-British Irgun militias in the 1940s, Weizman preserved several strong Anglophile tendencies. Earlier, at age 15, he had met and admired top British intelligence officer Orde Wingate, who stayed at the Weizman family home in Haifa. By the early 1950s, after having spent several years in the Royal Air Force during World War II, Weizman was one of the first two Israelis to be trained in a British Staff College.

Needless to say, when Israel joined Britain in the 1956 Suez invasion of Egypt, Weizman enthusiastically supported the operation — except for his disagreement with Prime Minister Ben-Gurion over the use of French jets to carry out raids into Egyptian territory. Weizman wanted the Israeli Air Force to do the job.

—Mark Burdman

Support For Israel Wanes In U.S.

Support in the U.S. for Israel is waning in the wake of the invasion of Lebanon. Attacks on Israel have been seen in the press and in the Congress in the last week. Senator James Abourezk (D-S.D.) introduced a resolution in the Senate supporting the UN resolution for an immediate withdrawal from Lebanon. In his motivating statement Abourezk detailed the “barbarism” of the Israeli invasion. The following excerpts are taken from the Congressional Record of March 21:

The Israeli Invasion of Lebanon

...The *Washington Post* has reported that cluster bomb units, antipersonnel weapons provided by the United States, have been dropped on the city of Tyre. At least one bombing raid by the Israeli Air Force has been directed at the city of Tripoli, Lebanon, which is north of the capital city of Beirut. Anthony Lewis of the *New York Times* reports Monday, March 20, that at least 700 people have been killed in Lebanon thus far by Israeli military operations. A great many of these are innocent civilians. Their numbers are far in excess of the 35 civilians who were killed in the terrorist raid in Tel Aviv....

Reports of the use of American weapons, such as the F-15 and the cluster bomb units being dropped in city areas, killing anyone in range in a nondiscriminatory manner bring to mind a major question; that is, should the United States continue to underwrite such barbarism on the part of a so-called ally. The propagandists for Israel have succeeded in dehumanizing Palestinians, Lebanese, and Arabs in general because such dehumanization makes it easier for Israel to engage with impunity in the savagery of killing. That is a tragic lesson in racism, committed by people who have suffered the most throughout history from racism.

The question of the Israeli attack in Lebanon goes beyond that of retaliation. We would hardly expect the United States to invade Mexico if 10 terrorists from Mexico attacked inside the United States. We would hardly expect the Soviet Union to invade Israel the next time a Soviet Jew hijacked a Soviet airliner. Other than the desire by Israel for its expansion into southern Lebanon, what plausible reason can there be for such an attack? I was told in 1974 by an Israeli journalist that, when Israel deemed the provocation to be appropriate, it would invade southern Lebanon and effectively annex part of that country at the Litani River line....

Most of the world has come to recognize the kind of imperialism pursued by the Israeli Government....

As I see it, Israel will refuse to give up the fruits of its aggression, unless it is convinced it has more to lose than it has to gain as a result of such aggression. In 1956, when Israel joined France and England in attacking Egypt and attempted to keep the Sinai Desert, President Eisenhower was successful in threatening Israel to the extent that Israel withdrew from the Sinai....

The Foreign Military Sales Act prevents the use of American weapons for aggression against a third country. All of the facts exist for the cutoff of American arms to Israel, much the same as we shut off the arms for Turkey when Turkey invaded Cyprus. Israel's clear violation of our law is the obvious lever the administration should use to enforce its demand for Israeli withdrawal....

The Chicago Tribune, "*Israel's Incursion: Shades of Pershing*," by Nicholas Von Hoffman, March 21, 1978:

At 4:15 in the morning of March 9, 1916, a band of between 1,000 and 3,000 terrorists or guerrillas — name them according to your politics — crossed the Mexican border under the command of the storied Pancho Villa and attacked the town of Columbus, N.M....

America had her Menachem Begins then, demanding barbaric revenge....

The knowledge that we ourselves are not only capable of committing the same crimes as Begin but have actually done so may give us insight into the emotions guiding the Israeli premier but it doesn't make the murder of Lebanon any more defensible than the invasion of Mexico 62 years ago.

Shared evil is still evil and Americans might remember it was jets manufactured in Long Beach, California, that were used to bomb the homes and hovels of the Lebanese peasantry....

Perhaps the most hateful, considering the background of the Holocaust, has been the Israeli policy of inciting religious warfare in Lebanon. Premier Begin has even been on American television trying to stir up Christian animosities here against Lebanese Moslems there. In any other public figure, such a performance would have been adjudged bigotry....

The Seattle Post-Intelligencer, "*Israel Pushes Towards Peace*," March 29, 1978:

It takes an optimist to believe that Israel can continue to exist in the long run without coming to a peace agreement of some sorts with its Arab neighbors. To believe that it can continue to exist as it is, armed to the teeth, under constant threat, with an inflation that gallops toward the sky, with taxes that are already there...It assumes that this country for years to come will continue to prop up the Israeli economy with huge infusions of dollars....It assumes that the national interests of Israel and of the U.S., while not exactly parallel, will not diverge so far as to infect American public opinion with the notion the time has come to let the Israelis go their own way and good luck to them....

If the present stalemate holds and war again looms, what should the U.S. do? In the past, when war started, this country has tromped hard on Israel to stop because it seemed likely the U.S. and the Soviets might find themselves at war over the Middle East....

Begin, voicing the political will of the Israeli populace, is refusing to budge. Carter, with American national and global concerns goading him, cannot accept that. Destiny forces him to use what levers he has. Pressure on Israel is one of them.

The Black American, "*That 'Guerrilla Raid' On Israel Was a Phoney*," issue dated April 6-April 12:

Last week, before the invasion of Lebanon, we wrote: "They have bombed Southern Lebanon before, killed hundreds of civilians before, burned villages to the ground before."...

Thirty thousand troops against barefoot civilians and goats and children and a few scattered pockets of guerrillas armed with rifles and grenades.

And people are dying.

Hundreds of tanks, hundreds of aircraft, bombing and strafing the villages. Dozens of gunboats and warships shelling the villages. And people are dying....

What comes to mind are pictures of Hitler's Panzers blitzing into Poland and Austria and Czechoslovakia.

And Hitler, too, gave an excuse for his paranoid murder of defenseless civilians....

England is Like Lola

England is like Lola. What England wants, England gets.

England has "always" been on top and England wants to stay on top.

This means America must stay below. And the Soviet Union must stay below.

If America and the Soviets could get together it would spell the end of England...

Lola is kicking America in the ass from many angles.

She has been tearing up the American dollar and when it seemed that finally our agreement with West Germany would rescue the dollar, their man, our own Michael Blumenthal, Secretary of the Treasury, sabotaged it....

This whole Kissinger-Israeli-English strategy spells suffering and destruction for the U.S. and the world. The time to put a stop to it is now. Let the Israelis work for peace, not war. The people of the Mideast need food, not guns. They need a chance to live, not die.