

Kissinger Watch by M.T. Upharsin

Blowing his trumpet

While in Israel for several days beginning Jan. 17, Henry Kissinger managed to stick his nose into almost every conceivable corner of the country, including places it certainly did not belong.

In a matter of days, Henry modestly put himself forward, at least twice, as a potential mediator for Israel's outstanding disputes with Egypt, over the disputed Taba region between Egypt and Israel, and with Syria, over the Golan Heights and other issues. The *Jerusalem Post* Jan. 19 reported rumors that Kissinger would be assuming a direct, personal role in U.S. diplomacy in the Middle East!

During the same period, Henry managed to meet, if not eat, a substantial chunk of the Israeli cabinet. At a dinner at the house of former Foreign Minister Abba Eban Jan. 17, Henry and wife Nancy sat at the same table with Finance Minister Yitzhak Modai, Energy Minister Moshe Shahal, Health Minister Mordechai Gur, and Economics Minister Ga'ad Yaccobi.

While the subjects of discussion have not been made public, Modai's first political act, the next week, was to announce that Israelis "must tighten their belts." People having dinner with Henry Kissinger would do well not to moralize in such fashion.

To be specific, Modai's austerity measures are wreaking havoc in Israel's health system; well, certain quarters have warned that "Henry Kissinger causes AIDS."

On Saturday night, Jan. 18, the Kissingers dined privately with Israel's Prime Minister Shimon Peres, barely hours before Peres left for his European tour to the Netherlands, Great Britain, and West Germany.

This dinner coincided with an extraordinary array of international diplomacy, criss-crossing Israel, London, and European capitals, that involved U.S. State Department special envoy Richard Murphy and U.S. Ambassador to Israel Thomas Pickering, reminiscent of Kissinger's shuttle diplomacy.

Kissinger's shuttles, of course, left a body-count of tens of thousands of slaughtered, particularly in Lebanon. Would that the families of those slaughtered were present the next night, Jan. 19, at Tel Aviv University, when Kissinger received an honorary doctorate, for his "efforts on behalf of furthering understanding between Arabs and Israelis."

A painting by Chagall?

Only the kind of deranged surrealism of a Marc Chagall, the Russian-born painter, would befit what happened the next night, in Jerusalem. In fact, the site was Chagall Hall. The hall is in Israel's Knesset, or parliament. The occasion was the Jan. 20 commemoration of the birthday of Martin Luther King. Henry Kissinger was an invited speaker, thanks to what appears to have been a joint invitation from the Israeli Foreign Office and the U.S. Embassy. Other speakers were U.S. Embassy number-two Mr. Flaten, Israeli Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir, and Eban.

When one was pointed out to an American official that inviting Kissinger to speak on behalf of the memory of Dr. King, was like inviting Adolf Eichmann to intone the Jewish prayer for the dead at Auschwitz, the official used the renowned "Mt. Everest" excuse: "Well, Henry Kissinger was there."

Never one to shy from hypocrisy, Kissinger invoked his Jewish upbringing

and his having grown up in totalitarian Nazi Germany, to express his admiration for Dr. King.

'Not very impressed'

While Nancy vegetated in her King David Hotel room Tuesday afternoon, Jan. 21, Kissinger had meetings with Shamir and Jerusalem Mayor Teddy Kollek. "Mum was the word" from both men's offices. An official at Minister of Trade and Industry Ariel Sharon's office reacted with a stony "No comment!" when asked if Sharon had met with Kissinger. Also not talking was the household of former Israeli ambassador to Washington, Simcha Dinitz, at whose house the Kissingers had a private dinner during the evening of Jan. 20.

Off the record, *EIR* was told by an Israeli strategist who attended an unpublicized, private briefing by Henry, at the Tel Aviv Center for Strategic Studies Jan. 20:

"Kissinger said that he thought that some sound agreement with Syria could be reached, a semi-tacit understanding, short of something called peace. It would be based on extending the old idea, from Lebanon before 1982, of Syria and Israel both maintaining 'Red Lines,' but this time widened to include larger parts of the Middle East. He cited the 1973 separation-of-forces agreement between Israel and Syria, to show that this could work. He said that both sides have a real interest in this, so, it is possible to make deals with Syria, but these have to be kept low-key.

"He came off as an elder statesman, very detached, but something else was obvious. After all, it was Kissinger himself, who had negotiated the 1973 agreements. What he was doing, then, was just blowing his own trumpet. I wasn't very impressed."