

## ISRAEL IN THE DOCK

"LET THE JURORS consider their verdict," said the King in "Alice in Wonderland." "No, No," said the Queen of Hearts, "sentence first, verdict afterwards."

That's how it is in the hallowed chambers of the United Nations. Without investigation, without judicious inquiry, the General Assembly, by large majorities, will shortly vote to impose the sentence of pariah—total isolation—on Israel.

While burning issues press upon the agenda of mankind, the General Assembly, prompted by the Arab block and oiled by petrodollars and key block-voting power, continues to be consumed with the Middle East menace. Almost 60 per cent of its time is devoted to tiny, isolated Israel.

The General Assembly plenary has on its agenda the situation of the Middle East and the question of Palestine. The special political committee has nine separate draft resolutions on the Middle East—all directed against Israel. The second committee has two. The third, fifth and sixth committees have the balance.

A bumper crop of at least 15

resolutions denouncing Israel, after careful cultivation by the Arabs of soil nourished for

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several years now, is certain  
to be adopted. Israel will be  
assisted for its settlements

to be adopted. Israel has been convicted for its settlements on the West Bank, for expulsion of Arabs, for torture, for threatening war, for racial discrimination, for relations with South Africa, *ad nauseum*.

All this, despite the fact that the UN Charter has as its purpose the development of friendly relations among nations, the promotion of international co-operation, the maintenance of peace and security. All this, in the face of a threatening conflagration in Lebanon and in Africa, while a benign neglect prevails in the UN concerning these throbbing matters because the Third World insists that it be so.

All this, while international terrorists lurk at airports to seize and threaten innocent hostages. They have learned their lesson well, having been instructed and inspired by the Palestine Liberation Organisa-

tion. The world organisation has failed to ban terrorism through international law and dallies even to enact legislation to make the taking of hostages a crime.

Why the vindictive multiple sentences imposed on Israel? Syria disclosed the hidden aim early in the session. Its Foreign Minister, Abdul Halim Khaddam, stated: "We call on the international community to apply against Israel those sanctions provided for under the

apply against Israel those sanctions provided for under the Charter and to reconsider Resolution 273 under which Israel was admitted to the UN."

To deprive Israel of membership in the international community, to subject her to economic and military sanctions—this is the ultimate purpose. Since that purpose cannot be realised at this session, the groundwork must be laid now.

What makes the staggering large majorities possible? Professor Hans Morgenthau, chairman of B'nai B'rith's Academic Committee on Soviet Jewry, ex-

plained the matter to the House of Representatives two years ago: "The core of a typical voting majority of the General Assembly is composed of mini-States who are lacking in all or most attributes of nationhood . . . and who could not exist even in their precarious state without foreign subsidies."

He added that Assembly resolutions which owe their support to mini-State votes "serve the purposes of other powerful States or groups of States, such as the Soviet and Arab blocks who pay for the voting support of the mini-States with economic and political aid."

Few are aware that a total of 81 countries, considerably more than half the General Assembly, together contribute

more than half the General Assembly, together contribute only 1.62 per cent of the regular UN budget. Each pays but the base amount of .02 per cent—some £40,000. And because many of these complain that even this amount is prohibitive, their assessment will be cut in half.

Irresponsibility and the potential for mischief are built into this very system when the voting machinery swings into operation. Thus, the mini-State, Grenada, proposes an investigation of unidentified flying objects (UFOs) and it becomes an item on the UN agenda. Daniel Patrick Moynihan correctly dubbed such features of the UN as "the theatre of the absurd."

Ambassador Andrew Young recently explained that the anti-Israel votes are but an expression of hostility against the United States. But since the US is too powerful, he added, and its ally, Israel, "most vulnerable," the latter became the target for venom. The Jewish State was cast in the role which had been played by Jews through history: "scapegoat" for public anger and frustration.

Alice in Wonderland was certain that there must be a moral somewhere if only one could find it. She would have been hard put to find it at

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the United Nations.  
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