

NEFF SCANNING ARAB LINES FROM ISRAELI OUTPOST

A LETTER FROM THE PUBLISHER

In eight years of reporting on Arab-Israeli diplomacy and violence since the 1967 war, newsmen have become alert to the subtle nuances of Middle East peacemaking. While it was no secret that a new Sinai accord was in the air, TIME correspondents in Washington, Jerusalem and Cairo saw unofficial signs that the talks had reached a critical stage well before any word that Henry Kissinger might be resuming his shuttle diplomacy. "When the two sides—and their American intermediaries—are at odds," explains State Department Correspondent Strobe Talbott, "then official sources are more likely to let information out to tell their side of the story." Last week, Talbott noted, "was a classic case of negotiations becoming leakproof as all sides moved closer to agreement." In Jerusalem, Bureau Chief Donald Neff assessed the impending settlement's durability in talks with a hawk-to-dove spectrum of Israeli leaders.

Cairo Bureau Chief Wilton Wynn saw the renewed diplomatic activity as vindication of a personal optimism that survived the hostile Arab-Israeli rhetoric of recent months. "If you stuck to the declarations of leaders on both sides," Wynn reports, "you could make a good case for the impossibility of an agreement." Wynn saw signs of new diplomatic motion as far back as last April. One evening a few weeks after the end of Kissinger's earlier try at a peace agreement, American Ambassador Hermann Eilts failed to show up at a Cairo dinner party where he was to be guest of honor. Wynn learned that Eilts had been abruptly called back to Washington. Eilts' trip turned out to be the first of seven, shuttling peace proposals between Anwar Sadat and the State Department.

In preparing for the three-page story in this week's Education section on the ragged state of the English language in the U.S., Senior Writer Lance Morrow spent two months off and on compiling examples of mangled prose from such varied sources as the Congressional Record, high school compositions and sociological journals. Morrow also kept a notebook—which swelled to 60 pages—of tortured usages found in everyday reading, television watching and conversation. In some ways, it was a chastening exercise. Morrow found that he frequently sinned, most often in using careless conversational "filler" phrases like "you know" and "well, ah." Colleagues who have chatted with him recently say that his speaking style is, ah, much improved.

Kalph P. Davidson

INDEX

Cover Story 18 Color 27,61 Art 60 Behavior 39 Books 62 Economy	Education34 Forum3 Medicine43 Milestones44	Modern Living47 Music40 Nation6 People33 Press58 Science59 Television42
& Business50		World18

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The Jerry-Leonid Show

To the Editors:

Your marquee [Aug. 4] should have read "Presenting: Gerald Ford, Leonid Brezhnev and an All-Star Cast in The Sting.

William F. Lawrence Monroe, La.

I notice that we do not see Brezhnev's right hand. Could he be holding a knife to Ford's back, or is he picking his pocket?

> James A. Clark Mendham, N.J.

I have always styled myself a Democrat, congratulating myself on my lib-



eral outlook. Lately though, it seems that I agree with President Ford more than I agree with my own Democratic Congress. Gerald Ford seems to be realistic, as his decision to sign the treaty in Helsinki shows. Far from being a betrayal of Eastern Europe, this document is an acknowledgment of Europe as it is today. Our denial of its existence is hardly going to make the Berlin Wall go away.

Katherine Rakowsky Naperville, Ill.

President Ford laid a wreath in memory of the Nazi concentration camp victims at Auschwitz and then proceeded to Helsinki to a friendly meeting with Mr. Brezhnev, the boss of a system responsible for maintaining numerous Soviet concentration camps.

Are Communist concentration camps better than Nazi camps?

Alexis B. Bogolubov Cheshire, Conn.

On TIME's cover, Leonid Brezhnev proudly shows his gold teeth.

I have been in many cities in Russia and have noticed thousands of his

comrades with teeth capped, all in white metal (probably stainless steel). There will always be haves and have nots. S. Charles Lee

Beverly Hills, Calif.

Shameful Blot

The statement that the U.S. Army is still testing hallucinogenic drugs and alcohol "but only with animals" [Aug. 4] reveals a callous attitude. Without animals, most of mankind would perish. Using them for experimental purposes is immoral, unethical and a shameful blot on the uncivilized world of today.

Madeline Orillo, President World League for Protection of Animals Sydney, Australia

The Haughty French

The French people are deluding themselves if they believe the drop in tourism is due to the "shrinking American dollar" [Aug. 4]. Rather, it is the haughty attitude of their own people.

What a shame that such a lovely place is inhabited and represented by such snobs!

> Gail Connell Athens, Ga.

Audubon and the Polluters

In reference to "Polluted Portfolios" [Aug. 11], it is true that since 1940 the National Audubon Society has leased land within its Rainey Wildlife Refuge in coastal Louisiana for natural-gas and oil production. We have insisted on meticulous performance by the oil companies, and we have had no spills. The experience has given us enormous advantage in pushing for protective regulations elsewhere. The oil industry or an oily Government cannot brush us off as impractical do-gooders. We know what we are talking about.

In addition, some of our endowment monies have from time to time gone into the stock of companies that pollute and the bonds of municipalities that pollute. Such investments in no way inhibit our support of the enforcement of laws and regulations to control pollution.

Elvis J. Stahr, President National Audubon Society New York City

Equine Exploitation

I was surprised that your story on Ruffian [July 21] contained none of the abuses of racing today.

Thoroughbreds are the most exploited athletes in the world. Owners do not consider the entire anatomy but breed horses for massive chests. Trainers use drugs to keep their mounts on the track and some may medicate to disguise a horse's unsoundness.

If the general public was disturbed Ruffian's case, what would happen if they knew of the "cheap" horses? No effort is made to save them after they are injured.

> Cynthia A. Miller New Cumberland, Pa.

FORUM

Doomsday Dynamite

When the end comes and access roads to Scott Meadows are dynamited, what happens to the members of the Doomsday Club [Aug. 4] who have been delayed en route? If they don't make it inside before the explosion are they refunded their "modest" \$12,500 membership fee?

Margaret Terrien San Rafael, Calif.

Cricket and the CIA

You say that "the goals of the White House are to restore public confidence in the functions of the intelligence agency ..." [Aug. 4]. Well, I find it difficult to locate anyone who lacks the slightest confidence in the working of the CIA. I'm afraid that the doubters are a small. but vociferous group of liberals in the press and Congress who have neglected to remember that this is a nation born of blood, and who think that the maintenance of freedom can be had by the rules of cricket.

> Alex Aaron Reiner Hollywood

I sure as hell hope that the Central Intelligence Agency is a "badly shaken organization." If its "potential to serve the nation" involves illegally opening U.S. mail, spying on college campuses, infiltrating unpopular political groups, aiding and abetting the break-in of a psychiatrist's office, preventing the publication of a book for security reasons. murdering foreign leaders, and having its director lie to the Congress and the American public, then may the CIA forever continue to operate "below its potential.

> Robert S. Tully Washington, D.C.

Months of extravagant, vitriolic criticism, much of it unfounded, have discredited and weakened the CIA at home and abroad. The shield that good intelligence provides for the nation's security in an age of international turmoil has been damaged. The CIA made serious mistakes in the past 28 years, some of them on presidential orders, but mistakes nonetheless. It is easy to prescribe preventive legislative or administrative

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