

The miracle of November 29th

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The morning of the 29th of November. The unimaginable is happening. The Knesset is rushing to convene. Iran's army has gone on high alert and the world's stock markets are crashing. In synagogues, people are reciting psalms. President Obama, who stayed awake to monitor the events, orders aircraft carriers to sail toward the Persian Gulf. Putin is issuing threats.

The prime minister arrives at the Knesset, accompanied by his wife, the president and Haim Katz. He steps up to the podium in a white shirt, without a tie, and launches into a speech without written notes. It is clear that he is speaking from his heart. Without blinking, decisive as usual, Netanyahu makes a short announcement. Getting straight to the point, he declares that several minutes ago Israel submitted to the UN secretary-general a counterproposal to the Palestinian Authority's application for acceptance to the UN as an observer state: Israel is proud to ask the UN, which recognized Israel 65 years ago, to accept Palestine as a full member in the organization.

In his speech, Netanyahu notes that the Israeli move recognizes what is already obvious. Palestine already exists. It already has a flag, a president, a prime minister, an elected legislature, an Olympic delegation, an orchestra, and corruption. Netanyahu says emotionally that he understands that though it might tarry, Palestine will surely come into being. The Palestinian Authority is the most moderate of all the alternatives and after delivering a deadly blow to Hamas and restoring Israel's deterrent power, which Olmert had squandered, the time has come to stretch out a hand in peace. He quotes the prophet Isaiah, Zeev Jabotinsky and Arthur Finkelstein. He recognizes the injustice caused to the Palestinian people by the just Zionist enterprise, and adds that justice is not rectified through injustice and that Israel is determined to reach a solution of two states for two peoples in agreed-upon borders (that is, more or less the 1967 borders).

Netanyahu disagrees with Lieberman's assertion that political terror can be worse than military terror. Netanyahu notes that in his monumental book on terrorism, he was the first to distinguish between military terror and legitimate political activity.

Netanyahu calls upon the Palestinians to challenge Israel at the International Court of Justice in order to examine the legality of the settlements. He praises the court, citing its substantial contribution to the establishment of law in the global jungle, and expresses confidence that this court would stand behind the words of Menachem Begin, who stated: If it is permissible for Jews to settle in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, then it is also permissible for them to settle in Bethlehem, Judea.

At the same hour, Border Patrol forces are being deployed on the Jerusalem-Ramallah road, hanging flags of Israel and Palestine on every tree and pole. The minister of finance releases all of Israel's debt to Palestine. Shimon Peres resigns from the presidency and is appointed Israel's first ambassador in Ramallah. Palestine's embassy in Israel is temporarily set up in the Green House in Sheikh Munis and not in Jerusalem. That's okay, the U.S. Embassy too has yet to move to the capital.

The world is in total shock. New Yorkers are the first to recover from this shock and they change the name of Times Square to Benjamin Square. All of the world's leaders praise Netanyahu's originality, boldness and sense of historical judgment, inherited from his father. Spontaneous celebrations erupt in every city in Europe and young blondes tweet "Bibi, I want to have a baby with you."

Complication: The matter is not completely understood on the Palestinian side. In the casbah of Nablus, they are protesting the Israeli move and demanding that settlements be expanded into Area A. A wave of Hamas supporters demand to be converted to Judaism.

And besides this, I realize that the eternal God of Israel will not deceive, that additional settlements will soon be built in every olive grove, and that the patrons of the hilltop youth and the "price tag" heroes will light the torches on the next Independence Day. At least on the pages of the newspaper it is possible to chase away the despair with hallucinations.

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