

## **GOD, LAND AND BELIEFS IV**

***"This is the darkness before dawn-to construct a viable Iraqi state. We have momentum but the coming 2-5 years will be the crucible and the Iraqi people must overcome fear and come forward and establish their own destiny." So said General Barry McCaffrey in August 2005 after an exhaustive evaluation of our military/civilian policy towards Iraq. A hero of Gulf War One, McCaffrey commanded the 24th Mechanized division leading the flank envelopment around Kuwait crucial to victory. A year later what portends: sectarian violence, security defects and death takes no holiday in this quagmire.***

***Pope Benedict XVI reaches out in Christian-like fashion to Muslims angered over remarks made by an earlier Pope over the use of violence by Muhammad as part of the Islamic mission to reach converts. Christians seem often caught in the middle of the Jew Arab conflict which continues in the Mideast and elsewhere. Cause and effect leans on the Palestine matter.***

***With the tumultuous twenties and thirties done, the moment of truth for the end of the Jewish diaspora came on May 14, 1948 when the State of Israel was announced by Prime Minister David Ben-Gurion - a beginning, certainly, but Arab defiance, threats and violence insured it was not a new beginning but a new dimension which would include wars and on-going conflict.***

***Israel's re-birth in their mind would never have taken place without Chaim Weizmann, President Harry Truman and Joseph Stalin: bedfellows...yes!***

*Abba Eban -to become the voice of the Jewish people at the United Nations- recalls mother's work for the Zionist agency in Britain where she translated Balfour edict into French and Russian for Weizmann He had replaced the deceased Theodor Herzl as the conscience of the Jews of diaspora. Tall, dignified and impressive, Weizmann early on had the ear of President Roosevelt and hoped to work his charm on Truman whose antagonism was growing over constant Jewish pressure. Jewish diaspora and the holocaust through Weizmann's eyes brought the tragedy of the Jews and the Zionist aim for a return to Palestine. Partition as a place for Jews was acceptable. Harry Truman's America and Joseph Stalin's Russia were key supporters of the State of Israel.*

*Truman's support for Israel came despite the vehement objection of his Secretary of State Marshall who believed 'the Jew was stealing the state from its rightful owners, the Arab Palestinians'. Stalin's ploy it was believed was less benevolent and more tied-in with the removal of British influence in the Mid-east. Despite Balfour and Churchillian influence, British support was non-existent as Prime Minister Atlee and his Foreign Secretary Bevin seemingly wished the partition would serve Arab interests rather than Jews.*

*As the day of statehood became official, Israel held the 'joy of birth and the fear of death in a single taste' in Abba Eban's mind. Egyptian aircraft hit Tel Aviv with bombs and Arab armies moved closer to Israel's centers of population. The die was cast for war.*