

## ON REFLECTION

**Body Politic has spoken and we retained the same president but with a different Congress. If he quacks we will know he is a lame duck. Bush told us post 9/11 we would attack the terrorists and those who harbor them. Today we are chasing terrorists in once docile Afghanistan, now with Taliban new birth pangs and Iraq in a never-ending insurgency alive in increasing threats and peril. Those who harbor terrorists by housing, financing, training and inspiring them could include the majority of the Islam mideast as well as elsewhere. The spread like lava flow is ominous. I wait and wonder what will move the new body politic.....and will we fight to win or wither?**

**Analogous is the on-going fight between Arab and Jew with Judea-Christian overtones and Islamic fanaticism or is it just theater for 'freedom fighters'? All of us recall our history when a terrorist could be a freedom fighter(our revolution)and recently when Arab and Jew sought sovereignty from the British. A smaller version of our battle against terrorism in microcosm in Palestine and environs.**

**After Israel showed its mettle inspired by statehood and the victory in its War of Independence, a recognition in the United Nations it knew the die was cast....Islam and the Arab would not rest and reconcile. Irony surfaced when the two whose influence and votes gave Israel statehood faced each other in the Cold War. Something like an international chess game where conflicting ideologies, political and military strategies collided and nuclear war threatened. Mideast strategic locale and oil reserves cried out!**

**Dance macabre went on but the world players changed: gone was Israel's Weizmann, Eisenhower replaced Truman and Stalin died in 1953. Egypt's King Farouk was ousted by Colonel Gamal Abd al Nasser and others...a promise or peril. Aswan was to be the crucible**

**Aswan Dam was conceived to provide irrigation and stimulate economic growth along the Nile to Cairo and Nasser requested aid from the United States while simultaneously dealing with the Soviets. His perfidity cost him US help and among other real or imagined effronteries he threatened to nationalize the Suez Canal. Condemned by Britain and France they moved towards confrontation and Israel worry over Egypt's control of the straits of Tiran(Aqaba) and possible closure of the Suez spoked their action.**

**Conventional war between the Jew and the Arab became euphoria for the former and apathy for the latter. Nasser became the lightning rod for Arab unity as well as ignominy for defeat in the 1956 100 hour war in the Sinai and the Six-day war(1967) where Jerusalem, the West Bank and Sinai fell to the Israelis. United Nations activities with super power aid tended to ameliorate land occupation and other related confrontations. A War of Attrition between Egypt in the Sinai and Syria's Golan Heights sparked the continuing conflicts until the invasion by Egypt across the Suez Canal in 1973. To the Jew it was the Yom Kippur war and the Arab-the October war. The end came in Egypt when its 3rd Army was surrounded by Israeli forces. War saw first use of surface to surface and surface to air missiles. Reality showed the Arab's futility in conventional war.**