

TO WAIT, STRIKE OR ACQUIESCE?

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu beset with a decision of many consequences – a relationship forged in the crucible of war-a real damned if you do or don't criterion leaving one perplexed regardless of the decision or decisions taken. As a Jew he is possessed of memories of the historical plight of the Jewish people and the current dilemma involving Iran's move towards nuclear parity.

His is a great responsibility as any decision real or contemplated is fused with those before him and their example: David of the glory years of Judah and Israel, those moral prophets Isaiah and Jeremiah whose ministry faced Assyrian and Babylonian threats respectively, and others. Diaspora became a way of life for the threatened Jew whose lexicon included faith, family and fortitude and prevailed wherever they roamed only to return via the British Balfour agreement ensuring a place in the Canaan-Palestine lands occupied in part by Philistines –people of the sea. British mandate ended in 1948 provided a place for the Jew as well as the Palestinian. And Ben-Gurion became the first President of Israel-precipitating a war with surrounding Arab states.

The War of Independence was short-lived ending in Israel victory over seven Arab armies when an Egyptian army was surrounded and surrendered in Faluja in the Negev desert. Subsequently wars continued: the 100 hr war in the Sinai in 1956 in which another Egyptian army was defeated and Nasser-led Arab league embarrassed. His take-over of the Suez Canal brought the wrath of the United Nations and President Eisenhower whose action condemned both Israel and Arab states. Again, the Six-day war of 1967 involved a pre-emptive air strike by Israel versus Arab states led to quick capitulation: the prize Jerusalem, the

West Bank, Golan Heights bordering Syria, and the Sinai peninsula. Yom Kippur war in 1973 ended with Egyptian defeat, there.

Thus Netanyahu has much history and success of others to draw from not the least of whom is his late father, Benzion Netanyahu. His father often reminded his sons that Jewish complacency and their embrace of a convenient narrative: “reveals man’s natural reluctance to draw conclusions as to uprooting from a comfortable spot.” German Jews failed to foresee Hitler’s rise to power and likewise failed to see the warning from the Spanish Inquisition against Christians and led to many deaths and their expelling from Spain. Often Jews were included in the rants against the Christians.

Now the son of this scholar (and brother, Yonatan who led the famous successful raid at Entebbe to free hostages of a captured airliner) must decide how seriously to take the anti-Zionist and anti-Semitic rhetoric of the Iran leaders.

At his father’s funeral earlier in the year, Netanyahu , said in eulogy of this man, 102 years, this:

“You always told me that a necessary component for any living body- and a nation is a living body-is the ability to identify a danger in time , a quality lost to our people in exile; to look at reality head-on, to understand what it holds, and come to right conclusion.” .

Ironically, at the annual mourning of Tisha B’av Netanyahu had a visitor, Mitt Romney, who was impressed with the seriousness of the moment and said: “America should always support Israel, and this President equivocates.”

Along with strategic vision, this potential President in his selection of the young fiscal expert, Paul Ryan has set their sights on our moribund economy that cries out for America resurrection.