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YITZHAK RABIN'S OWN CHUTZPAH...

What justification has Yitzhak Rabin for the demand that he be accorded unqualified support by American Jews, on whom he recently poured abuse, because they believe his policies are dangerous and say so? When Mr. Rabin and his party were in opposition it was they who created the precedent of urging the Jews of America to speak out as loudly as possible against the democratically elected government of Israel. Moreover, it was they who set the fashion of lobbying the American government to “persuade” the democratically elected Likud government to ignore their Israeli electorate and implement the policy of the opposition. Mr. Rabin is evidently blind to the mendacity in his pretense of injured innocence.

Mr. Rabin accuses the American Jews of chutzpah because they protest against American money being given to Yasser Arafat. The chutzpah is all Mr. Rabin's. The protesting American Jews do not want their taxes to be used for the strengthening of a terrorist who – incidentally – means to bring about the destruction of Israel. These Americans still recoil at the recollection of that handshake on the White House lawn.

Mr. Rabin criticizes American Jews for not doing enough for *aliya*. True, the paucity of American *aliya* over the years has been disappointing. Mr. Rabin and his colleagues, however, evidently object strongly when Americans who *have* immigrated dare to express opposition to the government's “peace” policy. Their attitude may be exemplified by Foreign Minister Peres' reaction to such dissent. Heckled at a meeting by a woman with an American accent, he told her: “Go back to Brooklyn.”

The American residents of the village of Efrat were the ones who bore the brunt of the brutality of Israeli police when they arrived in force to frustrate the exercise of Efrat's proprietary rights to a nearby hill. There the residents learned how far the government was prepared to go in suppressing dissent.

People who don't send their children to the army, Mr. Rabin says, don't have the right to criticize the policy of the democratically elected government of Israel. This nonsense exposes a much more dangerous element in his policy. The “peace process,” now unfolding as a surrender to Arab control of large areas of the *Jewish* national home and displaying the outlines of a “Palestinian state-to-be,” is being hustled through the Knesset by the votes of members who themselves do not send their children to the army. The Arab citizens, legally by definition, do not send their children to the army because it was decided long ago that they cannot be expected to fight other Arabs.

Supporters of the government who deny that the majority of the Jews in Israel oppose the “peace process” claim that in truth the nation is split “fifty-fifty.” Even if that were true, who could conceive of the possibility that a nation would surrender national (and strategically vital) territory on the basis of a mere majority? It is the essence of democracy that *demand*s an overwhelming majority, not only for any surrender of territory but even for any change in the constitution.

The truth of this is now being proven daily in Israel. Large segments of the nation, indeed clearly a majority, are now convinced that the process is not leading to peace. They recognize in it merely the current “phase,” as conceived by Mr. Arafat, toward the founding of the Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital to boot. The establishment

of that state would not end the process. It has always been seen by the Arabs as the instrument for the fulfillment of the Palestinian covenant: that is, the elimination of the Jewish state.

Mr. Rabin was never given a mandate for anything like the policy he is pursuing. The central demand of the opposition was that he should call new elections and let the people decide. It is the rejection by Mr. Rabin and his government of this most reasonable proposal that has invited the wave of protests and demonstration.

Mr. Rabin, who, by now, surely realizes the scope of the evils over which he presides, is understandably angry with everybody else. So, to the catalogue of victims of his abusive language in Israel – the Golan residents (“propellers”), the Judea-Samaria settlers (“pariah,” etc.) and the Likud opposition (“allies of Hamas,” etc.) – he has now discovered a new target: American Jews.