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Omnipotent West suffers denial syndrome

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PRIME Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's OIC statement that "Jews rule this world by proxy" and "have gained control of the most powerful countries" has attracted strong condemnation in the US, Europe, Australia and Israel.

Zionist anger at such sentiments is unsurprising. Having been the victims of unbelievable savagery at the hands of Europeans for centuries, the Jews are understandably indignant about being painted as violators of human rights, instigators of wars, perpetrators of genocide and puppet-masters of their former oppressors.

After enduring the holocaust they feel that the world must show atonement by giving them a free hand to fulfil their dreams even if in the process, millions of innocent Arab lives are shattered. Anyone who dares to criticise zionist inhumanities must immediately be condemned as "anti-Semitic".

American and European reaction, though camouflaged in moral tones, is actually one of acute embarrassment. Dr Mahathir touched on a subject that is taboo. He fired his darts at an Achilles' heel. He reminded the omnipotent of their impotence in an area in which the Western world suffers conscious denial.

The truth is that the Dr Mahathir is not alone in expressing disquiet at the disproportionate influence that Israel and the international Jewry exert over governments, financial institutions, the media and the academia in the West.

In his book They Dare to Speak Out - People And Institutions Confront Israel's Lobby, Paul Findley, who served as a Congressman from Illinois for 22 years, points out that in Congress and in the White House, in the Pentagon and in the universities, pro-Israeli forces wield remarkable power to suppress free debate, compromise national secrets, shape American foreign policy and undermine careers of those not toeing the Israeli line.

In a recent article, Israel Shamir warns that "a new spectre haunts America. It enters the well-protected boardrooms of newspapers and banks, shakes the deep foundations of its towers.

"Many important and largely unelected people in our country happen to belong to this small minority group. Surely it is just a coincidence that 90 per cent of American foreign aid goes to their cousins in prosperous Tel Aviv.

"Surely it is just a coincidence that they run our newspapers, television, cinema, universities. Anyway we are not allowed to notice this elephant in our sitting room. The silence in America concerning Jews is simply deafening."

Edward Herman and Noam Chomsky, author of Manufacturing Consent also write of the powerful pro-Israel lobby in the United States, which advances Israeli interests by pushing for US aid and protection to Israel, and by pressing for proxy wars, which serve Israeli interests.

This lobby has not only helped control media debate and made Congress into "Israeli-occupied territory", it has seen to it that numerous officials with "dual loyalties" occupy strategic decision-making positions in the Bush administration.

Among these people with dual loyalties are: Vice-President Dick Cheney, his Chief of Staff Lewis Libby, Defence Secretary Donald Rumsfeld, his deputies Paul Wolfowitz, Douglas Feith and Richard Perle (who was once a

paid consultant to Israeli PM Benyamin Netanyahu). At Commerce there is Stuart Eisenstat.

At State Department there is Richard Armitage, John Bolton and David Wurmser (who once worked for Netanyahu). In the White House is Martin Indyk. In the NSC are Elliot Abrams and Anthony Lake.

Other fanatic Israeli supporters in the present or previous administrations are Les Aspin, Madeline Albright, Robert Satloff, former CIA Director James Woolsey and Zalmay Khalilzad.

Many leaders of pro-Israeli pressure groups are embedded on the boards of American newspapers and television stations. The Weekly Standard's editor, William Kristol is chairman of the Jewish Institute for National Security Affairs (Jinsa) and Project for a New American Century (PNAC).

The New Republic's editor-in-chief, Martin Peretz, is on the board of Winep - The Washington Institute for Near East Policy. The US News and World Report's editor-in-chief Martin Zuckerman, is on the board of Winep.

The Wall Street Journal, the New York Post, New York Times, Los Angeles Times and San Francisco Chronicle are, likewise, controlled by prominent Jews.

Winep analyst and associate, Ehud Yaari is with Israeli television. Winep deputy directors Patrick Clauson, Robert Satloff and Michael Eisenstadt are prominent radio and TV personalities in the US.

A nation that prances on the world stage as a defender of freedom, turns a blind eye at Israel's slaughter of refugees in Sabra, Shatilla and Jenin. It condones indiscriminate bombing of Palestinian civilians using Apaches and F16s supplied by the US, murder of stone-throwing children and collective punishment of Palestinians who reside in camps or villages inhabited by leaders of the intifada.

President Bush anoints Ariel Sharon, the Butcher of Beirut and the psychopathic murderer of thousands of innocent refugees in Sabra and Shatila, as a "man of peace". Whether moral bankruptcy or political expediency lies behind this outrageous opinion is a matter of interpretation.

The US colludes with Israel over extra-judicial, targeted killings. In July 2002, Israel bombed a crowded Gaza apartment building to liquidate Hamas leader Salah Shehadeh. The explosion killed 15 civilians and injured 176 others. No one in the US dared describe the attack as a terrorist attack. It was mere "heavy-handed".

In early February 2003, the Forward, a New York-based Jewish weekly, reported that US and Israeli legal experts have met to discuss legal justifications for targeted killings. On Jan 15, UPI intelligence correspondent Richard Sale reported that Mossad has been given permission to carry out targeted killings on US soil. Cheney defended Israel's extra-judicial assassinations as "self-defence".

In the newly inaugurated Department of Homeland Security, the US Government has allowed Israel to operate a full-time office. No other foreign country has a standing office within a department of the US Government.

It is clear that America's and Israel's security policies have many shared objectives - among them the ethnic cleansing of Palestinians from the land of their birth, Israeli annexation of the West Bank and Gaza, cessation of the Oslo process, war against Iraq, Syria and Iran and building of more illegal Israeli settlements on seized land.

If Israel's atrocities are raised at the UN, the US is quick to use its veto. It has vetoed 37 resolutions concerning Palestine and Israel, among them the March 27, 2001 proposal to establish a UN observer force to protect Palestinian civilians.

It is clear that America's Mid-East policy is steered by the Zionist

lobby. Any Congressman, journalist, professor, student activist, public official or clergy who dares to speak critically of Israel is vilified as an anti-Semite and his career undermined.

Uri Avnery, leader of Gush Shalom, an Israeli peace group, has this to say of the power of the Jewish lobby on the American Congress: "Its electoral and financial power casts a long shadow over both houses of the Congress. Hundreds of Senators and Congressmen were elected with the help of Jewish contributions. Resistance to the directives of the Jewish lobby is political suicide. If the AIPAC were to table a resolution abolishing the Ten Commandments, 80 Senators and 300 Congressmen would sign it at once!"

So it doesn't look like Dr Mahathir was too off the mark at the OIC.

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