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U.S. ACTION ANOTHER REASON WHY LOCAL JEWS "FEEL AT HOME"

A Jew was killed by terrorists last week. The American government intercepted his killers. A few weeks earlier, someone placed pipe bombs in front of Jewish places in San Francisco. The government apprehended a suspect./p

It is clear that the Jews of this country will be protected by the government of this country. It is also clear that American Jews will get the same protection as all other citizens. The U.S. started out on a different basis than Europe. In 1776, while Francis Salvador, a Jew, was serving without disability in a provincial congress; and one Myer Meyers was serving as elected president of the gold and silversmiths society (Jewish artisans generally being excluded from European counterparts), Moses Mendelsohn, the intellectual giant of Berlin, was paying a Jewish body tax at the city gate of Dresden in order to be able to enter the city. We don't win all our community points with the U.S. government, but that's generally not because we're Jews but because our logic and power have not won the day. Withal, it's our government as much as anyone's./p

Is that why 97 per cent of the Jews in the San Francisco Bay area, in a recent survey, said that they "feel at home in the United States"? That is only part of the reason. The American interception of the PLO terrorists last week had a greater significance than that./p

The fate, not just of American Jews, but of all of world Jewry critically depends on the United States. Nine out of ten San Francisco area Jews say that "without the U.S., Israel would not survive." In defense terms alone, that statement is true. If U.S. arms aid had not been forthcoming in 1973, disaster probably could not have been averted. But America's military support of Israel is only part of America's importance for Israel./p

America's ultimate importance for world Jewry is suggested by the belief of 82 per cent of San Francisco Jews that "world freedom depends on the U.S." If Jews have learned anything in the past half century, it is that their security is tied directly to political freedom. The equation is simple: only in a free society will Jews be able to survive. (To put it another way, if they don't survive in a free society, it's their own fault.) But the idea of political freedom is under the gun, and will only survive if America survives and maintains an active leadership of the free world./p

Therein, of course, lies the significance of Israel for America. Israel is more than a military ally; Israel represents the free world in the Middle East. If America were ever to allow Israel to be grievously assaulted, the cause of political freedom in the world would be grievously assaulted. Conversely, if America ever lost interest in maintaining a free world, then America's interest in Israel would dwindle drastically./p

The fate of Soviet Jews is also critically tied to America. All analysts have pointed to the evident fact that Soviet Jewish emigration has been mathematically linked to the state of U.S./USSR relations. Soviet Jews will get their freedom only to the extent that

the USSR wants something from the U.S.; and only to the extent that the freedom of Soviet Jews is on the American government agenda. We are pointing this out to American political leaders as they prepare for summit meetings with the Soviets. Four thousand American Jews stood outside the Soviet Consulate at Green and Baker streets last Sunday. Their special strength was that they stood there as American citizens./p

When American planes intercepted the PLO terrorists last week, they were not just doing so on behalf of an American citizen who had been murdered. In this instance, at least, they were demonstrating the determination of the free world (whose hard center seems to be the U.S. and Israel) that it will not lie down and die in the face of terrorism. On both counts the Jews of the world can rejoice./p