9856 Rathburn Avenue Northridge, California 91324 23 November 1974

Editor, Los Angeles Times Times Mirror Square Los Angeles, California 90053

Dear Sir:

Time has prevented my getting to it sooner, but I cannot let your editorial "The General's Appalling Performance" of 14 November pass without comment.

I have no sympathy for General Brown who, whether right or wrong, should know when to keep his mouth shut. However, your comment and the cartoon facing it could well merit a "Q.E.D." stamp from the General since you handle history loosely to support a pro-Israel viewpoint.

United States support for Israel traces back to Roosevelt days and pro-Zionist sentiments expressed for their impact on New York politics. Until recent years domestic politics continued to be the main governing factor behind a shortedighted national policy which assumed that the Arab community would never get organized and constitute a threat to our security. Only in the last very few years have we begun to try to get back to an "even-handed" policy, for which I have noted no vigorous support from any part of the "split" American Jewish community. Domestic political goals are still the main motivation behind such activities as the current push for U.S.S.R. exit permits for jews.

If indeed our Jewish community is "split", it is only over the degree of support, not over whether or not we should support Israel. Israel owes its birth to Haganah(?) and other Jewish terrorist organizations as violent as any PLO faction is today. It started the six day war and apparently has no intention of ever returning most of the territory seized from the Arabs at that time. It has made it quite clear that property seized from individual Palistingans will not be returned. I can recall no statements deploring any of these coming from any part of the "split" American Jewish community.

I have a great deal of admiration for the people of Israel; for what they have accomplished in nation building; for their highly effective armed forces; for their very realistic approach to foreign relations. But I do not see how it can be stated that it is "morally imperative" that the United States support Israel. Having gotten ourselves into a foreign policy hole in the Middle East, we have no choice but to support Israel until we can mend our fences unless we are willing to surrender this vital strategic area to the U.S.S.R., nothing more, strictly pragmatic.

So pray that our efforts can establish true peace, and if that seems not possible, then get ready to editorialize for or against sending United States forces to fight in the Middle East for the population of Israel is too small to run a war against overwhelming numbers and run a nation at the same time.

And what's this about anti-Semitism? Have you forgotten that Arabs are Semites too?