

HERMIT HERALD

VOL 1 ISSUE 56

AUGUST 15, 2020

QUOTE FOR THE DAY:

**“Win - Win - Win - Lose”, Aaron David Miller,
Long time Middle East peace negotiator.**

REALLY BIG NEWS IN THE MIDEAST:

With all our problems and issues at home – pandemic, economy, riots and political posturing in the run up to one of the most divisive elections ever, it’s easy to pay scant attention to the news about The United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Israel agreeing to fully recognize each other. Make no mistake about it, this has the potential to reorder the political-military-security structure of the entire region.

Since Egypt signed a peace agreement with Israel in 1979 and Jordan, in 1994, there has

been no further movement towards rapprochement between Arab nations and Israel. Mr. Miller's above quote refers to the fact that this action is a win for Israel, a win for the UAE and a win for the U.S. and the Administration, which gets much credit as a mediator. The "Lose" portion of the quote refers to how the Palestinians view the agreement, as their hope has always been that the Arab world would stand in their support and would reject any ties with Israel.

I don't think it will wind up as a negative for the Palestinians due to the fact that the major pre condition of the UAE-Israeli agreement is that Israel will forego annexation of the West Bank, territory, which has been considered as a locus for Palestinians in a potential two state solution to their territorial objectives. Had the Israelis annexed the West Bank, that door would have been closed.

A brief review of Muslim history is warranted to help understand why this new agreement is so important.

85 to 90% of the world's Muslims are Sunnis who have had contentious and frequent military conflicts with Shias for 1,400 years dating to the death of Mohammed in 632. After Mohammed died, his close advisor and friend, Abu Bakr, was declared to be the rightful successor by those who were Sunnis. Mohammed's cousin and son-in-law, Ali, was said to be chosen by Allah, and followed as Muslim's leader by the Shias.

Today, Sunni controlled countries in the Mid East are: Jordan, Egypt, UAE, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Turkey, Oman and Bahrain. Bahrain is an anomaly because its population is Shia in the majority, but it is ruled by the Sunni house of Khalifa.

Shia controlled countries are Iran, a constant source of regional destabilization, and the always problematic, Iraq.

Middle East experts are confident that other countries will soon follow suit in recognizing Israel. Those most prominently mentioned are Oman and Bahrain. Saudi Arabia is an interesting case, in that Mohammed bin

Salman, the de facto leader, seems to lean in that direction, but must move with caution as the ultra conservative Wahabi influence is still very strong in the Kingdom. Even though it may still be some time before Saudi Arabia follows suit with the UAE, the very close ties between Saudi Arabia and the U.S. should ensure a peaceful relationship between Saudi Arabia and Israel.

The bottom line is that Israel finds itself with more friends and Iran becomes ever more isolated; a hopeful trend in what has been one of the world's most worrisome trouble spots.

JUSTICE IN PORTLAND, OREGON:

In Issue 52 I informed our readers about the views of Cat Brooks, a racial justice organizer and her interesting take on, "justice". "I don't consider property destruction violence. Violence is when you attack another living, breathing creature on this planet. Windows don't cry and they can't die."

Well, turns out District Attorney, Mike Schmidt, in Portland, has been drinking Ms.

Brooks' Cool Aide, as he has decided not to prosecute most of the 500 people arrested in conjunction with the violent clashes with law enforcement during the protests, supposedly in support of Black Lives Matter. Black led groups who had other peaceful protests in Portland complained that the mostly white rioters were high- jacking BLM. I would contend that the rioters used BLM as cover for anti government anti authority hatred. I refer the readers also to that part of Issue 52 where I made note of Oregon's well-established racist history. What a reawakening if the rioters have indeed changed their spots so quickly. Much more likely, however, that the rioters are living up to their self-admired logo, "Keep Portland Weird."

Folks, go to U Tube and look at the damage to the Mark Hatfield Building- unbelievable! DA Schmidt is saying things like, "I won't prosecute those who reimburse for the damage they did. Oh boy, this is going to be a challenge. "Did you use one or six cans of spray paint?" Did you attack the store with a hammer or sledge- hammer? What is the DA thinking?

He just threw the Criminal Code out the window. And those comments relate just to property damage (no violence there according to Ms. Brooks) But, what about the numerous assaults on law enforcement officers? Terrible!

QANON:

Where did these guys come from? As Bill Kristol, the conservative, points out, “There have always been extreme outliers in both parties of Congress whose influence is diluted by more moderate voices over time.”

But, how embarrassing to find these people on the fringe of anyone’s political spectrum. No question that some of their political views resonate with conservatives- they’re pro police for one and one of their major platforms focuses on anti-trafficking efforts – so what’s the problem with that? To energize their base these are the folks who came up with, “Pizzagate” or “Pedogate”, “a global conspiracy involving a ring of Satan-worshipping, child-molesting criminals led by prominent Democrats.” This was back when Hillary Clinton was running for president and the

QAnons wanted you to know that Clinton and her cronies “were kidnapping and eating children- yes eating them in, order to harvest a life-extending chemical from their blood.” I mean, to make that up is so unbelievable, but then to have people pass it along because they believe it- wow! They all need a lengthy stay at Creedmoor (for you non New Yorkers) a big dark red brick building with bars on the windows, locked doors, and where a nice man in a white coat comes around twice a day with your pills.

QAnon has jumped in on the hashtag, #Save the Children. A researcher who has studied QAnon’s social media presence notes, “Everyone agrees that child trafficking is very bad and the argument QAnon makes is, ‘if you’re against us talking about this, you’re in favor of child trafficking’”.

This article goes on to say, “The QAnon strategy of pushing some unobjectionable, often factual content about human trafficking in addition to wild conspiracy theories has blurred the lines between legitimate anti trafficking activism and partisan conspiracy

mongering. Recently some activists have marched in cities around the country demanding an end to child exploitation. Among them were QAnon believers toting signs with messages like, 'Hollywood eats babies.'"

Moderate Republicans are distressed over the potential harm to the party's image - no kidding! And it looks like QAnon is about to get their first member of Congress, Marjorie Taylor Greene from Georgia.

RAP NO MORE, MY MAN:

To show how out of it your scribe is, I saw an article on R. Kelly today. I thought he might have something to do with rap music, but he's so famous the article didn't even say what he does.

Turns out that Kelly is a Harvey Weinstein wannabe with a zillion allegations of sexual assault. The legal system is closing in on him and he could be headed for the lock up. His close friends have a keen interest in

discouraging witnesses from testifying against him.

One of his accusers reports having received an offer of \$500,000 to essentially say, “I was mistaken, it was all consensual.”

Then, there was the witness- tampering allegation, which took place in Florida in June. The car of an important witness “spontaneously” burst into flame in her driveway – I don’t think so. Arson investigators obtained a search warrant for anyone who had used Google to search for the woman’s address close to the time of the fire and, voila, up comes the name of a Mr. Williams, former publicist for Mr. Kelly- Oops! And, guess what? Cell phone location data showed that Williams had driven from Valdosta, GA to the location of the witness. I was amazed by this information as the article reads as though this was all discovered through tech sources and not through possession of Mr. Williams’ computer or cell phone.

In any event, looks like the only rapping in R. Kelly’s future will be his knuckles on the bars of his prison cell.

Your faithful scribe, PB