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Henri Temianka Correspondence; (cranston)

Alan Cranston

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Description

This collection contains material pertaining to the life, career, and activities of Henri Temianka, violin virtuoso, conductor, music teacher, and author. Materials include correspondence, concert programs and flyers, music scores, photographs, and books.

Keywords

Henri Temianka, Alan Cranston, January 15, 1976, virtuosity in musical performance, culture, violinist, violin, chamber music, camaraderie, concert tour, race, President Gerald Ford

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

January 15, 1976

Mr. Henri Temianka 2915 Patricia Avenue Los Angeles, California 90064

Dear Mr. Temianka,

I share your outrage over the vote in the United Nations General Assembly equating Zionism with racism. It was a detestable attempt to discredit Israel and to legitimize anti-Semitism.

Besides being anti-Semitic and anti-Israel, the vote was anti-democratic as well. Most of the 72 governments voting against Israel are among the world's worst offenders of human rights. The vote reinforces my belief that the survival of Israel, a spirited democracy, must be guaranteed by continued strong U.S. economic and military aid. And I intend to do what I can to see that Israel's needs are met.

Actually, the 72 votes cast for the resolution barely accounted for half of the 142 member General Assembly, not the large majority they seemed to be at first glance. Moreover, the Assembly is merely the soap-box of the world where every nation, regardless of size or credibility, has an equal vote -- and an equally loud voice.

I agree with President Ford and Ambassador Moynihan that our response should not be to walk out of the U.N., but to stay and fight. And that's exactly what Israel intends to do. U.S. retaliation against the U.N. would be only short-sighted and self-defeating. Twelve members of Israel's legislature -- the Knesset -- on a recent visit to Washington, urged the U.S. to stay in the U.N. They urged us not to destroy it, but to continue to participate and to seek to make it work.

For all its defects, the U.N. is the first, universal instrument mankind has ever had. And it arrived on the world scene just as so many of our problems were becoming world-wide in scope.

Back in 1971, I launched a bipartisan effort for a coalition of 63 Senators to get the U.N. to reform and modernize its Charter. We have a long way yet to go. I intend to keep working toward restructuring the U.N. to make it more effective as a force for freedom and peace. Upcoming Senate hearings on the United Nations will provide the forum through which we can explore this question.

The democracies of the world, now few in number, must work with Israel to promote the moral principles enunciated in the U.N. Charter. By exhibiting in peace the same shoulder-to-shoulder strength that democracies demonstrate in war, we could bring about a new era of human progress. The anti-Zionist resolution may turn out to be the catalyst for just such a development.

Thanks for taking the time to let me know we agree on the infamous vote declaring Zionism a form of racism.

Alan Cranston