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## Henri Temianka Correspondence; (lte)

Henri Temianka

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## Henri Temianka Correspondence; (Ite)

### 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, culture, virtuosity in musical performance, violinist, chamber music, camaraderie, press, October 23, 1990

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Dear Sir or Madam:

Strobe Talbott's attempt to draw a parallel between Israel and Iraq ("How Israel is Like Iraq") is a cynical ploy to confuse the reader.

1. Tragic as is the killing of about 20 Palestinians by the Israeli police, there is a world of difference between this one incident and the barbarous extermination of countless thousands of his own countrymen with nerve and mustard gas by Saddam Hussein.
2. Israel is an open democracy, where every journalist can and does poke his nose to obtain all the facts, in contrast to Iraq, a police state in which men are publicly hanged for a careless remark.
3. Saddam Hussein attacked and invaded Kuwait without provocation. Israel only captured the West Bank in response to Jordan's 1967 invasion. To the victor belong the spoils. Until the Arab countries recognize Israel's right to exist, Israel is fully entitled to defend itself by holding on to the conquered territories.

Yours sincerely,

Henri Temianka

HT/bg

which it would send troops to fight against Iraq. But such an integrated international force might be very clumsy and time-consuming to set up. Article 39 might also be invoked, although at the possible cost of Soviet participation. This provision permits the Security Council to make "recommendations" to member states on how to restore peace; the recommendation could simply be to coordinate military action with the U.S.

Then there is Capitol Hill. The pace of modern warfare has rendered declarations of war obsolete, and the War Powers Act of 1973 has become a virtual dead letter. Every President since its passage has denounced it as an unconstitutional infringement on his powers as Commander in Chief, and the courts have refused to enforce its key provision, which requires the President within 60 days to pull U.S. forces out of any situation in which hostilities seem imminent unless the legislature votes to let them stay.

The House and Senate have adopted separate resolutions endorsing all the actions that Bush has taken so far, but making clear—or so the framers claimed—that they did not confer any advance approval of a decision to fight. There has been talk of a resolution providing that Bush could order war only with the specific approval of the U.N., but nobody has introduced such a resolution yet. Senate Armed Services Committee chairman Sam Nunn observes that Congress's real power is the ability to shut off funds for a war. That seems theoretical, to put it mildly; can anyone seriously imagine Congress refusing American troops the money to buy the ammunition to return enemy fire?

One of the weaknesses of the War Powers Act is that it fails to specify who should be consulted or exactly when (Ronald Reagan informed Capitol Hill leaders of the impending U.S. air strike on Libya in 1986 only after the bombers were in the air and nearing their targets). Nunn would remedy that by setting up a bipartisan group that the President would be required to consult with regularly, including times when Congress is not in session. That provision could be important; the most widely repeated war scenario on the Washington rumor circuit calls for fighting to begin in mid-November—during the adjournment.

None of this might matter greatly if a war follows the quick-knockout script sketched by some Air Force enthusiasts. In the politics of war, as in other matters, nothing succeeds like success. Even then, however, the U.S. would need the support of its world coalition to shape a durable peace. And at home one need only mention the word Vietnam to underscore the importance of congressional and popular support. Unfortunately, the scenarios for fighting a war seem to have been far more carefully drawn and fully thought out than the scripts for justifying the decision.

—Reported by Michael Duffy and Bruce van Voorst/Washington

## America Abroad

Strobe Talbott

# How Israel Is Like Iraq

To hear Saddam Hussein tell it, he and the leaders of Israel are involved in similar altercations with the United Nations over real estate. In most respects, the comparison is as invalid as it is invidious. Most, but alas, not all.

Israel's occupation of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip began 23 years ago quite differently from Iraq's annexation of Kuwait in August. Jordan attacked Israel and forfeited the West Bank. A series of Labor-led governments held on to the territory for two defensible reasons: as a buffer against another Arab onslaught and for bargaining leverage in negotiations.

But once the Likud bloc came into dominance in the late '70s, an additional motive that had been lurking on the fringes of Israeli politics moved front and center: irredentism—one state's claim, rooted in history, to the land of another. So Israel's policy today does indeed have something in common with Iraq's. Saddam says that since Kuwait and Iraq were part of the same province under the control of the Ottoman Turks, they

should be rejoined now. For their part, many Likud leaders believe that since the West Bank was ruled by Israelites in biblical times, not one square inch should be traded away as part of an Arab-Israeli settlement. Yitzhak Shamir's talk of "Greater Israel" is as ominous for the prospects of there ever being real and lasting peace in the region as Saddam's militant nostalgia for Nebuchadnezzar's Babylonian empire.

The original case of irredentism, the desire of Italian nationalists to seize lands governed by Austria—*Italia irredenta*, or unredeemed Italy—was a complicating factor in World War I. Nor does the trouble necessarily end when irredentists achieve their goals. Tibet, after centuries under the sway of China, declared complete independence in 1913, only to be invaded by Chinese troops in 1951. Largely as a result, India and China fought a border war in 1962.



RICHI ROSEN—SABA FOR TIME

Temple Mount aftermath: handprints stained with blood at the al-Aqsa Mosque

Even when irredentism does not lead to open conflict between countries, it tends to cause misery and injustice within them. The occupying powers are so intent on righting old wrongs done to their ancestors that they commit new wrongs against the people now living in the disputed territory.

Only in the Middle East would a nation's most notorious warrior become—all too enthusiastically, it seems—Minister of Housing. Ariel Sharon has an apparent mandate to treat zoning as the conduct of war by other means. He is busily creating "new facts," in the form of Jewish settlements, on the West Bank. Saddam too is in the new-facts business with his systematic obliteration of Kuwaiti nationhood.

To be sure, Saddam's methods are far more ruthless than Sharon's, but Israel's human and political dilemma is more acute than Iraq's. Because Israel is, in origin and essence, a Jewish state, most Arab residents are never going to feel that it is truly their country. That problem is vexing enough within Israel's pre-1967 borders, where the population is 82% Jewish. But on the West Bank and Gaza Strip, 1.7 million Palestinians constitute an overwhelming majority that will feel forever oppressed, forever cheated, never reconciled, never redeemed.

The one-sidedness of the carnage on the Temple Mount two weeks ago—19 Arabs dead—bespeaks a state of affairs that brutalizes all concerned. For now the Palestinians are the principal victims. But in the long run, the casualties of Likud irredentism will include David Ben-Gurion's ideal of Israel as "a light unto the nations," perhaps even the viability and credibility of Israel's democracy, and certainly its support from the rest of the world.