



## Reopening of Suez should include Israel

Eight years ago, 15 ships had the misfortune to be midway through the Suez Canal when the Arabs and Israelis decided to engage in military fisticuffs. The war lasted only seven days. The ships have been trapped there ever since, manned by skeleton crews and awaiting the reopening of the canal.

It appears that the political barriers at last have been removed, even if the mines lining the canal have not. Egyptian President Anwar Sadat has announced that the canal would reopen June 5, that work, and the hiring of 11,500 persons to run the canal, is progressing and should be completed on time.

The question is now who will be allowed to use the waterway. The Arabic-language version of *Time* last week quoted Sadat as saying Egypt would, under the Convention of Constantinople (1888), deny ships carrying Israel-bound cargo to use the canal as long as a state of war continues between Israel and Egypt. The statement is puzzling since the convention, which neither Egypt nor the United States signed, guarantees for all time the freedom of all nations to use the canal in peace and war.

In the English-language version, Sadat is quoted as saying Israel-bound cargo would be allowed to pass through.

This is not the first time the canal has been closed. In 1956 then-President Gamal Abdel Nasser ordered the canal closed after Britain and France took military action against Egypt for its nationalization of the canal. Nor would it be the first time Israel was denied use of the canal. That happened in 1951 despite a United Nations resolution discouraging the action.

Egypt, then, apparently is considering access to the canal as something that will be surrendered to the Israelis over the bargaining table in return for a concession to its advantage.

The sad part is that reopening the canal to shipping is something the Egyptians should be more than happy to do without demanding any concessions. Before the war closed the canal in 1967, Egypt was expected to earn more than \$230 million in toll rates. Egyptian newspapers have been predicting that the new toll rates will be 100 per cent higher.

If Egypt does deny nations the right to use the canal because of political reasons, the United Nations should try once again to enforce compliance with the principles of the Convention of Constantinople.

Wes Albers

## Chinese land CIA in soup

Our good Russian friends have warned us of a Chinese plot so devilishly fiendish as to boggle the most Machiavellian mind.

Moskovsky Komsomolets, the Moscow Communist youth publication, says the People's Republic of China has established a worldwide spy network in Chinese restaurants—thus compelling our CIA agents to "spend their time chewing Bombay duck and gulping birds' nest soup while trying to determine which waiter is being used by Peking for illegal activities."

And the diabolical plot, it can now be revealed, succeeded all too well!

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"I was the one who finally broke the case," admitted former CIA agent Homer T. Pettibone, a wan and pallid ghost of his former self. "It was in 1960 that we first learned of this worldwide spy ring. 'It must be destroyed at all costs,' said the Chief grimly.

"But do you have any idea how many Chinese restaurants there are? Our top 19,642 agents were assigned to the case. For 15 long years I ate in a different Chinese restaurant every night, trying to determine which waiter was being used by Peking for illegal activities. But they all looked... No, I won't say it!

"At last, on the night of April 1, I struck pay dirt in the Wat Dat Chinese Cuisine (Booths for Ladies) Bar & Grill in Des Moines.

"My suspicions were aroused by the waiter's first words. They were neither, 'Order?' or 'What you want, Mac? They were 'May I suggest the Bombay duck and birds' nest soup?'"

"I observed him closely. The fact that he was wearing a trench coat with grenade hooks and a snap-brimmed fedora struck me immediately.

Nor did I fail to note that he repeatedly asked me to 'speak directly into the won ton' and brought me egg rolls, even though there was only one of me.

"But what clinched it was the fortune cookie, which said, 'You are a woman of mature beauty and how would you like to sell me the plans to the B-1 bomber or the Big Mac?'"

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I arrested him on the spot. After a week of intensive questioning (we have ways) he cracked.

arthur hoppe

## innocent bystander

"And what had he learned? I learned," he said, "that Americans never know how many dishes to order and it was always better last time."

"Then you failed!" I cried triumphantly. "And how went your Bay of Pigs?" he said smugly. "Is Castro still alive? Who's winning in Vietnam? How...?"

"You mean the whole purpose of your world-wide spy ring..." I said, blanching. He nodded. "It was," he said, cackling victoriously, "to compel you CIA agents to spend your time chewing Bombay duck and gulping birds' nest soup while Communism conquered the world!"

Poor Pettibone! He has since defected to Jack-in-the-Box. And all he mumbles is, "I'll steal the plans to the B-1 bomber from McDonald's or my name isn't... isn't..."

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