# commentary from other pens... **Powell deals rare** censure to Israel

#### By Barry Schweid

AP Diplomatic Writer

WASHINGTON — In the Middle East, where words are weighed carefully, Secretary of State Colin Powell's criticism of Israel for an "excessive and disproportionate" response to Palestinian attacks is likely to be viewed as a watershed event.

For three months, the Bush administration has been exceptionally sympathetic and supportive of Israel as it tries to cope with a renewed Palestinian uprising and refuses to resume negotiations under attack.

Symbolically, perhaps, Prime Minister Ariel Sharon was the first Middle East leader invited to the White House by President Bush. Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat, hosted frequently by former President Clinton, has not been invited.

The signal to Arafat is he must do more to end the violence.

Sharon was followed to the White House by the president of Egypt and the king of Jordan. Next week the president of Lebanon will come.

On the face of it, Powell's statement was not all that unusual. It included a familiar appeal to both sides to exercise restraint. It blamed the Palestinians for provoking the latest flurry of fighting.

A day earlier, the State Department blamed Lebanese Hezbollah guerrillas for triggering an attack on Syrian-run radar in Lebanon.

But criticism of Israel by the Bush administration is unusual, and it might be taken as a message the tilt toward Jerusalem is being corrected. Samuel Lewis, who was U.S. ambassador to Israel from 1977 to 1985,

doesn't find Powell's statement all that surprising.

The Bush administration has to "keep its credibility with other governments and with the Arabs," and there is no way even a pro-Israel administration can avoid it, Lewis said in an interview.

There is basic sympathy for Israel in every U.S. administration, and Sharon has been "holding back" in responding to escalating Palestinian attacks, thereby "giving Arafat a chance to knock it off," Lewis said.

But with Arafat and his colleagues turning up the heat, it was inevitable Sharon would hit back hard — and that, in Lewis's view, prompted Powell's statement.

Sandy Berger, the national security adviser to President Clinton, found Powell's statement appropriate and said he was glad to see the Bush administration weighing in.

On the peacemaking front, it is essential to lower U.S. sights amid the violence, Berger said. "No one in his right mind could be thinking of a comprehensive settlement" at this point, he said.

But, he said, "it remains critical the United States remain engaged." The Bush administration has been exhorting Arafat and the Palestinians to restore order.

But Christopher Ross, U.S. ambassador to Syria from 1991 to 1998, said that does little good "without at the same time addressing Israeli actions that contribute to an atmosphere of tensions."

The retired diplomat said the Bush administration tried "to remove itself one step from the situation." But the Middle East is a vitally important region, he said, and "we cannot ignore it. Unless we are more active, events will force themselves on us.<sup>2</sup>

The Bush administration's approach has been somewhat different. Arafat's rejection last year of Israel's offer of statehood, control over part of Jerusalem and at least 92 percent of the West Bank plus Gaza contributed both to Sharon's landslide election and to a growing feel-

ing that a limit had been reached on what Israel could reasonably give. Bush is not inclined to micromanage peacemaking in the Middle East. What other presidents have said, Bush evidently truly believes: Peace-

making is up to the parties in conflict. Powell's statement, it should be noted, did not challenge Israel's right

to self-defense — only the force Israel used and its temporary

We are entering a time of the year that causes mixed feelings. We are excited as we embark on all the joy of summertime activities. However, I received a letter from someone that is viewing these activities, not with joyful anticipation, but with dread and fear.

Because, I know that there are countless of you with the same feelings I want to share this letter with you.

Dear Sally,

"I have been reading "Freedom in Eating" for quite some time now. I love the column and my whole family loves the recipes. I have done really well with my weight-loss. I have nearly lost 20 pounds and feel much better. I am in my thirties and have a very active husband and two active sons

They have all ganged up on me and decided that we needed to go to the beach for vacation. I really didn't put up much of a fight. I thought with my weight loss and my new attitude that this would be the year.

The closer I get the more scared I get. Sally, I am still over 100 pounds overweight and look awful in a swimming suit. Please help me to feel better about this trip. I don't want my attitude to spoil the fun for my whole family. I also don't want my obsession for food to return."

Boy, can I identify with this gal. I also had two sons and an active husband. I shudder at the times I spoiled the fun for my family. I found out later that, most of the time, they would have wanted me to join in with the fun, rather than remain on the sidelines complaining or hiding.



ALL I WANT IS TO SETTLE BACK & WATCH NON-REALITY TV.

ily. Tell them your fears, but don't let it stop there. Tell them you need their help to make this a fun time for all of you. I am sure that once they know of your feelings they will love feeling they are a part of the solution.

Just keep your mind on your new freedom and don't let food be the center of this trip for you. Make it a fun challenge and guard against the "poor me" thoughts. I truly believe this is going to be the best trip ever for you and your family. Please let us know how it goes.

This is a great opportunity to discuss some other summertime activities such as cookouts, picnics, and ball games. One thing that goes with all these activities is watermelon.

I know we may be a little early but cut this column out and save it for watermelon season. It won't be long.

I have always encouraged the eating of watermelons. They are good natural diuretics and they are so refreshing. I like to keep them cut up in the fridge all the time. Recently, I heard of the things to look for to assure that you are buying a good one. I want to pass these little jewels on to you. They work!

Make sure to look for one that is symmetrical, My advice to you dear, is to talk with your fam- equal on both sides. Look for yellow, not white on gosally@netwest.com

the bottom. Run fingernails over the melon. You want some of it to come off. Look at the stem end, You want a hole; this means that it fell off the stem and wasn't taken off before it was time. Look for black sugar collected on the end.

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Hold the melon with one hand on the bottom. Hit it open-handed on top. If you feel a vibration on the bottom it is fully ripe. I think you will find more success with this method than thumping. I never did know what a good watermelon should sound like. I just did it because every one else did.

Here is a good summer salad that was turned in to us by Beth. I can't wait to try it. This is a colorful way to serve health to your family or guests this summer. We have no amounts on this one. Just do it according to your own taste.

#### **Brilliance in a Bowl**

- Red and Green grapes
- Red and green apples
- Red and green pears Bananas
  - Walnuts (optional)
  - No-fat yogurt and honey.

Prepare all the fruit in a bowl. Mix yogurt and honey and pour over fruit toss and chill.

We want to offer readers, my entire weight-loss plan and our ever-popular recipe book. These two items will give you all you need to know about eating healthy. You will see just what I did to lose my weight and it can also work for you. Just send us your address along

with \$20.00 to Sally Mosier at 400 10th. St., Canyon, Texas 79015.

E-mail me at <mailto:gosally@netwest.com>-



reoccupation of a sliver of the Gaza Strip. EDITOR'S NOTE — Barry Schweid has covered U.S. diplomacy in the Middle East for The Associated Press since 1973.

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## Competent workers increase unemployment

We seem to have cycles of unemployment that occur in our economy, and everybody has his own theory about that, so here's mine. I think that the amount of unemployment in any geographic area or market sector is directly related to the competence of the work force in that area or sector. The more competent the work force, the higher the unemployment. When you have highly skilled, motivated employees, they will do the work of three or four average people. The moment your company hires anybody who is any good at their job, layoffs are just around the corner.

I'm not saying competence is a bad thing, but you really want to hold it in check until we reach zero unemployment. The hard-working skilled employees may be the ones who make the business profitable, but it's the useless, lazy ones who create the job opportunities.

#### **DEMANDING AN ARGUMENT**

I was watching a golf tournament recently, and the commentator said one of the golfers was "arguably" the best putter on the European tour. Now that word "arguably" puzzles me. I know that it means other people will disagree, but how vehemently? I guess it depends on the statement.

If I said Sophia Loren is arguably the most beautiful woman of the 20th century, there might be some mild grumbling from someone. On the other hand, if I said I am arguably the most virile stud in North America, that could lead to a nuclear holocaust.

But in most cases, the word "arguably" removes all meaning from statements, making it impossible for anyone to take offense. This seems like an excellent tactic when talking to one's wife. "My behavior at the party last night was arguably very amusing." Or "Purchasing that amphibious car was arguably pretty smart." Or "I arguably look good in these spandex pants."

I say the word "arguably" removes the whole purpose of saying anything. Please stop using it immediately. You must admit, that's arguably an extremely valid point.

#### THE BALD AND THE BEAUTIFUL

After you've lived with male pattern baldness for a while, you need something to feel good about. So instead of denying that you're bald, it's emotionally healthier to identify degrees of baldness and realize that you're not nearly as bald as you could be. For all the men out there who have some idea of what I'm talking about, here are the stages of baldness.

- Stage One: Your hairbrush starts to look like



a hamster.

Stage Two: Your scalp gets sunburned.

- Stage Three: Your barber holds the mirror at an odd angle, trying to hide the truth.

- Stage Four: You start paying more attention during the Hair Club ads.

-Stage Five: You pick a new hairstyle that gives you more coverage.

-Stage Six: For your birthday, everybody buys you hats.

comb your hair with your hand.

- Stage Eight: You grow a beard in an attempt to sustain a head that's 50 percent hair.

-Stage Nine: You give up on your hair and concentrate on your personality.

-Stage Ten: You give up on your personality and hang out with other boring bald guys. YOU'VE STILL GOT IT

They say that most men love competition, but I disagree. I don't think we like to compete. I think we like to win. The problem with competing and then losing is that, as this pattern repeats itself, you find yourself with no confidence and then you stop trying and pretty soon you have a government job and that's the end of you. So it's very important for your psyche to be able to beat somebody at something. I suggest you find a really fat guy and challenge him to a foot race, Just make sure he's not a Sumo.

Quote of the Day: "There's nothing more presumptuous than an atheist playing God." - Red Green

Red Green is the star of "The Red Green Show," a television series seen in the U.S. on PBS and in Canada on the CBC Network, and the author of "The Red Green Book" and "Red Green Talks Cars: A Love Story."

