John Kerry’s Lost Stand and the Betrayal of Israel

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No one would normally care about John Kerry droning on over his fruitless Mideast peace efforts for more than an hour before a captive audience in the State Department auditorium with 23 days remaining in his weak tenure as secretary of state.

But care we do because of the duplicity of him and President Obama in allowing Israel to be officially pilloried at the UN Security Council last week by letting an anti-Israel resolution pass 14 to none. A veto was needed, but Obama and Kerry shamefully told U.S. Ambassador to the UN Samantha Power to stand aside.

Why? Because even though they call Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu by his nickname, Bibi, they don’t like him and blame him for their failures — and used the UN resolution attacking all Israeli building on the disputed West Bank, including the Jewish Quarter of Jerusalem, as a weapon.

Rather than blame decades of Arab and Palestinian refusal to recognize the Jewish state — a vibrant democracy amid a sea of tyranny and a long settled matter of international law enshrined by the United Nations — Obama and Kerry blame Netanyahu.

Rather than blame decades of Arab and Palestinian wars and terrorism, Obama and Kerry blame Netanyahu.

Rather than blame Hamas for creating a terror state imprisoning nearly 2 million Palestinians in Gaza, Obama and Kerry blame Netanyahu.

Rather than blame Palestinian Authority and West Bank boss Abu Mazen for ducking direct talks, Obama and Kerry blame Netanyahu.

And so Obama and Kerry took it out on Netanyahu by ordering Power to let the resolution pass. A justly furious Netanyahu says he has proof that the U.S. wasn’t just a bystander, but organized the get-Israel gang while claiming clean hands. That has the ring of truth. The incoming team of President-elect Donald Trump, with a greater respect for Israel as an ally and recognition of the UN as a bunch of do-nothing gasbags, will have to repair the damage.

Kerry’s lengthy speech was really about Kerry, who used the word “I” 48 times and “my” 10 times.

He is a vain character, who despite having the initials JFK and the hair is never going to be President (darn that Ohio). He’s never going to get a Nobel Peace Prize (although Obama’s prize doesn’t seem to be worth much). And he is never going to go down as a great secretary of state.

But in his conceit, he still thinks he knows best and wanted to show the world how smart he is.

Displaying real expert knowledge of all the complex issues and the even more complex sub-issues, Kerry used what we hope was his valedictory to try explaining why Mideast peace has not taken hold. He said he didn’t want to block last week’s UN resolution because he wanted to save the dream of Israel and because the settlements are an obstacle to peace.

Wrong. The obstacle to peace is — and has already been — that the Palestinians won’t sit at the peace table with Israel and make a permanent deal on land (and settlements), on Jerusalem, on everything.

Kerry said that America has always stood by Israel from the time when “the United States recognized Israel seven minutes after its creation,” citing Harry Truman’s historic action.

He didn’t say that Truman had rejected the insistent advice of Secretary of State George Marshall, the commanding five-star general of World War II who would later earn a Nobel Peace Prize for the Marshall Plan to rebuild Europe. Truman was right and Marshall was wrong on recognizing Israel.

Kerry is no Truman, and he is no Marshall, and thankfully he’ll be gone in three weeks.