

# Why Would Anyone Expect 'Truth, Accuracy, and Fairness' from Barack Obama?

by Hugh Fitzgerald



Barack Obama describes Israel as having “engaged in a succession of conflicts with its Arab neighbors.” He never describes the run-up to the Six-Day War, in which Egypt’s Nasser, having decided that his forces were now ready to take on the Zionists, had the U.N. peacekeeping troops removed by U Thant, declared a blockade of Israeli shipping in the Straits of Tiran, moved 100,000 Egyptian troops into the Sinai and then toward the border with Israel, while Syrian forces in the north were deployed, ready to attack Israel whenever Egypt gave the word. He fails to mention Nasser’s bellicose speeches, predicting the destruction of the Jewish state, which he gave to huge and hysterical Cairene crowds. We are left to believe that because Israel struck first, it “started the war” – when the war really started in mid-May, when Nasser first moved his troops into the Sinai and then northward toward Israel.

After the Six-Day War, Israel did make an offer to withdraw to the pre-1967 lines – that is, the 1949 armistice lines – in exchange for peace. The Arabs were having none of it. At Khartoum, the Arab League unanimously adopted the policy of “Three No’s”: no peace with Israel, no recognition of Israel, no negotiations with Israel.” Neither Israel’s spectacular offer – what other country, having won a war of survival thrust upon it, has ever offered to at once give back every inch of territory it took in that conflict? – nor the Arabs’ spectacular refusal to even consider a possible peace, or even

negotiations, with the Jewish state, is mentioned by Obama.  
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