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The "Wright" Policy

Herbert Zweibon

Barack Obama has hit the ground running with his Middle East policy and it promises to be as catastrophic as the most pessimistic feared. The new President's first phone call to a foreign leader was to the Palestinian Authority's Mahmoud Abbas and within the first few weeks, despite pressing domestic economic problems, the Obama administration had set the stage and tone for sharply stepped-up pressures on Israel and appeasement of her most dangerous enemies.

At first glance it might seem that Obama is merely engaged in compulsive repetition of the same old policies whose repeated failure only seems to prod each new Sisyphus to attempt to roll the stone up the hill once more. He has even sent former Senator George Mitchell—the very same person who was sent by then President Clinton in December 2000 on exactly the same errand—to jolt to life the so-called peace process.

But in fact Obama is clearly shifting to an outright European-style policy of appeasing Israel's enemies at her expense. Apparently his years in the pews of the Reverend Wright's church taught him that the land promised by the Bible to the Jews was really promised to "the Palestinians." An ecstatic PA negotiator told Aaron Klein of World Net Daily that the Obama administration had pledged to protest any new housing "in the biblical territory"; other PA officials said as a result of their talks with Mitchell, they are convinced they can extract concessions reaching "much further" than during talks held under the Bush administration.

Obama's policy of "change" in the Middle East is to cozy up to Iran and Syria, abandoning the Bush policy of sanctioning both rogue regimes. Obama has already told Israel it is ending sanctions against Iranian government agencies or companies that aid Teheran's missile and nuclear program (sanctions which President Bush had tightened in 2008) on the ground that "sanctions do not help the new U.S. policy of dialogue with Iran." A U.S. defense source says "The

administration has abandoned sanctions entirely. It is a completely new ballgame." Former Mossad chief Shabtai Shavit rightly observes that there is no political solution which can be achieved through negotiations with Iran but that unfortunately, by the time Obama finishes his learning curve, the Iranians are going to have nuclear bombs.

Two high-level U.S. Congressional delegations, clearly with Obama's support, have gone to Syria to meet with President Bashar Assad in a dramatic departure from President Bush's policy of isolating Syria. In addition to ending sanctions, Obama has promised Syria to appoint an ambassador (reportedly his selection is a close associate of Mitchell, Frederic Hof). Bush had withdrawn the U.S. ambassador in 2005 in the wake of the assassination of Lebanese Prime Minister Rafik Hariri and instituted sanctions on Syria's military and energy programs.

On top of this, citing "the national interest" Obama issued a Presidential directive on January 27 that provided \$20 million from the United States Emergency Refugee and Migration Assistance Fund for Gaza "refugees." Presumably this money will be used to bring Hamas supporters to the United States, as "change you can believe in" substitutes rewarding terror for the war on terror.

All this is doubtless part of what Secretary of State Clinton calls the Obama administration's "concerted effort" to restore the image of the United States in the Islamic world.

Given the existential threats to Israel from its Islamic enemies and the policies of appeasement upon which Obama is embarked, an Israeli government unified in confronting both is essential. As the article by William Mehlman in this issue makes clear, the prospects are not good.

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From the Editor

Durban II

In the November 2008 *Outpost*, we reported that the UN's follow up "anti-racism" conference (widely referred to as Durban II even though this one will be held in Geneva) was shaping up to be even more disgraceful than Durban I. Unsurprisingly, with Iran playing a leading role in the drafting process (and other Islamic states piling on), that promise is being amply fulfilled.

Anne Bayefsky, editor of *EyeontheUN*, reports on some of the elements in the just released new version of the "Draft Outcome Document" for Durban II. Israel's "law of return," the core of Zionist self-determination, is pronounced "racist." Israel is judged guilty of crimes against humanity and "a contemporary form of apartheid."

As we noted last November, Durban II goes well beyond Durban I in seeking to outlaw a new form of racism, "Islamophobia." The draft document calls on states "to develop and where appropriate to incorporate, permissible limitations on the exercise of the right to freedom of expression into national legislation," i.e. to criminalize any speech offensive to Islam. The document also undercuts national security efforts on the ground they "hamper...progress in the collective struggle against racism" by falsely implying Islam or Moslems have anything to do with terrorism.

Disastrously, the Obama administration, in a major policy shift (the Bush administration walked out of Durban I), has agreed to take part in the run up to Durban II, the State Department announcing it would "try to change the direction in which the Review Conference is heading."

Bayefsky protests that Obama "sends out a terrible signal" for "everyone knows that the agreed purpose of Durban II is to implement Durban I's Declaration which criticizes only one country on the planet—demonizing Israel as guilty of racism. The United States cannot change that agenda. It can only legitimize it."

Most shocking of all, to quote Caroline Glick, "the American Jewish Committee has been instrumental in convincing the American Jewish community to reject repeated Israeli requests that they call for a U.S. boycott of Durban II." The AJC went so far as to sign a letter to Secretary of State Clinton asking her not to boycott the conference. The AJC's reward? One of its minions is a member of the U.S. delegation to Geneva where she listens silently to the reviling of Israel.

Rules of Thumb

AFSI member and Middle East expert Professor Steven Carol has written a handbook entitled *Middle East Rules of Thumb* which can serve as a valuable tool for supporters of Israel in countering the mountain of ignorance and disinformation about the

region flooding the media.

The bulk of the book is comprised of appendices. These include brief but extremely useful summaries: e.g.. the chief dates in the history of Israel; Mandatory Palestine land facts; population exchanges and transfers since World War II; the time line of Islam's rise, conquests and setbacks; what *dhimmi* status specifically entails. There are also crucial documents, e.g. the Balfour Declaration, the Montreux Convention, the Eisenhower Doctrine of 1957, the PLO and Hamas Covenants, the Constantinople Convention on Free Navigation of the Suez Canal, the chief UN Resolutions relating to Israel, including 181, 242 and 338, the infamous Zionism is racism resolution and its repeal (UN General Assembly Res. 46/86).

Finally there is a lengthy bibliography divided by subject, including books (and internet sites) not only on the Arab-Israel conflict but on the Arab world and individual Arab states.

Those who would like to obtain this useful compendium can do so on Amazon or by contacting AFSI.

Missing Opportunities

Perhaps the most famous saying of former Israeli UN ambassador and later Foreign Minister Abba Eban was that the Arabs never missed an opportunity to miss an opportunity. Eban was referring to the Arab rejection of Israeli peace overtures and territorial compromise, but since Oslo the maxim applies far better to Israel, which never misses an opportunity to miss an opportunity to prevail over its Arab foes.

Israel's failure in Lebanon to prevail over Hezbollah and now its failure to achieve a decisive victory over Hamas in Gaza are striking examples. Israel even missed the opportunity to demand the return of kidnapped soldier Gilad Shalit as part of the price for its withdrawal of forces from Gaza. Now Israel is prepared to release 1,000 terrorists for his return—this is of course a sentence of death-to-come on large number of Israeli citizens. Moreover, as Caroline Glick points out, since several dozen mass murdering terror commanders are included in the deal, Hamas will be *(continued on page 12)*

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An Election To Remember

William Mehlman

Eight days after the somewhat ambiguous results of the election to Israel's 18th Knesset were in, Benjamin Netanyahu said he was looking for a "responsible adult" to escort Tzipi Livni and her 28 Kadima parliamentary mandates into a coalition government headed by him. It may turn out that what he really needed was a sorcerer.

Repeating the dominant theme of an illuminating January 30th one-on-one with *Ha'aretz's* Ari Shavit ("Let no one think that he will vote Bibi and get me as part of the package..."), Livni, who had plastered every available wall in Israel with posters read-



Livni

ing "Only a vote for Tzipi will defeat Bibi," declared that she had "no intention of sitting in a unity government led by Likud." She saw her surprising 28-27 seat victory over Netanyahu as a mandate for Kadima to "continue serving the public as the public wants," adding that she was quite prepared to fulfill that obligation from the Opposition benches. Indeed, a possible

change of mind on that issue to the contrary notwithstanding, there was no mistaking the relish with which she envisioned her lead role in the Opposition's burial of Likud and the political career of Netanyahu as a prelude to taking over the helm.

By now, that party may have been pooped by a "national unity" government deal forged under pressure from elements within Kadima unable to face the prospect of life without a ministerial portfolio or an Iranian nuclear cloud so ominous as to make anything but national unity unthinkable. Nothing less dire than the latter would seem sufficient to warrant the chaos that could ensue from so disunited a union. Lincoln could not have conceived of a nation more divided against itself, with a prime minister ostensibly committed to continued Israeli sovereignty over all of Jerusalem, the Golan Heights and major portions of Judea and Samaria, and a foreign minister and several other key ministers just as firmly committed to the truncation of Jerusalem, the handover of the Golan Heights to Syria, Iran's Arab partner, and the creation of a jihadist garrison state from the Jordan River to Kfar Sava.

The nightmare invoked by this scenario can be laid directly at the doorstep of Mr. Netanyahu. While there's no debating the significant victory scored by what's loosely referred to as the "National Zionist Camp" (65-55, including 11 Arab party mandates on the losing side), Likud's own 28-27 loss to Kadima seems almost incomprehensible. Even given the famous fluidity of Israeli opinion polls, Likud's dissipation of a perceived 3 to 9 Knesset seat advantage

right up to the last 10 days of the campaign had everyone shaking their heads. In the words of one Likud veteran the morning after the February 10th balloting, "this was one of the biggest failures for us in years. They'll be teaching in the schools about how bad our campaign was."

The syllabus for that political science course will no doubt reflect the feeling of some Likud old timers that their alleged neglect by the party brass in favor of "stars" like Benny Begin and former IDF chief of staff Moshe "Bogey" Ya'alon had a negative impact

on Likud's "ground game," the grass-roots, get-out-the-vote effort that can make or break any campaign. Others, including former justice minister Dan Meridor, thought the emphasis on capturing votes from the smaller right wing parties rather than on Kadima was horribly misplaced. The course in question, however, would be missing the boat if it neglected to focus on two remarkable blunders on the part of



Netanyahu

Netanyahu himself. Topping the list was his refusal, as head of the national camp, to endorse a testament drawn up by the respected *Matot Arim* organization, ruling out the creation of a Palestinian state in any portion of the Land of Israel. The "right wing bloc "— National Union, The Jewish Home, Shas, Avigdor Lieberman's Yisrael Beitenu—all signed, plus Meir Porush of the non-Zionist United Torah Judaism.

With his tin ear firmly to the ground. Bibi characteristically tried to have it both ways in justifying his decision to have Likud stand apart. "Any Palestinian state that would be formed under the current conditions would become an Iranian state, as we saw happen in Gaza," he asserted, "[but] we must all work to advance peace while considering reality." That bel canto bit of double-talk didn't go down with everybody on the Likud electoral slate. Seven of the party's top 28 signed the testament as individuals, including Ya'alon, Yuval Steinitz, former chairman of the Knesset Foreign Relations Committee, Ze'ev Elkin (a Kadima defector), veteran MKs Ayoub Kara and Danny Yatom and newcomers Tsipi Hotobeli, and Yariv Levin. They're still scratching their heads over that one over at Likud headquarters.

While they're about it, they might have a look at Bibi's textbook exercise in undemocratizing a democratic primary, otherwise known as the "Feiglin Affair." There may not have been one Israeli in 50 who knew who Moshe Feiglin was until December when Netanyahu turned the 45 year-old leader of Likud's *Manhigut Yehudi* splinter group into a national figure. For some seven years since joining the party, Feiglin had been nurturing the grand illusion of trans-



Moshe Feiglin

forming the secular Likud into a Torahtrue political juggernaut with himself in the lead tank. He had even on one occasion introduced himself in a letter to George Bush as the "future prime minister" of Israel.

Feiglin, who can write well and has a talent for theatrical right wing ac-

tivism, managed to gain some traction in the party during its bleak three-year confinement to the Knesset's back benches, mainly through the settlementoriented young men and women he recruited into Likud through his *Manhigut Yehudi* faction. Tossing all sense of proportion to the four winds, Netanyahu responded to the Feiglin phenomenon like a Dalmatian

to a fire bell. It became a fivealarm blaze when Feiglin, garnering enough membership support to get his name placed on the Likud primary list, came in 20th in the voting, placing him well within range of a seat in the 18th Knesset.

In response and in full view of the media and the gen-

eral public, Netanyahu legally

Ovadia Yosef

loopholed the primary results, demoting Feiglin from No. 20 to an out-of-range No. 36 in the running. Pollsters estimate the disgust generated by this deconstruction of the democratic process may have cost the party 2-3 seats in the February election. Netanyahu's war against Feiglin was a loser on all counts.

Absent any change in Kadima's unwillingness to accept a junior partnership in a national unity coalition with Likud or a switch in Labor's decision to attend to its wounds (13 mandates, down from 19) in the Opposition, Netanyahu's only governing recourse will rest on a narrow 65-seat combination of the right-center and the religious and secular right. It's doable (and may have been done by now) but as loveless marriages go, this one would probably set a new standard.

To begin with, there's probably enough bad blood between Netanyahu and Avigdor Lieberman to put Magen David Adom into quarantine. Lieberman is still fuming over a report in the Hebrew daily Ma'ariv that Likud's operatives were meeting secretly with Kadima and Labor in an effort to hatch a tripartite deal that would have left Yisrael Beitenu and its 15 seats out in the cold. For its part, Likud is supposedly mad as hell at the allegedly extortionist price tag Lieberman has hung on his participation in its 65-seat coalition. That coalition does not exist without Yisrael Beitenu. It also does not exist without the 11 mandates in the possession of Shas, the lead player in the 23-seat bloc represented by Shas and the three other religiously-oriented parties-National Union, The Jewish Home, and United Torah Judaism.

Even at the galactic outer limits of political self-preservation, getting Shas and Yisrael Beitenu to coalesce will take some doing. Both sides say they are ready to bury the hatchet, but if not in each other's skulls, that would require Yisrael Beitenu's retracting its demands for civil marriage and an eased conversion path for 250,000-300,000 Israeli citizens from the former Soviet Union (constituents not recognized as halachically Jewish), the religious bloc's unlikely reconciliation to those demands or a mutual agreement to drop the whole subject. Lieberman can't agree to do that without going out of business.

The same options present themselves in respect to the national loyalty oath Yisrael Beitenu seeks to impose as a condition for citizenship. The

non-Zionist religious parties (Shas and United Torah Judaism) are as bitterly opposed to that idea as the four Arab parties. They don't do loyalty oaths to the State of Israel in B'nei Brak, nor are they prepared to swallow the national service commitments (IDF or civilian) hooked to the loyalty pledge.

Haredi yeshiva boys don't do

national service either.

Even at the galactic

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take some doing.

Rav Ovadia Yosef, Shas' spiritual mentor, referred to Avigdor Lieberman as "a friend of Satan" during the campaign, declaring that it was "forbidden to support people who do not have Torah, people who want civil marriage and shops



Avigdor Lieberman

that sell pork." In fact, there was no mention of pork in Beitenu's campaign literature. The threat Lieberman poses is not to kashrut, but to a 60-year "status quo" that has invested total control over marriage, divorce and conversion in the hands of an ultra-Orthodox minority largely disconnected from the culture, values and realities of the 21st Century.

Lieberman, who lives in Nokdim, a fairly religious town just east of Judean Gush Etzion, fiercely contests the anti-religious epithets that have been coupled with his name. Yisrael Beitenu, he insists, "believes that the State of Israel must be a Jewish state and must remain loyal to the faith of its forefathers." He says he strenuously opposes separation of state and religion "not just because it would create strains that could split the entire society," but because "the uniqueness of the Jewish people is that there is no distance between the state and the religion. One is connected to the other by a strong bond that cannot be undone." The passion conveyed by these sentiments were such as to prompt Ha'aretz's Anshel Pfeffer to ask "What is Lieberman, a rabid secularist or a closet frummer?"

As Likud's coalition partners figure that one out, the new Israeli government, national unity or cen-

ter-right-right, will have the far weightier issues of Gaza and Iran to wrestle with when it finally gets its act together. If the breaking of Hamas' stranglehold on Gaza and the Iranian proxy's motivation to engage in further terror were the criteria for judging the results of the IDF's 22-day operation in Gaza, then Israel failed on both counts. The Rafah Crossing and Philadephi Corridor, through which Hamas' guns and missiles move, remain beyond Israel's control, rendering the strategic value of the operation marginal at best.

Neutralizing Hamas' motivation for further aggression could have been chalked up as a victory even if Israel did not recoup the ground it so irrationally handed over to the terrorists three and a half years ago, but Israel gave up on the military option. It did not play to win in Gaza. Even as rockets continue to

fall on Netivot and Sha'ar Hanegev, it is an undefeated Hamas that is attempting to lay down the conditions for a renewed "cease fire" and the return of kidnapped Cpl. Gilad Shalit to his parents,

Uzi Arad, who spent 25 years in the Mossad before heading up the Lauder School of Government, Diplomacy and Strategy at the Herzliyah Interdisciplinary Center, regards the whole Gaza episode as an exer-

cise in "half measures" that led to "half-baked outcomes." Ticketed for a key slot on Netanyahu's foreign policy advisory team, Arad believes it will be some time before we know what terror deterrence, if any, was achieved by the IDF's planes, tanks and infantry. His prognosis is not good, From inception, the Gaza operation was befogged by what he terms "amorphous goals." "Hamas had to be degraded, its command level and military ability mortally damaged in every way," he said. That did not happen.

Ehud Barak's characterization of Operation Cast Lead as a "great success" should come as no surprise. "Hamas was dealt a terrible blow, shocked and stricken," the defense minister avers. He cautions critics not to "rewrite history to make Cast Lead look like a failure," describing the 50-odd rockets that have descended on the western Negev since the formal cessation of hostilities as "the last volleys of a vanquished enemy." Barak opined that Cast Lead not only rehabilitated an IDF image smudged by the dismal results of Lebanon II, "it helped produce the mechanism to halt the smugaling of weapons." He conceded, however, that "because we did not retake the Philadelphi Corridor, the credibility of that mechanism is largely dependent on the assistance of Egypt, America and the European Union."

Tzipi Livni, virtually alone even among her Kadima colleagues in continuing to justify the 2005 dismemberment of Gush Katif and its 22 Jewish communities ("I made a difficult decision to uproot people from their homes, difficult but right"), is more circumspect about the results of Cast Lead. "Our goal was to change the deterrence equation," she said. "I didn't want Israel to emerge with a military victory and Hamas with a political achievement. We treated Cast Lead as purely a military operation with political goals. And that's how it turned out." Livni interpreters are still working on this.

As for Barak's hope that Egypt would be party to any serious future effort to control the delivery of weapons through the Philadelphi Corridor to the tunnels of Hamas and Islamic Jihad, experts on Egypt

assure us it isn't going to happen. As cases in point, Jerusalem Post correspondent military Yaakov Katz notes Egypt's flat-out rejection of two of three Israeli requests aimed at reining in the smuggling networkthe deployment of an international force on the Egyptian side of Rafah to assist in detecting and destroying future tunnels, and a straight-out Egyptian memorandum of understanding committing

Cairo to the interdiction of tunnel construction and use. A third Israeli proposal for the creation of a moat along the Sinai-Gaza border and/or a barrier surrounding the Egyptian side of Rafah to be manned by Egyptian troops is still under consideration.

Former Israeli ambassador to Egypt Zvi Mazel observes that Egypt remains locked in deep denial of its role in the Hamas weapons smuggling trade. Mazel quotes Egyptian foreign minister Ahmed Aboul Gheit's assurance to Walter Steimeier, his Germany counterpart, that "all weapons supply to Hamas is done by sea" and is thus the exclusive responsibility of the Israeli Coast Guard." Gheit said Egypt saw no need for an international force on its territory to prevent weapons smuggling that "never happened."

Efraim Inbar and Mordechai Kedar more than confirm Mazel's observations in a recent paper for the Begin-Sadat (BESA) Center for Strategic Studies at Bar-Ilan University. They point out that even if Egypt wasn't dedicated to the "bleeding" of Israel, which it is, or truly interested in resolving the Arab-Israeli conflict, which it is not, there are "complex" realities in the Sinai Peninsula that limit its ability to exert any real pressure on the smuggling trade. "As with other Third World states," Inbar and Kedar note, "the Egyptian government in not fully in control of its territory." In fact, the



smuggling routes are largely under the control of northern Sinai Bedouin clans who make their living supplying household goods, drugs, missiles, ammunition, women and any other commodity in demand through the Gaza Strip. They don't speak Egyptian Arabic, live completely outside Egyptian cultural bounds and have responded with armed resistance to every Egyptian attempt to extend law and order to their areas. "Every time the Egyptian regime tries to curtail the Bedouin smuggling activities," the BESA researchers assert, "they carry out a terrorist attack on a Sinai beach." Given Egypt's growing reliance on its tourist trade, this has proven "an effective way of 'convincing' the Cairo authorities to live and let live."

Finally and most ominously, Israel's new government will have to deal with the expanding nuclear threat emanating from Iran. To his credit, Netanyahu was unhesitating about tackling the problem during the campaign. While asserting that the global economic meltdown could be reversed by wise decision-making on the part of government and business, "what is not reversible," he said, "is the acquisition of nuclear weapons by a fanatic, radical regime. We have never had since the dawn of the missile age nuclear weapons in the hands of such a fanatical regime." Without specifying any military plan to head off the Iranian threat, Netanyahu declared that in light of Israel having had to contend with two Iranian proxies, Hezbollah and Hamas, over a period of 28 months, "I think we are going to have to deal with neutralizing the power of the mother regime."

He may have to get those neutralization engines revved up sooner than he thinks. Mark Fitz-

patrick at the International Institute for Strategic Studies is of the opinion that Iran could enrich enough uranium to produce at least one atomic bomb by year end. This view is at least partially underscored by a just released French parliamentary study indicating that Teheran will have passed the "nuclear threshold" by the end of 2009 and be a nuclear weapons power no later than 2011. The study calls 2009 the last chance for halting Iran's advance to irreversible offensive nuclear capability.

The past few weeks have produced two developments that can only add to the severity of the nuclear threat hovering over Israel. The first was the release of Pakistan's "traveling salesman of nuclear know-how," Abdel Qadeer, from house arrest. The second was what one observer termed "the gradual drift away from the sphere of American influence" of Nouiri al-Maliki's Iraqi government. "Iraq will not sit idly by in the face of a nuclear Iran," the observer warns. "It will want its own nuclear weapon. That desire constitutes a possibility that the danger to Israel will double unless Iraq agrees to coordinate with Israel to thwart the Iranian nuclear program."

That may be a bridge too far, but the prospect of being confronted by a nuclear Iraq along with a nuclear Iran may be just the jolt needed to end the turf wrangling among Netanyahu, Livni, Lieberman and Barak and usher in a government totally focused on dealing with Israel's existential threat.

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Europe's Woes America's Warning Nidra Poller

It is difficult to imagine how European nations could find the will and the ways to counter the subversive forces they have invited upon themselves and allowed to flourish for more than three decades. The current phase of global *jihad*, already underway in the much vaunted decolonization process, coalesced with the seizure of power in Iran by Ayatollah Khomenei (who had been living as a pampered refugee in France). But the American reader should be wary of concluding that Europe is lost...and the United States is standing firm.

On the contrary, all of Western civilization is under fire. As promised during the campaign, Barack Hussein Obama is making a radical change in American policy. Not of course the glorious change his worshippers promised themselves, but a troubling shift toward *dhimmitude*. The newly elected president lost no time in pleading guilty as charged by Muslim authorities and promising to refrain from further rebellion in order to receive their benevolent indulgence.

Similar methods produce similar results. Jihad

forces in Europe--and in the United States--used Israel's Cast Lead operation in Gaza as a pretext to organize virulent, violent pro-Hamas demonstrations.
Because Europe is further down the path to surrender,
the enraged pro-Hamas mobs were more violent, destructive, and physically threatening here than in the
United States. But in both cases they advanced their
dominion. This should be recognized as authentic conquest of territory by enraged mobs bearing down on
hapless victims in an ominous show of force and not,
as claimed and widely accepted, citizen demonstrators
exercising their right to free speech.

If you can carry signs equating the Magen David with the swastika, if you can scream "Jews to the ovens" in the face of Zionists in Ft. Lauderdale Florida, if you can storm into a synagogue in Caracas, Venezuela and terrorize the congregation, if you can bully the police in England, smash up the Place de l'Opéra in Paris, burn Israeli and American flags, shout Allahu Akbar without meeting resolute opposition, it means you can keep going and ultimately fulfill those murderous promises. Do American Jews understand what was acquired by these phony demonstrations that are really paramilitary operations? Wherever those enraged mobs set foot they transformed the

streets into de facto waqf territory.

Each successive crisis is an opportunity to ratchet up Jew hatred and the concomitant assault on Western civilization, achieving, step by step, tacit acceptance of the unspeakable. Here is how it works: first, the provocation. Jihadist attacks-thousands of rockets launched against Israel, a few airplanes flown into the WTC, capture and beheading of hostages, roadside bombs, inhuman pizzeria bombers, nuclear weapons programs—finally provoke a riposte. Bingo! The Muslim wailing machine goes into action. It is immediately picked up by complicit Western media and transmitted, with a Good Journalism stamp of approval, to public opinion. Israel, the United States and

anyone else who dares to fight back is accused of war crimes, peace crimes, and original sin. This justifies subsequent acts of subversion and aggression against the free world.

When the United States used its formidable military force and assumed its international responsibilities, European na-

tions, with rare exceptions, exploited opposition to "the war in Iraq" to undermine the American superpower. This agitation was exploited in turn by jihad interests to advance the Islamization of Europe...and by ricochet to influence domestic politics in the United States as Obamamania surfed on the theme of repairing America's battered image.

The European Union, with France in the lead, vaunting its diplomatic savoir faire, competes with the U.S. for influence in the Middle East, and always seems to pull in the Arab direction. French ceasefire diplomacy restrained Israel's capacity to defeat Iranian proxies—Hizbullah in 2006, Hamas today. The harsh criticism of Israel and the U.S. that underlies this selfrighteous peacemaking fuels domestic pro-jihad protest marches that end in attacks against police and property, further undermining government authority in Europe and endangering local Jewish populations.

All of this subversive activity is advanced by what I call "lethal narratives." These are stories of what is happening generated by global jihad and relayed by Western media and officialdom. Unlike propaganda, which is used in conjunction with military activity aimed at defeating an enemy in battle, lethal narratives are used in lieu of military action. Promotion of enemy propaganda in past conflicts was limited to a small minority of traitors and fellow travelers; today, lethal narratives are swallowed by all but a minority of résistants, who are marginalized, labeled extremists, persecuted and prosecuted. Muslim Brotherhood sympathizers who stormed through European cities screaming "death to Israel, death to the Jews" go scot free but Dutch politician Geert Wilders is prosecuted for "hate speech" for showing the connection between these same declarations, from Qur'anic verses to contemporary sermons, and murderous acts such as 9/11.

The lethal narrative, a tissue of lies made credible by a superficial journalistic veneer, becomes the accepted version of what is happening. G.W. Bush lied about Saddam's WMDs, the neocons wanted a war in Irag, torture at Guantanamo, hundreds of thousands of civilian casualties, an unbeatable insurgency, the war spawned a thousand terrorists for every one that was killed, etc. Another tissue of lies was issued during the Cast Lead operation: the homemade rockets were harmless: Gaza is an open prison: the Gaza population suffered a humanitarian crisis, no food, water, electricity, medicine; Israel engaged in intentional massacre of civilians, bombing mosques, UN schools. babes in arms and, the last straw, deliberately killed

the daughters of the goodhearted doctor who practices in both Gaza and Tel Aviv.

n less than a decade life has become problematic for European Jews. It started with the al Dura blood libel on September 30, 2000 and has steadily wors-

ened since. During periods of relative calm, we tell ourselves that the nightmare is over. When the tension exacerbates, as happened during the Gaza operation, it becomes obvious that we have no future anywhere in Europe—and Europe has no future anyway!

France, with the largest Muslim and Jewish populations and the greatest diplomatic ambition, is emblematic of the Western European condition. The Sarkozy government is sincerely troubled by the upsurge of anti-Semitism—approximately 150 incidents reported since the start of Cast Lead. The president promises to put an end to this unacceptable behavior but declares, in the next breath, that "Islamophobia" will be punished as severely as anti-Semitism, falsely implying that Jews are attacking Muslims, and effectively blocking an honest investigation of the Islamic sources of Jew hatred

On another level, the "Obama effect" works against Jews in France and more generally in Europe. Thrilled by the multicultural chic of a black president in the powerful U.S., Europeans vow to give more than equal opportunity to their own "visible minorities" in the hopes of getting themselves a YesWeCan president in the near future. Unfortunately, the integration of lawabiding Muslims into European society also serves as cover for infiltration by subversive Muslims.

Political enfranchisement of European Muslims in the absence of genuine acceptance of Western values is another destabilizing factor. Instead of promoting a peaceful climate of mutual respect, the rise of Muslims into executive positions in public and private sectors may lead to ethnic favoritism that will be prejudicial to Jewish colleagues and candidates, rebuffed to get even for an alleged previous supremacy or punished whenever there is a flare-up in the Middle East. Serious problems in public education, up to the univer-

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no future anyway!

sity level, further compromise the future of Europe and more precisely of European Jews.

The far left, unashamedly aligned with European jihad movements, proudly marched with pro-Hamas mobs that systematically ended their "demonstrations" with attacks against property and the police. Fearful of losing ground, the parliamentary left also sidles toward this constituency, hiding its perfidy behind dubious humanitarian concerns. CID [Centre d'information et de documentation de démocratie et de Moyen Orient] reports from Brussels that all political parties except the droite libérale marched along with the keffieh-wrapped mobs that shouted "death to Israel, death to the Jews." Another aggravating factor is the economic crisis, exploited by the left to mobilize and channel discontent into increasingly aggressive demonstrations, strikes and civil disobedience, while the right, hungry for capital, welcomes sharia finance with open arms.

In 2003, when Jewish boys from Hashomer Hazair were beaten up by anti-war protestors, I described the incident as a "peace march verging on pogrom." Alain Finkielkraut applied the term to the 2005 banlieue riots, then withdrew it as inappropriate. Was it an exaggeration? Or foresight? There can be no doubt that the enraged mobs storming through European and American cities will go further.

No longer content to throw fire bombs or ram burning cars into synagogues, they now want to break in during services. Thirty men traveled from Mulhouse

to Strasbourg for that purpose. Their plan failed...that Carjackers in a Parisian suburb, discovering their victim was Jewish, slashed his neck four times with exquisite cruelty until the blood flowed. That crime was denounced as anti-Semitic but the culprits have not been found, and other incidents are left hanging with question marks, as if to calm the populace. A Jewish doctor was shot dead in another Parisian suburb, the warehouse of the biggest kosher food distributor in still another was burned down.

Europeans who do cherish their freedom try to organize, speak out, influence their governments. They see—or saw—America as a refuge, a haven, a beacon of liberty. Many see Israel as a sterling example of résistance against global jihad. Though life looks quite normal on the surface, we are living in a perilous, highly volatile situation in which, precisely, normal life is a battlefield. As these lines are written, Iran announces the launch of a satellite that could leave southern European cities no less vulnerable than Sderot. The news landed like a monster walking into a bustling café. The excited chatter about peace talks and negotiation and friendly outreached hands falls silent. If existential fear has finally stricken the heart of European governments, all is not lost.

Nidra Poller is an American who moved to France in 1972 and is a journalist, novelist, and translator.

Peres Meets Erdogan

David Isaac

Our favorite Chelmite, former Vice President of the Socialist International Shimon Peres was decid-

edly out-of-character at the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland last month. Instead of spouting nonsense, as is his wont, he spoke eloquently of Israel's right to defend itself against missile attacks from Gaza. In a heated discussion with Turkish Prime Minister Recip Tayyip

Erdogan, Peres asked an irritated Erdogan what he would do if hundreds of rockets were daily dropped on his cities.

Unfortunately, the Israeli president's brush with good sense was not to last. A short time later he called Erdogan to apologize. We reprint the telephone transcript here.

(Telephone rings.)

Erdogan: (picks up) Hello?

Peres: It's me, Shimon. ... Don't hang up! **Erdogan:** Oh, you. What do you want?

Peres: You left me alone out there. I felt like a girl who'd lost her date. A girl without a date is like a date

without a girl.

Erdogan: It's always about you, isn't it? What about me? I felt totally blindsided. You really scared me. What with your... your defense of Israel. You never defend Israel. You sounded like one of those... those... what do you call them?

Peres: Jews?

Erdogan: Yes, one of *them*. I thought any minute you were going to put one of those beanies on your head. I specifically told the organizers that I would not agree to be on a panel with any Jews and they said, "What about Peres?" and I said, "Okay, that's different." And then you attack me with this

long Jewish monologue. I felt like I was trapped on stage with Jackie Mason.

Peres: I'm sorry. I feel terrible. I know it wasn't like me. But what happened is history now and history is nonsense. History is a long misunderstanding. History is like last year's snow. We are in a new age. Our discussion was at 7 o'clock and it is now 8 o'clock.

Erdogan: Easy for you to say, Shimon. Some people in that audience actually applauded. You know what that does to my ego? I've never been on stage where I wasn't the one applauded. Didn't you see my play?

Peres: What play?

Erdogan: (injured) You didn't see my play, "Masons,

Communists and Jews"?

Peres: (covering) Oh, that play. Of course, I saw that play. I think Habima put on a production. Remind me again what happened?

Erdogan: I don't see how anyone who saw my play could have forgotten. It won the Turkish Tony for most anti-Semitic play of 1974. And don't think there wasn't competition. It's coming out on DVD ahead of the election under the original title: "Jews, Jews and Jews." It was about the evil conspiracy of...

Peres: Wait, don't tell me... the Jews?

Erdogan: You did see it! The point is that I played the leading man. And the leading man gets the applause. But today you got the applause. Does that seem fair to you?

Peres: I see your point. I had a selfish moment. But that happens in all relationships. Why dwell on it? Let's have a partnership, instead of a hatredship. Each of us I'm sure feels deeply disappointed in the attitudes we've shown each other.

Erdogan: I should feel disappointed? I'm not the one who went off script. You missed your cue. I said the Jews stink at which point you were supposed to say, "Yes, the Jews do stink." Instead, you started to ad lib.

Peres: It wasn't a play. It was a panel. There was no script.

Erdogan: There was an unspoken script. How can you be in a play or a panel if you don't stick to the unspoken script?

Peres: Reccip, I don't think you appreciate my position. You are not the only actor out there. Oh, sure, it

was easy when I was Israel's Foreign Minister. Then I was representing the UN, the State Department, the PLO. I could say whatever I wanted. This gig is different. I'm president of Israel. I'm like a symbol. A flag. I'm a human flag. You ever try to play a flag? It's exhausting. You're always waving. Still, I'm lucky to find work at my age, especially in this economy.

Erdogan: At least give me some warning next time. Did you see how I fumbled at the end there? I had to make up lines on the spot. I'm not good at improv. I had to walk off. I couldn't think of anything more to say.

Peres: You sounded fine. You're making a mountain out of a mole hill.

Erdogan: I was shaking.

Peres: I'm watching the debate on TV now. You look

good.

Erdogan: What channel?

Peres: The anti-Semitic Arab satellite channel. **Erdogan:** Which anti-Semitic Arab satellite channel?

Peres: All of them. Erdogan: Shimon? Peres: Yes?

Erdogan: You're forgiven.

Erdogan in 1974 wrote, directed and starred in his play, "Maskomya," an acronym for the triple "evils" of Masons, Komunists (Communists) and Yahudis (Jews).

David Isaac is a writer living in California.

Touring Judea

Richard H. Shulman

On a recent two week vacation in Israel, friends from Judea took me around. I asked questions about what the media omits.

Was my activist host's car bugged by the secret police? No, he isn't important enough and obeys the law. Second, would he shoot to kill, if attacked by an Arab? Answer: one gets arrested even for firing warning shots. Taking the time to fire warning shots can get one killed. If one feels one's life threatened, shoot to kill.

An Arab method of ambush is to block the road with rocks. They attack halted cars. I asked whether one could turn around and flee. Answer: when the road is blocked, the Arabs are ready for attempts to flee. If the blocked people leave their car, they may be beaten badly, lynched, or shot. If they stay in their car, the Arabs will break their windows to get at them. Yes, the Arabs have guns. It is with illegal guns that they shoot at cars from hilltops. One or two people can't fend off a gang of Arabs without shooting.

Knowing that Jews will get into trouble for shooting even in self-defense, the Arabs don't fear retribution. Hence assaulted Jews must shoot Arab assailants to save their own lives. It must be done

fast, before they jump on their victims and disarm them.

Here is another example of Israeli government complicity with terrorism. An Arab tried to drive my guide's friend's son off the road. The son called the police. The Arab told officers that the Jew pulled his gun on him. The police believed the Arab. Their excuse: the Arab doesn't have an arrest record and the Jew does. They let the Arab go and arrested the son, who will be put on trial. Arrest records are no criterion, because police rarely arrest Arabs and falsely arrest Jews. Being a known activist, the young man will spend time in jail or at best have to perform community service. He also incurs legal fees.

AFSI Books (postage included in price)

The Aaronsohn Saga by Shmuel Katz—special price: \$15.00

Battleground: Fact and Fantasy in Palestine by Shmuel Katz—\$5.95

Order from:

Americans For A Safe Israel 1751 Second Ave (at 91st Street) New York, N.Y. 10128 Arabs threw rocks at, and cursed the soldiers at a roadblock on highway 443 to Tel Aviv. The soldiers were ordered to stand fast, not to arrest the Arabs nor to fire live, rubber, or gas projectiles. This degrades troop morale.

We drove alongside sections of the security fence. The wall was low. Infiltrators could climb over it by an ordinary ladder. Arabs in the hills could shoot down over the wall. Walls are ridiculous. Why hide and leave the initiative to the Arabs and have to duck bullets, when Israel has an army that could rout the terrorists?

Along one stretch, P.A. Arabs lived on one side of the fence, Israeli Arabs on the other. The fence did not stop Israeli Arabs from throwing stones

at passing cars, refuting the government claim that its planned territorial concessions would separate Jews from Arabs.

My guides referred to one road among several, adjacent to which the Arabs built houses and then harassed passing Jews. If a car has Israeli rather than Territorial license plates, Arabs assume the occupants are Jews, although Israeli Arabs have the same type of

plates. In any case, finding the road dangerous, the IDF banned Jewish use of it. That's the government's "solution." Muslims commit aggression and the government punishes the victims.

Two women's organizations come to certain checkpoints where Arabs regularly pass. One organization is Machson Watch, subsidized by the EU. Machson Watch harasses troops guarding checkpoints, warns it will report them to hostile media if they act zealously, and encourages Arabs to make trouble. As Arabs pass through, they curse the Israeli troops and claim that the area belongs to them. Inhibited, the troops have restrained themselves from strict inspection, taking risks that got them killed or maimed.

The other organization is Women In Green. It comes to thank the troops and to offer refreshment

and encouragement. Before Israel expelled the Jews from Gaza, Women In Green gave refreshments to the Israeli troops there. The government stopped them, fearing their popularity with the troops, whom the government wanted to perform the expulsion.

The government detains and sometimes beats up the patriotic Women In Green. By contrast, the regime does not arrest Machsom Watch members for interfering with guard duty and security. My guides said that much Arab rioting is not reported so the media can pretend that it is possible to make peace with the Arabs.

You've probably heard that Fatah terrorists wire donkeys with explosives, to blow up when Israelis approach. They wired a man in a wheel chair, too.

In the Maon Farms area, leftists told the Arabs that it's their land and called Jewish ownership illegal. This gave the government an excuse to try to demolish the farmhouse. Many Jews came and successfully resisted the improper demolition order. The media condemned the resistance and not the government.

In certain Israeli Arab villages and even parts of Jerusalem, Jews are liable to get mur-

dered if they enter. By contrast, Arabs feel free to enter Jewish areas. When an Arab stabbed people at a bus stop in Samaria, a rabbi shot him before he could stab more. Police investigated the rabbi and confiscated his pistol—this for a shooting that the stabbed bodies proved necessary and in the common defense!

It is hard to avoid the conclusion that the government doesn't want "settlers" defending themselves. The Left has adopted Martin Buber's ideology that it is wrong for the Jews to exercise sovereignty, because power can be abused. That accords with Islamic ideology which opposes Jewish (infidel) sovereignty, especially over Arabs.

This is excerpted from a posting by Richard H. Shulman to the forum soc.culture.israel on January 19.

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wire donkeys with explosives, to blow up
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You've probably heard

How Did This Come To Pass?Ruth King

"A nation can survive its fools, and even the ambitious. But it cannot survive treason from within. An enemy at the gates is less formidable, for he is known and carries his banner openly. But the traitor moves amongst those within the gate freely, his sly whispers rustling through all the alleys, heard in the very halls of government itself. For the traitor appears not a traitor; he speaks in accents familiar to his victims, and he wears their face and their arguments, he appeals to the baseness that lies deep in the hearts of all men. He rots the soul of a nation, he works se-

cretly and unknown in the night to undermine the pillars of the city, he infects the body politic so that it can no longer resist. A murderer is less to fear. The traitor is the plague." (Marcus Tullius Cicero, in a speech to the Roman Senate, 42 BC)

In 1929 Zeev Jabotinsky warned the Jews of Europe to get out in face of a coming cataclysm. Absorbed in their daily lives, most Jews ignored the escalating anti-Jewish rhetoric in the newspapers and the academies; the boycotts of Jews among Polish factory workers and trade groups; the ritual murder libels in Lublin and Vilna; the mounting attacks and beatings; the riots and desecrations of synagogues; the discrimi-

natory laws and taxations; and the staggering failure by host nations to protect their Jewish populations.

Yes, the tragic Jews of Europe just tried to get on with their lives. Who could fault them? Who could have foreseen Auschwitz?

But what about today? After many decades of Jewish renewal and enhanced prestige brought about by the advent of Israel, Jews are threatened by the recrudescence of world-wide vicious anti-Semitism, all couched as "anti-Israel not anti-Semitic."

Even here in the United States trade and religious and academic institutions boycott and "disengage" from Israel, synagogues are vandalized and the mainstream media, at fever pitch to condemn Israel, gives scant attention to the threat against Jews.

When did abortion

rights, gay rights and

assorted trendy envi-

come more important

than Jewish survival

and Israel?

ronmental crusades be-

Why has the American public lost sight of the fact that *Jihad* threatens the entire Western world and not Israel alone? Why did conservative Jews, even those who stood firm against Oslo become so besotted with President Bush that they swallowed whole the "road map" and the ensuing departure from Gaza without understanding or press-

ing the fact that Israel is in the front line of the war against Islamic terror?

The sad fact is that Jews themselves have contributed to the morass in which we find ourselves.

First, let's examine those whom Cicero calls the fools and the ambitious.

Women of Hadassah: Your work in the ingathering when you provided rescue to millions of wretched survivors of the Nazis and those expelled from Arab states is the stuff of legend. When did abortion rights, gay rights and assorted trendy environmental crusades become more important than Jewish survival and Israel?

Listen up, ADL: You had a distinguished history in defending Jews against defamation. How did you get into the business of defaming our Christian evangelical supporters? Do you really think that Mel Gibson and a crackpot Catholic Bishop threaten Jews more than Arabs and Jihad? And, speaking of Holocaust deniers what say you about Abbas, whose doctoral thesis was devoted to that topic?

Esteemed grandees of the Conference of Presidents: There was a time that you were an instant deployment group, your clout felt in the corridors of American power when there was serious offense to Israel and Jews. What have you accomplished in the past ten years? Your major "achievements" were to insult Sarah Palin and elevate Mahmoud Abbas to the role of "peace partner." Even now, faced with the disastrous results of leaving Gaza—from which you egged Israel on to withdraw—you prod Israel to accept its dissolution with the "two state plan."

Can you not see that your servility contributes to the climate of blaming Israel?

Now let's discuss The Filth Column.....the traitors within.

Jews who defame Israel are the most pernicious tools in the war against Israel and Jewry, those who, to paraphrase Cicero, move among us freely, teaching our young, their sly moral equivalence, which equates Israel with its tormentors, heard in the halls of government itself. They preen and strut as supposed devotees of "peace" and "justice." They besmirch Israel with vile comparisons to the Nazis. They pepper their talk with Yiddish, indulge in Holocaust metaphor and willfully and maliciously provide fodder for the can-

nons of those who would extinguish us. They are in a league of their own.

Here is a baker's dozen list of The Filth Column: Not in Our Name Coalition, Jewish Voice for Peace, Jews Against the Occupation, Jewish Peace Fellowship, Gush Shalom, Jews Not Zionists, Truth Justice and Human Rights in the Middle East, Rabbis for Human Rights, Visions for Peace with Justice in Israel/

Palestine, Students for Justice in Palestine, Jews Against the Occupation, Jewish Women for Peace and Justice in Israel/Palestine, Jewish Social Justice Network.

JATO (Jews against the Occupation) recently hung banners calling for "Free Palestine" from bridges and highways. Its spokesman Ethan Heitner states: "Even if foreclosures and unemployment weren't decimating our neighborhoods, surely there are better uses for \$3 billion a year than helping the Israeli government commit war crimes." Students for Justice in Palestine has groups on many campuses. Matan Cohen of Hampshire College in Massachusetts works among them to get "total international disinvestment from Israel."

Then there are the "independents" such as Norton Mezvinsky, who runs the Middle Eastern Studies Program at Central Connecticut State University who recently invited Norman Finkelstein, another pillar of the Jewish Filth Column, to bash Israel.

They have rotted the soul of the Jewish nation and undermined the pillars of Israel. Yet they proliferate in the media, the academies and the arts. They deserve the obloquy of all self respecting Jews and a corner in hell.

It is 1928 again, but unlike the unsuspecting and tragic Jews of Europe we cannot remain in denial. A strong Israel is our only guarantor of survival. In spite of those who have unwittingly contributed to the present climate and those who are active accomplices of our enemies, we cannot give up or fail. To do so will mean the end of the Jewish people.

(Continued from page 2)

greatly strengthened not only militarily but politically (since the deal confers political legitimacy on the Gaza regime).

Haifa University professor Steven Plaut advocates that Israel take a leaf from Moses, and instead of capitulating to every Hamas demand, ratchet up the pressure. Observes Plaut: "When Moses was negotiating with Pharaoh, every time the latter said NO, Moses raised his demands. When Pharaoh refused to let the menfolk go, Moses demanded the whole population. When Pharaoh said NO, Moses added all the farm animals." And so on. Plaut suggests that Gaza be cut off from all electric power and Gazans sit in the dark until Shalit is freed—what Plaut calls "the Ninth Plague solution."

New elections there may have been, but thus far there is no glimpse of a new Moses or any indication that Israel will stray from its established path of never missing an opportunity to miss an opportunity.

Pakistani Jihadists Resurgent

Only a few months after the November massacres in Mumbai, the supposedly outlawed Pakistani jihadist groups are again out in the open. The Urdu-Pashtu Media Project of the indispensable Middle East Media Research Institute (www.memri.org) cites a report in the Urdu-language newspaper Rosnama Jasarat that thousands of people, including the representatives and leaders of Pakistan's banned organizations Jaish-e-Muhammad, Harkat-ul-Mujahideen and Jamaatud Dawa in addition to leaders of the Muttahida Jihad Council participated in a February 4 conference to mark Kashmir Solidarity Day. India registered an

impotent complaint. Vishnu Prakash, spokesman for India's Foreign Ministry, said: "We strongly condemn the license that banned terrorist organizations continue to enjoy...No effort was made by Pakistan authorities to curb the activities of these groups."

Cheers for Italy

Where there's a will, there's a way to respond to anti-Israel and anti-Semitic hatred. When an Italian trade union called for a boycott of Jewish-owned shops in Rome to protest the Gaza offensive, politicians from across the political spectrum condemned the union. Italy's main trade unions denounced the boycott proposal as "shameful" and suggested shop-keepers throw the handbills into the garbage.

Moreover, Italian Parliamentarian Fiamma Nirenstein reports that on January 14, one hundred members of Parliament from all political sides took the stage during a three hour marathon describing "the role of Israel, its right to self-defense, its moral height, its fight in the name of all of us, of our civilization and values, against the wild hate of the Islamic jihad represented by Hamas." Writes Nirenstein: "It seems to me that for the first time in the too-long history of the Arab-Israeli conflict, apart from a minority of crazy leftists and fascists that took to the street on anti-Semitic slogans, we have obtained a huge consensus about one critical point: this is not an episode of a local conflict, there is nothing in it that reminds us of the land for peace theme that has characterized the Palestinian issue. This is an episode of the attack against the Western world, and Iran has a lot to do with it." (Thanks to JINSA, the Jewish Institute for National Security Affairs, for reporting this.)

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